

THE DUDLEY BOROUGH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM (DBLAF)

If you (or anyone you know) is attending the meeting and requires assistance to access the venue and/or its facilities, could you please contact Democratic Services in advance and we will do our best to help. Contact: Karen Griffiths Telephone: 01384 818219 or Email: karen.griffiths@dudley.gov.uk for any queries relating to this Agenda or if you wish to submit an apology.

DUDLEY BOROUGH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM AGENDA

The next meeting of the Dudley Borough Local Access Forum will be held at 2:00pm on Wednesday 9th December, 2020 on [Microsoft Teams](#) to consider the business set out below:-

1. Apologies for Absence
2. Declarations of Interest
3. [To confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd September, 2020](#)
4. Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Future Maintenance Programmes
5. Planning Applications
 - (a) Proposed Closure of Public Footpath D27A Adjacent to 83 Langstone Road and 112 Russells Hall Road
6. Access/Rights of Way Issues and Updates
 - (a) Lower Illey between path 107 in Dudley and path 6 in Worcestershire – T Pritchard
 - (b) Footpath – H115 Site of Hawne Colliery and Footpath 116 rear of Oil Refinery Shelah Road, Halesowen
 - (c) PROW – H124 and H125 Hawne Bank/Park, Belle Vale to Hawne Lane, Halesowen
 - (d) Footpath S454
 - (e) Footpath – H398 Manor Way to site of Fordrove Bridge, Halesowen (not shown on the definitive map) – R Burgess

The DBLAF is an advisory body established under Section 94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to provide advice as to the improvement of public access to land in the Dudley Borough for the purpose of open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area. Its views do not necessarily represent those of the Council.

(f) Footpath – H359 Amber Way to Chancel Way, Halesowen (not shown on the definitive map) – R Burgess

(g) Footpath off Uffmoor Lane connecting to Worcestershire Footpath 502

7. 9 Mile Walk

8. Stone Mill Walk

9. Draft Advertisement to recruit Forum Members

10. Legal Event Modification Orders

11. Any Other Business

- Don't Lose Your Way campaign – Tony Pritchard
- Leasowes Park, access, footpath network, signage and interpretation

It is requested that Members e-mail Karen Griffiths at the address shown on the Agenda cover at least seven clear working days before the Meeting, details of any issues that they would wish to raise under this Agenda Item.

12. Dates of Future Meetings:-

(All Meetings to commence at 2pm at a venue to be confirmed)

- Wednesday 24th February, 2021
- Wednesday 21st April, 2021
- Wednesday 14th July, 2021

TO: All Members of the Dudley Borough Local Access Forum namely:-

Mrs T Boothroyd	R J Brooks	R Burgess	Cllr C Elcock
P Greenaway	Ms A Nicholls	Cllr G Partridge	T Pritchard
N J Williams	Ms S Yeadon		

Minutes of the Dudley Borough Local Access Forum

Wednesday 23rd September, 2020 at 2.00pm
Microsoft Teams Meeting

Present:

T Boothroyd, R Brooks, R Burgess, A Nicholls, T Pritchard, N Williams and S Yeadon; Councillors C Elcock and G Partridge.

Officers:

J Butler – Group Engineer, D Keeley – Countryside Manager and A Radford – Maintenance Manager (all Directorate of Public Realm) and K Griffiths – Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of Finance and Legal).

1. **Election of Chair for the Remainder of the 2020/21 Municipal Year**

Resolved

That T Boothroyd be elected as Chair of the Forum for the remainder of the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

2. **Appointment of Vice-Chair for the Remainder of the 2020/21 Municipal Year**

Resolved

That R Brooks be elected as Vice-Chair of the Forum for the remainder of the 2020/21 Municipal Year.

3. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of P Greenaway and D Jacobs – Project Engineer.

4. **Declarations of Interest**

R Burgess and T Pritchard declared non-pecuniary interests in relation to Agenda Item No. 6 – Access/Rights of Way Issues and Updates as Members of the Halesowen Abbey Trust.

S Yeadon declared a non-pecuniary interest in relation to Agenda Item No. 6 – Access/Rights of Way Issues and Updates as Chair of the Friends of Coombeswood Wedge.

5. **Minutes**

Resolved

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th February, 2020, be approved as a correct record.

6. **Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Future Maintenance Programmes**

The Maintenance Manager reported that the 2020/21 programme had not yet been finalised. He referred individually to the seven footpaths programmed for improvement. He indicated that although the budget for the 2020/2021 programme would be tight, consideration would be given to explore the possibility of additional funding to cover the improvement work should it be necessary.

Action

Officer/Member

A list of works to be finalised for the 2020/21 maintenance programme.

A Radford –
Maintenance
Manager

7. **Planning Applications**

The Group Engineer indicated that Footpath D27A adjacent to 83 Langstone Road and 112 Russells Hall Road had been given approval to close to enable development to be carried out. The footpath was a poor narrow double dog legged stepped path and was considered unnecessary as there was an alternative path, D28 serving the same purpose, which was more open and disabled friendly.

Members considered it essential that a site visit take place as suggested at the February meeting. The Group Engineer indicated that he would inform appropriate officers of the request for a site visit and update Members accordingly.

Action

Officer/Member

The Group Engineer to discuss the possibility of a site visit to the Public Footpath D27A adjacent to 83 Langstone Road and 112 Russells Hall Road with the Project Engineer and update Members accordingly.

J Butler – Group
Engineer/D Jacobs
– Project Engineer

8. **Access/Rights of Way Issues and Updates**

(a) **Lower Illey between Path 107 in Dudley and Path 6 in Worcestershire**

The Group Engineer indicated that Worcestershire City Council were insisting that any new bridge would be the responsibility of Dudley MBC despite the location being in Worcestershire. Dudley MBC were unable to

maintain the bridge and it was reported that should a compromise not be achieved, the only option was to bring public rights of way evidence forms to the attention of both Dudley MBC and Worcestershire City Council in order to apply for a Definitive Map Modification Order.

Action	Officer/Member
That the item remain on the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum.	Democratic Services Officer

(b) Footpath H115 Site of Hawne Colliery and Footpath 116 Rear of Oil Refinery Shelah Road, Halesowen

It was reported that the footpath H115 required clearing and a site visit carried out to identify improvement work as it was essential that the path was well maintained, accessible and disabled friendly as the area was included as part of the 9 mile walk. It was also noted that the statutory signage for footpath H115 was still outstanding. The Maintenance Manager indicated that a quote had been requested from the Green Care team to carry out the clearance work to the path and that new signage was in the process of being ordered.

The Group Engineer indicated that the path had historically suffered from severe erosion and to restore the path to a safe condition required significant improvement work and would be expensive. There was possibility for a new path to be created through future development opportunities of the Hawne Colliery. Members considered, however, that the improvement work would not be significant or expensive and suggested that a site visit take place with officers and Wardens to ascertain the necessary work required. The Group Engineer suggested that the path be cleared in the first instance and a meeting be arranged, to include a site visit with Members of the Forum and officers to discuss the matter further. Members would be updated at the next meeting of the Forum.

Action	Officer/Member
(1) That Green Care be requested to clear the path and a meeting be arranged, to include a site visit, with Members of the Forum and officers to discuss the matter further.	J Butler – Group Engineer/D Jacobs – Project Engineer
(2) That the item remain on the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum.	Democratic Services Officer

9. **Change in Order of Business**

Resolved

That the order of business be varied and the agenda items be considered in the order set out in the minutes below.

10. **9 Mile Walk**

The Countryside Manager shared a map on screen highlighting the areas located within the 9 mile walk and indicated that additional resources had been allocated to focus on issues relating to the route. The idea was to link all areas of the route, however, issues had been identified, which were currently being investigated. The Black Country had many special natural and historic features and many included as Geosites, which were currently being promoted. Leaflets promoting the route were currently being drafted and Members were assured that a draft of any leaflets produced would be submitted to the Forum for consideration and discussion by Members prior to Communication and Public Affairs formally promoting the 9 mile walk.

It was confirmed that not all of the 9 mile route would be accessible to disabled users and it was suggested that those areas be highlighted in the leaflet.

Alternative walkable trails were discussed at the Forum and although the budget did not extend to producing leaflets of all nature trails, it was confirmed that many of the routes were available to view online. A Nicholls was interested to identify which areas in the Borough were accessible for disabled users. The Countryside Manager indicated that he would provide the Member details of the 9 mile route, along with similar routes at Saltwells.

The Maintenance Manager acknowledged the improvement work required to various stiles in the Borough, however, with stringent budgets, essential work would be carried out to ensure stiles were manageable. The replacement of stiles for alternative facilities accessible to all would be considered in the future.

Action	Officer/Member
(1) A Nicholls be provided with details of the 9 mile route, along with similar routes at Saltwells.	D Keeley – Countryside Manager
(2) That the item remain on the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum.	Democratic Services Officer

11. **Access/Rights of Way Issues and Updates (Continued)**

- (c) Public Right of Way H124 and H125 Hawne Bank/Park, Belle Vale to Hawne Lane, Halesowen

To be discussed at the next meeting of the Forum.

Action	Officer/Member
That the item remain on the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum.	Democratic Services Officer

(d) Footpaths – Oldnal/Foxcote area

It was considered that footpath S454 should be included on the Definitive Map and Ordinance Survey. The Group Engineer indicated that the Project Manager had contracted appropriate offices to discuss the possibility of including the footpath on the Ordinance Survey, however, this would only be included in their next review should legal paperwork be submitted. Members were informed that the landowner was not known and therefore a S25 Dedication could not be agreed. The only alternative was for a Definitive Map Modification Order to be drawn up, however, evidence of usage would be required, which would be a lengthy process and the Council would need to cover the cost of the Order. It was confirmed that the footpath appeared in Dudley's Map of Urban and Rural paths.

In confirming that all footpaths, with the exception of S454, had now been cleared, Members expressed their appreciation for the work carried out to significantly improve the area.

Action	Officer/Member
(1) Members be provided with costs involved in creating a Definitive Map Modification Order.	D Jacobs – Project Engineer
(2) That the item remain on the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum.	Democratic Services Officer

(e) Footpath H398 Manor Way to site of Fordrove Bridge, Halesowen

It was considered that the footpath from Manor Way Primary School to Manorway Dual Carriageway, opposite the Black Horse Public House needed to be included on the Definitive Map.

It was confirmed that footpath H398 had been included under Section 40 of the Highways Act 1959 or Section 40 of the Highways Act 1980. The dedication of the path would previously have been confirmed in Council minutes and could be sent to the Ordnance Survey as evidence and to include in their next review.

Members highlighted the importance of including the footpath on the Definitive Map and requested that the Project Engineer provide an update to include the legal position and any costs involved with adding the footpath to the Definitive Map.

Action	Officer/Member
(1) To consider the inclusion of the footpath from Manor Way Primary School to Manorway Dual Carriageway, opposite the Black Horse Public House on the Definitive Map.	D Jacobs – Project Engineer

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------------|
| (2) | An update be provided to Members to include the legal position and any costs involved with adding footpath H398 to the Definitive Map. | D Jacobs – Project Engineer |
| (3) | That the item remain on the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum. | Democratic Services Officer |

(f) Footpath H359 Amber Way to Chancel Way, Halesowen (not shown on the Definitive Map)

It was confirmed that footpath H359 had been included under Section 40 of the Highways Act 1959 or Section 40 of the Highways Act 1980. The dedication of the path would previously have been confirmed in Council minutes and could be sent to the Ordnance Survey to include in their next review.

Members highlighted the importance of including the footpath on the Definitive Map and requested that the Project Engineer provide an update to include the legal position and any costs involved with adding the footpath to the Definitive Map.

Members were advised that the footpath had now been cleared.

- | Action | Officer/Member |
|--|-----------------------------|
| (1) An update be provided to Members to include the legal position and any costs involved with adding footpath H359 to the Definitive Map. | D Jacobs – Project Engineer |
| (2) That the item remain on the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum. | Democratic Services Officer |

(g) Footpath off Uffmoor Lane connecting to Worcestershire Footpath 502

The Project Engineer to provide an update at the next meeting of the Forum.

- | Action | Officer/Member |
|---|-----------------------------|
| That the item remain on the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum. | Democratic Services Officer |

12. **Stone Mill Walk**

The Group Engineer referred to the temporary closure to the access from Stone Mill Walk to Quarry Park as a result of complaints received in relation to anti-social behaviour. The closure was a temporary measure whilst investigation was being carried out.

Members of the Forum expressed disappointment and concern in relation to the decision to close the accessway indicating that data from West Midlands Police had not highlighted an increase in anti-social behaviour and that the entrance was

the safest and most accessible to Quarry Park, particularly for disabled users. It was considered that although there were alternative access points to the park, these were very difficult to access for those people using wheelchairs, particularly in bad weather.

Members expressed concerns that the matter had not been considered by the Forum prior to closure and queried what evidence had been provided to granting the closure.

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------------|
| (1) | Members concerns be submitted to appropriate officers for consideration. | J Butler – Group Engineer |
| (2) | That the item remain on the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum. | Democratic Services Officer |

13. **Draft Advertisement to recruit Forum Members**

An update to be provided at the next meeting of the Forum.

Action	Officer/Member
That the item remain on the agenda for the next meeting of the Forum.	Democratic Services Officer

14. **Any Other Business**

Invitees to Future Forum Meetings

Action	Officer/Member
A Member of the Friends of Gornal Field be invited to a future meeting of the Forum to provide an update on progress.	A Nicholls/P Greenaway

15. **Future Meeting Dates and Times**

Future meeting dates and times of the Forum at 2pm on Wednesdays were noted as follows:-

- 9th December, 2020
- 24th February, 2021
- 21st April, 2021
- 14th July, 2021

The meeting ended at 3.36 pm

Chair

DBLAF/7