

Norfolk Local Access Forum
Minutes of the Meeting Held on 18 July 2018
at 10.30am at the British Trust Ornithology Offices, The Nunnery.

Member:

Martin Sullivan - Chairman
Chris Allhusen – vice-Chairman
Tim Bennett
Victor Cocker
Geoff Doggett
Seamus Elliott
Ken Hawkins
Pat Holtom
Ann Melhuish
Kate Mackenzie
Paul Rudkin
George Saunders
David Hissey

Representing:

Motorised vehicle access / cycling
Land ownership / management / farming
Walking / Conservation
Walking
Conservation / voluntary sector / water-based activities
Sport and outdoor recreation / cycling
Walking / cycling
Rural and local business / walking / tourism
Equestrian / all-ability access / sport and recreation
Voluntary Sector / Walking
Walking / GI and planning
All-ability access / health & wellbeing / voluntary sector
Cycling, public transport, health and wellbeing

Officers Present:

Sarah Abercrombie
Andrew Hutcheson

Green Infrastructure Team Leader (Projects)
Environment Manager (Green Infrastructure, Advice and Strategy)
Project Officer (Green Infrastructure)
Area Manager (South)
Norfolk Trails Team Leader

Su Waldron
Matt Worden
Russell Wilson

Visitors Present:

Nick Dickson

Scheme Development Manager, Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers Landscape Partnership
Suffolk LAF
Suffolk LAF (Chair)
Suffolk LAF
Broads Authority
Broads LAF (Chair)
Broads LAF
Broads LAF
Broads Authority
Norfolk County Council (Historic Environment Service)
Norfolk County Council (Norfolk Trails)

Diana Kearsley
Barry Hall
Roley Wilson
Adrian Clarke
Keith Bacon
Adrian Clarke
Alec Hartley
Mark King
Steve Hickling
Sharon Bland

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Fabian Eagle, Mike Edwards, Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton, Cllr Andrew Jamieson and Jean Stratford.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2018 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 There were no interests declared.

4. Items received as urgent business

- 4.1 There had been no items of urgent business received.
The Chair thanked Geoff Doggett for attending a recent meeting with Rachael Brown of Cambridgeshire ACRE at Denver concerning forthcoming plans on development and new moorings.

5. Public Question Time

- 5.1 No public questions were received.

6. Sub-groups (Permissive Access; PROW; NAIP)

- 6.1 The Forum received the annexed report which summarised activities since the last Norfolk Local Access Forum meeting by the NLAF's 3 sub-groups: the Public Rights of Way (PROW) subgroup; the Permissive Access subgroup and the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) subgroup.
- 6.2 The PROW sub-group reported on Parish Council seminar events that would be taking place from October 2018. It was explained that the venues of the events were based around the current management areas of Countryside Access Officers.
- 6.3 Members of the NLAF asked if there could be a section around business development as it was considered an important topic to be discussed.
- 6.4 The PROW sub-group agreed to produce an information leaflet that could be distributed by members of NLAF to anyone who would be interested in attending the events.
- 6.5 The Forum;
- **NOTED** the date for the Parish Council seminar
 - **AGREED** to taking forward a volunteer co-ordinator project.

7. Pathmakers

- 7.1 The Forum received the annexed report which provided an update on the work of Pathmakers.
- 7.2 It was reported that the first instalment of the recently granted £10k for the geovation project "Community Friends' Walks" would be received shortly.
- 7.5 The Forum **RESOLVED**;
- To **NOTE** the update from Pathmakers
 - To offer support for the work ongoing.

8. Progress with the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan

- 8.1. The Forum received the annexed report which updated the Forum on the progress on the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP).
- 8.2 The NAIP sub-group were thanked for all their hard work on the plan.
- 8.3 The Forum **RESOLVED** to;
- **NOTE** work on the plan
 - **AGREED** to a revised timetable for completing the document with a sign-off by the NLAF on 24th October and approval from the EDT Committee to follow on 9th November 2018.

9. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for new access

- 9.1. The Forum received the annexed report which updated the NLAF on the use on the CIL funding for the creation of new public access.
- 9.2 The report explained that it could be possible to use parish based CIL funding on permissive routes.
- 9.3 The Forum heard that the River Wensum Strategy is going through the approval process for Norwich City, the Broads Authority and Norfolk County Council and if successful it will be formally launched in the Autumn. There are potential projects within the Strategy which could be funded by the pooled CIL managed by the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) – but it will be restricted to projects on public land. There is a discussion about developing a “designation” for the River Wensum Parkway which may include branding it a “Norfolk Trail”. However a significant part of the River Wensum Parkway is on private land, and any other designation is dependent on future discussions with landowners - Norwich Cathedral being a key partner.
- 9.4 The Forum **RESOLVED** to;
- Ensure that the potential to use community (neighbourhood) CIL for the creation of permissive access at a parish level is communicated to parishes (for example at the forthcoming Parish seminars event).

10. Response to the NLAF re Definitive Map Modification Orders

- 10.1 The Forum received the annexed report which considered the response to the Chairman from Norfolk County Council regarding the policy on definitive map modification orders.
- 10.2 The Forum **RESOLVED**;
- To refer the NCC policy back to the EDT Committee for review, and for answers to questions in the original letter from the Chairman of NLAF.

11. NLAF Constitution

- 11.1 The Forum received the annexed report which highlighted the changes to the constitution to include Councillors from District Councils.

- 11.2 Members also asked that the terms of reference include waterbodies as part of the NLAF's remit.
- 11.3 The Forum **RESOLVED** to adopt the constitution and changes as highlighted in the report and discussed at the meeting.

12. NLAF Recruitment

- 12.1 The Forum received the annexed report which outlined a timetable to enable the membership of the NLAF to be refreshed by the appointing body (Norfolk County Council), and four vacancies be appointed-to, to ensure that the Forum have a full complement of 22 members by 21st March 2019.
- 12.2 The current interests of members were discussed and it was felt that there should be more emphasis on economic development, which would include tourism. Waterbodies was also requested as well as taking into consideration the interests of young people.
- 12.3 There should be an overall balance of interests but essentially members should have a general desire to improve the countryside and time to carry out things productively.

The Forum **RESOLVED**;

- That the NLAF notes the proposed timetable and activities for the recruitment of NLAF members
- That priority areas regarding recruitment of new members should include 2 members for economic development.

13. Countryside Access Arrangements

- 13.1 The Forum received the annexed report which outlined a summary of the work the Countryside Access Officers and Environment teams had carried out. The report highlighted the work in terms of the volumes of customer queries received and responded to as well as other key areas of work.
- 13.2 It was noted that although the data from Trails was good in terms of how many people use them and showed the economic and health benefits, there was no information on the remainder of the PRow network. It was suggested that this information could be extrapolated to provide a picture to members of the benefit of the whole network.
- 13.3 Officers also explained that double sided signs had been used on main roads as a promotional tool, so drivers and passengers were able to see from both sides of the road even when it was a dual carriageway.
- 13.4 The Forum **NOTED** the progress made to date since the Countryside Access officer posts were introduced.

14. National Trails in Norfolk – annual review

- 14.1 The Forum received the annexed report which outlined the work that the National Trail Partnership had undertaken on the national Trail.

14.2 The Forum expressed their gratitude at the useful report. There would be a report for the October meeting on the economics of the whole network.

- 14.3 The Forum **RESOLVED**;
- To note the annual report.
 - To note the activities of the National Trail Partnership.

15. Norfolk Local Access Forum plan for future meetings

15.1 The Forum received the annexed report which outlined the plan for future agenda items.

- 15.2 The NLAF **AGREED**;
- The proposals for future agenda items.
 - That future discussion should include major infrastructure projects such as Norwich Western Link Road, A47 dualling, 3rd River Crossing at Great Yarmouth.
 - That the sign off of the NAIP would occur at the October meeting.

16. Access aspects of the Brecks Fen Edge and Rivers (BFER)

- 16.1 The Forum received a presentation (attached to this minutes) from Nick Dickson outlining the work that had been carried out within the 'Breaking New Ground' project.
- 16.2 Recycled plastic was considered to be used for the boardwalk but was discounted due to the cost and the requirements of the boardwalk in order to make it useable.
- 16.3 Tom Williamson from UEA, had been consulted on the project and was also involved in other Broads LAF projects.
- 16.4 The projects had been funded by £2million from Big Lottery and £1 million from other various sources.

17. Joint Working between the local LAFs (Norfolk Suffolk and Broads)

- 17.1 The Forum welcomed members of the Suffolk LAF to the meeting.
- 17.2 There was a discussion around what could be done to enhance collaborative working between Norfolk Local Access Forum and Suffolk Local Access Forum.
- 17.3 The following points were mentioned;
- Each LAF would benefit from working on the Coast Paths together.
 - Suffolk LAF were happy to share their experience of Network Rail proposed changes.
 - Minutes of the Suffolk LAF and Broads LAF would be added to the NLAF agenda.
 - Attendance to other LAF meetings would also be beneficial.

Dates of future meetings:

24 October 2018	10:30am	Edwards Room, County Hall
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The meeting closed at 11:25pm

**Martin Sullivan, Chairman,
Norfolk Local Access Forum**



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