

## **Minutes of the Informal Meeting of the Dudley Borough Local Access Forum**

Tuesday, 20th September, 2016 at 6.00pm in Committee Room 4,  
at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

### **Present:**

T Boothroyd (Chair)  
R Brooks (Vice-Chair)  
D Bates, R Burgess, P Greenaway and N J Williams.

### **Officers:**

D Jacobs – Project Engineer and D Keeley – Countryside Manager (Both Environmental Services – Place Directorate) and K Buckle Democratic Services Officer (Chief Executive's Directorate).

#### 12. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of A Nicholls and T Pritchard and Councillor C Elcock.

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#### 13 **Declaration of Interest**

R Burgess declared an interest in Agenda Item No's. 5(a) to (d) – Access/Rights of Way Issues as a Member of Halesowen Abbey Trust – Footpath Conservations.

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#### 14. **Minutes.**

##### **Recommended**

That, the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th July, 2016, be approved as a correct record at the next quorate meeting of the Forum.

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#### 15. **Concerns raised by R Burgess**

As work had not been completed in relation to items that it had been agreed should be removed from the Agenda at the previous meeting of the forum it was agreed that updates would be provided to the next meeting of the Forum in relation to:- .

- H13 Monarch's Way, Halesowen – Flood work.
- Path 56 Lapal House, Halesowen – Tree blocking the right of way.

- H25 Coombeswood – Surfacing work phase two.

It was also suggested that A Radford – Maintenance Manager – Place Environmental Services should attend future meetings of the Forum.

It was noted that as the meeting was not quorate, recommendations would be made for ratification at the next quorate meeting of the Forum.

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16. **Planning Applications**

- (a) Housing Development Wollaston Road near High Street.

D Jacobs displayed google earth mapping of the area in question referring to drainage works “SUD’s (Sustainable Urban Drainage) being in progress. D Jacobs tracked the River Stour throughout the Borough referring to existing and any proposed residential developments along the River.

D Jacobs assured Members that planning applications that may affect the River Stour were monitored.

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17. **Access/Rights of Way Issues**

- (a) Path H69 Lye Close Lane, Lapal, Halesowen

The signage for the path was being prepared and R Burgess would contact A Radford for an update.

- (b) Tack Farm

It was noted that this item remained on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan Scheme for funding. R Burgess reported that he had been quoted £1500 for bridge kit. It was agreed that R Burgess would consult A Radford in relation to possible available funding for the project. It was suggested that an application could be made to the relevant Community Forum for funding.

- (c) Path H88, Illey Meadows, Illey, Halesowen.

It was noted that the railing had been removed and it was agreed that the item required no further consideration.

- (d) Path H13, Off Gorsty Hill Road, Halesowen.

It was agreed that R Burgess would liaise with A Radford in relation to the replacement of two new public footpath signs.

**Recommended**

DBLAF/9

R Burgess and A Radford provide further updates to the next meeting of the Forum in relation to Path H69 Lye Close Lane, Lapal,, Halesowen, Tack Farm and Path H13 Off Gorsty Hill Road, Halesowen.

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18. **Rights of Way Improvement Plan.**

It was noted that as no meetings had taken place The Chair and Vice-Chair would liaise with relevant Officers to arrange a meeting.

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19 **Any Other Business**

(a) Cotwall End Valley.

P Greenaway referred to overgrown and impassable paths on Cotwall End Valley and agreed to liaise with Forum Members in relation to work required to the paths.

(b) Leasowes Park.

N Williams referred to recent parking issues at Leasowes Park whereby gates had been blocked preventing any emergency exit stating that he wished to bring the issue to the Forum's attention. The issue was noted.

(c) Minutes of Forum Meetings.

Noted the Democratic Services Officer to forward all Minutes of the Forum meeting to A Radford.

(d) Turls Hill Bridleway – Sedgley

D Bates reported on the work that had been completed on the Turls Hill Bridleway, referring to the Government Funding that had been sourced by R Morgan – Section Engineer to install new drainage and reinstate the surfaces of the path. D Bates advised that he was indebted to R Morgan for his work and assistance and Members of the Forum wished to thank R Morgan for his work and assistance with obtaining funding.

(e) Membership of the Forum

D Keeley referred to a press release advertising the Forum and requesting any potential members to contact the Council. It was confirmed that all current Members of the Forum had re-applied for Membership and had been re-appointed.

(f) Annual Report of the Forum.

It was noted that an article was awaited from S Yeadon and D Keeley and R Burgess would pursue the matter.

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20. **Dates of Future Meetings**

Noted, that future meetings of the Forum would be held on:-

- Tuesday 6th December, 2016
- Tuesday 21st February, 2017
- Tuesday 4th July, 2017

The meetings to commence at 6.00pm

The meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

CHAIR