

Norfolk Local Access Forum
Minutes of the Meeting Held on 24 October 2018
at 10.30am in the Edwards Room, County Hall.

Member:

Martin Sullivan - Chairman
Tim Bennett
Victor Cocker
Geoff Doggett
Seamus Elliott
Ken Hawkins
Ann Melhuish
Kate Mackenzie
Paul Rudkin
George Saunders
Jean Stratford

Representing:

Motorised vehicle access / cycling
Walking / Conservation
Walking
Conservation / voluntary sector / water-based activities
Sport and outdoor recreation / cycling
Walking / cycling
Equestrian / all-ability access / sport and recreation
Voluntary Sector / Walking
Walking / GI and planning
All-ability access / health & wellbeing / voluntary sector
Education / Walking / Voluntary Sector

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)

Su Waldron
Matt Worden

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Chris Allhusen, Cllr Fabian Eagle, Mike Edwards, Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton, Cllr Andrew Jamieson, David Hissey, Pat Holtom and Russell Wilson.

2. Election of Chairman

- 2.1 Martin Sullivan was duly elected as Chairman for the ensuing year.

3. Election of vice-Chairman

- 3.1 Ken Hawkins was duly elected as vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.
- 3.2 The Chairman thanked the outgoing vice-Chairman, Chris Allhusen, for his contribution and work as vice-Chairman.

4. Minutes of the last meeting

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

- 4.2 The dates of Suffolk LAF and Broads LAF would be circulated and put on forthcoming agendas.

5. Declarations of Interest

- 5.1 There were no interests declared.

6. Urgent Business

- 6.1 The Environment Manager updated the NLAF with details of Norfolk: a World Class Environment – a conference which would be held on 12th December 2018 at Kings Centre, King Street, Norwich. The free Conference would bring together stakeholders from the environment, farming and tourism sectors to explore the challenges and opportunities which should be addressed locally in response to the Government's 25-year Environment Plan and NLAF members were encouraged to register. Martin Sullivan indicated his intention to attend.

7. Public Question Time

- 7.1 No public questions were received.

8. Response from EDT Committee to NLAF re definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs)

- 8.1 The NLAF received the report which further clarified the response which had been given at the last NLAF meeting from the Chairman of the Environment, Development and Transport Committee regarding the DMMOs policy.
- 8.2 The NLAF expressed disappointment that the policy would be not be revised.
- 8.3 The NLAF **NOTED** the response, with disappointment.

9. Sub-Groups (Permissive Access, PROW, NAIP)

- 9.1 The NLAF received the report which summarised activities since the last NLAF meeting by the NLAF's three subgroups.
- 9.2 Members suggested that the Bradenham route was publicise in the hope that it would encourage others to do the same.
- 9.3 The Forum noted that the PROW sub-group had postponed the Parish Seminars due to time constraints and delays with finalising the NAIP.
- 9.3 The Forum **RESOLVED**;
- i. That the NLAF thanks members of the NAIP subgroup for their work to analyse comments received during the consultation and notes the revised timetable for production of the plan which will now be brought to the NLAF on 30 January 2019.

- ii. That recommendations concerning alterations to the Council's Transport Asset Management Plan (PROW section) are put forward by the NLAF to the Council for consideration (covered in next report).
- iii. That details of a new permissive access scheme developed in Bradenham are noted.

10. Transport Asset Management Plan (PROW Section)

- 10.1 The NLAF received the report which outlined the changes to the Transport Asset Management Plan which the NLAF proposed.
- 10.2 The Area Manager (South) would discuss the request with the Assistant Director in conjunction with Norfolk Trails. It was hoped that the outcome could be discussed with the Public Rights of Way sub-group before the Forum if timescales allowed.
- 10.3 The NLAF **RESOLVED** to request Norfolk County Council to amend its Transport Asset Management Plan priorities to issues affecting the rights of way network, as outlined in the report.

11. Pathmakers Update

- 11.1. The NLAF received the report which provided them with an update on the work of Pathmakers since the last NLAF meeting.
- 11.2 The NLAF queried why the reserves were high relative to the day to day running of Pathmakers.
- 11.3 The NLAF **NOTED** the update from Pathmakers and offered support their ongoing work.

12. Economic Benefit of Norfolk Trails (including tourism element)

- 12.1 The NLAF received the report and accompanying presentation which highlighted the footfall data for Norfolk Trails and how the information is being used to create an economic model to quantify the financial impact of the Norfolk Trails to the county's economy.
- 12.2 As part of the presentation, the Forum heard that the economic annual value of the trail network in 2017-218 was £12,171,662. There had been 519,841 visitors, and 54% spent money as part of their visit. £23.41 was the average amount spent per visitor.
- 12.3 Some Members expressed concern at the drop of numbers in usage of Angles Way and suggested it may need publicity and marketing investment to increase the numbers again. It would be possible to analyse the individual counters to discover the exact position of the decrease of numbers, as it is a long stretch.
- 12.4 The Forum heard that 60% of Angles Way was situated in Suffolk who do not use counters in the same way as Norfolk, and 50% of the usage of Angles Way was in the Great Yarmouth vicinity, so it would be best to look around this area to discover which parts were not being used as much. The Broads Authority had expressed an interest in investing in Angles Way and discussions were ongoing.

- 12.5 There were a number of projects being looked at which would create a payback scheme. This would enable people to contribute to Public Rights of Way.
- 12.6 The NLAF **NOTED** work ongoing to create a model to quantify the economic benefit of the managed Norfolk Trails network.

13. NLAF Annual Report

- 13.1 The NLAF received the report which highlighted the activities of the Forum between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018.
- 13.2 The Forum were concerned that the report did not include all of the activities that had taken place in that period. It was suggested that all members could add their views onto the document.
- 13.3 The NLAF **AGREED** that the Annual report document be circulated to all members, with comments returned to Officers to include as they felt necessary.

14. Countryside Access Arrangements

- 14.1 The NLAF received the report which summarised the work undertaken by the Countryside Access Officers and Environment teams. It highlighted the work in terms of customer queries received and responded to. The paper also highlighted other areas of work.
- 14.2 The NLAF heard that it was hoped the new circular walks would be completed by August / September.
- 14.3 The NLAF **NOTED** the progress made to date since the Countryside Access Officer posts were introduced.

15. Major Infrastructure Projects

- 15.1 The NLAF received the report which identified the major infrastructure projects planned in Norfolk, their current status and their implications for the Public Rights of Way.
- 15.2 It was suggested that it may be beneficial to have interpretation boards sited on the Rights of Way to inform people of the work that was being undertaken. Officers confirmed that negotiations were on-going and this could be an option.
- 15.3 The NLAF heard that early conversations were being held with Natural England regarding the third bridge crossing in Great Yarmouth. Details would come back to the NLAF with the negotiated outcomes.
- 15.4 The NLAF **RESOLVED** to note the PROW implications associated with current major infrastructure projects and plans and considered its response to the issue and opportunities presented.

16. Meetings Forward Plan

- 16.1 The NLAF received the forward plan which suggested items for agendas for the forthcoming meetings.
- 16.2 It was hoped by the NLAF that one of the meetings in 2019 would take place outside of County Hall.
- 16.3 There would be a water-based activity report brought to the NLAF in July.
- 16.4 The NLAF **AGREED** the report.

Dates of future meetings:

30 January 2019	10:30am	Cranworth Room
3 April 2019	10:30am	Edwards Room
17 July 2019	10:30am	Edwards Room
16 October 2019	10:30am	Edwards Room

The meeting closed at 12:35pm

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



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