



MINUTES
of a meeting held in Diocese offices, Chelmsford
Tuesday 11th July 2017 at 2pm

Present: Members:

Bob Drane (BD)	Katherine Evans (KE)	Martyn Towns (MT)
Louise Fuller (LF)	Robert Johnstone (RJ)	John Victory (JV)
Sue Dobson (SD)	Rick Gray (RG)	Ed Dixon (ED)

The following Officers were present in support:

Shirley Anglin (SA)	Essex Highways, Public Rights of Way and Localism Officer
Garry White (GW)	Essex Highways, Public Rights of Way and Records Manager

Apologies: Jan Arthur (JA)

Observers: Ray Booty, Roger Lankester

1	Chairman's Welcome: apologies and appointments	Action
	Apologies had been received by Jan Arthur. The Chairman welcomed Sue Dobson as a new member of the LAF and congratulated her on her appointment. KE has been in communication with Sustrans about membership or representation at the LAF. She will invite them and CTC to the next meeting to encourage membership. Contact with Doug New to be actioned, to check that everything is alright with him and ensure contact details held are up to date.	
2	Minutes of the previous meeting	
	The minutes were signed by the chairman as a true representation of the meeting O/S actions: SA to make LAF website more visible KE and RG to create email accounts in Gmail or Outlook for Chairman and Vice chairman account. Standard style passwords are to be used and confirmed to SA for the records.	
3	LAF National Update	
	KE gave an overview of the LAF National conference which she has attended. There was great emphasis on the health and wellbeing agenda. She will email the presentations out to the members when she has received them. The conference was well attended by many LAF representatives.	
4	New Members and Publicity – Article for publications	

	<p>JV has begun writing an article to be posted in several publications to advertise the LAF and invite applications for membership. There are certain views that are not well enough represented on the forum, landowners, cycling and coastal. The members will produce a list of locations for publication of the article and JV will send it round to the members for further comment.</p>	JV
5	Network Rail – ELAF Statement of Case	
	<p>GW reported that there have been 192 objections to the TWAO, ECC have asked for sight of these objections and are awaiting a response. ECC have created a draft statement of case to be submitted further to the original letter of objection.</p> <p>ECC have a meeting with NR on the 19th July but GW was not sure that this is part of a formal mediation process and has asked the Dft for advice, until such advice is received they will approach the meeting with caution so as to not affect the public inquiry.</p> <p>Cambridge have had dates for their Public Inquiry – they are set for the 28th Nov to the 22nd Dec. It is expected that the ECC inquiry will last longer than this.</p> <p>THE LAF discussed the requirement or not for them to submit a statement of case. It was unanimously agreed that their objection to the TWAO to close PROW crossings was strong enough to require a statement of case be submitted to add weight to their original letter of objection. KE, RG and SD will produce this in time for the deadline.</p>	KE/RG/SD
6	Byway review – ECC review of TRO's and their effect, how to take this forward	
	<p>GW was present to give an overview of the outcomes for the Ecological reports and site surveys following the winter closures of tranches 1 and 3.</p> <p>All seasonal orders on tranche 1 and 3 are now lifted. An ecological survey has been carried out to assess the impact on the byways. Early indication is that the tyre width and tread are indicative of 4 wheeled use is responsible for the primary damage. Bare earth is being exposed and disturbance has meant the loss of species typical of the surrounding habitat and the introduction of less desirable species that can tolerate the disturbance. This was noted as a concern in the ecology report.</p> <p>Where byways have been surfaced, the ecology has benefitted and the impacts of anti-social use was less.</p> <p>GW will email the ecology reports to the LAF when he has the final one.</p> <p>ECC want to work with motorized user groups to find a solution to the problem of surface damage. They are meeting with the TRF on the 13th July, who have already voiced some suggestions that ECC could take forward, including around education. It was stressed that there will be byways that require closure due to their condition. He passed out photos of Byway 40 Greenstead Green to illustrate the extent of damage to some byway surfaces. KE accepted that this would happen.</p> <p>GW confirmed that banning private rights is also possible under a TRO.</p> <p>SA handed round a document to start the forward planning process for how the County Council approach byway management in the future. The document had facts, suggestions and questions to give a framework to the discussion. She asked that the LAF consider the content and feedback to her their thoughts as part of a wider consultation process with other user groups and interested parties. SA welcomed comments from Ray Booty on the document and processes too.</p> <p>Ray Booty offered that he and some other off-road drivers take out the members of the LAF to gain experience of byways from a 4x4 and to visit a few of them to help their understanding.</p> <p>GW reported that there was an expectation that the PROW team will see significant pressure this winter to close the byways to vehicles again.</p>	GW

	<p>Great consideration is being given to this and so it will take a reasonable period of time to complete the consultation and to prepare a new process to apply to byway management.</p> <p>ALL members were asked to feed their comments into RG by the 4th August so that early consideration of LAF views can be offered to ECC.</p> <p>Finally GW passed out photos of byway 56 Little Burstead. This is one of the capital schemes this year to make the byway safe for the contractors and engineers to get onto it to assess the full extent of works required. This was considered a good news story.</p> <p>Land Drainage responsibility and enforcement was discussed. MT noted that it was oftern drainage that was a primary issue. GW agreed to look into ditch enforcement with the Highway enforcement team at Essex highways.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>GW</p>
7	ROWIP – Updating the statement of actions	
	<p>KE had, previous to the meeting sent an email to members containing her thoughts on the ROWIP. RG had read them and offered his comments. All the themes are critical factors and things that he believes that ECC should aspire to or provide. People's heath should be at the center of the thinking around the ROWIP statement of actions and that the LAF should ensure that this remains a key consideration. He also suggested that the LAF monitor the actions more closely.</p> <p>SD offered that priority should be for multi user paths to enable greater access for people with mobility problems and to be as inclusive as possible. RJ noted that the current advice is for developments to consider shared use where you have no clearly defined route apart from traffic or parking zones.</p> <p>ED considered that the preservation of the character of routes should be considered a priority too rather than urbanization of the countryside. Surface type should be carefully considered. KE acknowledged that paths around an urban area should be kept to a higher standard and to leave the countryside as the countryside.</p> <p>KE requested a full update on the P3 scheme for the next LAF meeting</p> <p>KE summarized the conversation thus: a few expansions to the themes were required, the importance of strategic links needs to be incorporated, if there are any further changes to the comments in the email that KE sent around, they are to be submitted to KE by the 4th August. She will collate them all.</p>	<p>SA</p> <p>ALL</p>
8	Temporary TRO's process and application – Actions from the previous meeting	
	This item was passed over to the next meeting.	SA
9	Members comments of ECC service – maintenance, website etc.	
	<p>Members discussed the ease of using the online reporting system. Several problems were raised, including the lack or feedback or the poor quality. An action was agreed to compile these issues and feedback to ECC in a report/letter. ALL to send comments and recommendations to LF.</p> <p>SA will speak to the inspections manager about current feedback and how MOPs interpret it.</p> <p>SA to send the most recent constitution to KE, as approved by ELS</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>SA</p> <p>KE</p>
10	England Coast Path – Update on progress	

	The Mersea Island stretch has been published. SA has sent round the link to the online version and has a hard copy should anyone want to see it.	
11	ELAF Administration – appointment of new secretary, constitution	
	SA advised that all internal inquiries into a secretary were not successful so the only option is to find support from outside of ECC. SA suggested that a parish clerk was a good option. SA to investigate with HR how to go about this.	SA
12	Any other business	
	<p>Roger Lankester: He reported that the private rights of people who moor boats off the Essex Coast are at threat from the ECP. NE have advised him that existing rights will not be affected but he is concerned that this is not enough and wants some more formal advice. SA responded that as it was not a public right of way but a private access right, that he speak with the landowners to assure that he will still be able to walk out to his boat at low tide.</p> <p>Louise Fuller: She requested that an ECC report be given at each LAF meeting, even if brief.</p> <p>Bob Drane: Advised that his membership of the LAF was due for review. SA to look into full membership and when they need to be re-elected. Ray Booty confirmed that this information had been sent to SA</p> <p>Robert Johnson: Robert reported that he has spent 8-9years on the LAF now, dealing predominately with the persistent problem of developers and Essex County Council creating cycle ways that were not legal or suitable and allowing the obstruction of PROW in the north Colchester area. He felt that the situation had not changed in all these years and that these issues were still occurring. He feels that he has failed in his aims within the LAF. Due to the lack of progress on matters such as FP 54, he tendered his resignation from the LAF. Martyn Towns responded that whilst Robert might have felt he has failed in those aims that he had actually succeeded in raising awareness of the problems, educating people and changing the way that they all looked at development proposals, bringing it to the forefront of their minds. He stressed that this was a huge success and that this was due to Roberts’s passion and dedication. KE requested that Robert reconsider his resignation as his leaving would be a huge loss to the LAF. She added that Ray’s recent resignation was also a huge loss and she urged him to reconsider too.</p>	SA SA
13	Date of next meeting	
	<p>To be held at the Chelmsford Diocese Offices. Tuesday Nov 7th 2017 at 2pm.</p> <p>SA to book 2018 meetings.</p>	SA