

Minutes

Minutes of the Bury Local Access Forum Meeting Held at Bury Town Hall on Wednesday 16th January 2019 at 1.30pm

1.0 Present

LAF Members

Lesley Tierney (Vice Chair)
Christine Taylor
Irene Pope
Debra Batchelor
John Southworth

Also Present

David Chadwick (LAF Secretary) - Bury MBC
Jon O'Connor – Bury MBC
Barry Smith - public
Peter Varetto – PNFS member

Apologies – Edgar Ernstbrunner, Fal Binns, Val Johnstone, John Ireland, Tom Jeffs, Chris Wilkinson (Bury MBC) and Paul Robinson (Bury MBC)

		Action
2.0	<p>Minutes of the Last Meeting</p> <p>Paragraphs 3 and 4 of item 10.0 Any Other Business in the Draft Minutes were incorrect and should have read –</p> <p>BS informed the group that the MOD intend to erect signs indicating that access in the area of Pilgrims Cross and Bull Hill would be restricted.</p> <p>DB believes there are Commoners' rights on this land and it is recorded as open access land. DB wondered if Lancashire County Council were aware of this and taking the appropriate action. The group felt that if access to Bull Hill were to be restricted there would be considerable protests.</p> <p>CT highlighted a misleading MOD sign between Robin Hoods Well and Bull Hill, adjacent to a flagpole and information notice. The sign appears to restrict access to a footpath that runs outside the danger area.</p>	

The Minutes were then accepted as an accurate record of the previous meeting.

3.0 Matters Arising

Any Other Business – Bull Hill/MOD

DC explained that there had been further discussions with the MoD regarding the issues in the vicinity of Bull Hill. He added that it had not been clarified whether the area within the Danger Area is subject to Commoners Rights. IP stated that access to the online "magic map" would clarify this. *The information shown on the "magic map" has subsequently shown that the land within the Danger Area is NOT recorded as Common Land.*

DC felt that as the matter affects Lancashire County Council, Bury Council, MoD and National Trust, the relevant organisations needed to be invited to the next LAF to gain a proper understanding of the situation and remove any remaining uncertainties.

Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund

IP updated the group on her attempts to get horses and horse riders recognised as being able to benefit from this fund. She has written to Andy Burnham and Chris Boardman asking if Beelines will be available for use by horses. She has not received a reply.

IP has also asked a Councillor representing Norden to contact Andy Burnham and Chris Boardman and he too is awaiting a response. IP will send a second letter and has discovered several examples of multi-user routes.

4.0 Bridleway Strategy Update

IP asked for an update on the application to add a bridleway to the Definitive Map and Statement at Elton Reservoir. DC replied that the Order will be advertised in the Bury Times on 17th January 2019 and the period for objections has been set to end on 6th March 2019.

DC was asked about progress with the claim for bridleways in Ainsworth which was submitted over two years ago. IP stated that she had been advised to send the application to the Secretary of State as the matter has not been considered by the Authority.

JOC told the group that he will take this up with Dave Brown (Director of Operations) to look at how the application can be progressed given the resources currently available for work relating to Public Rights of Way.

IP then presented DC with three more applications for bridleways at Ainsworth Hall Road, Black Lane, Affetside and Cann Street, Tottington.

BHS, Sport England and the British Equestrian Trade Association are offering £100 for each application to support applicants in the run up to the 2026 cut-off date. However, the applications must be accepted by the Surveying Authority and added to the register. Applications should be worth at least 7* in the criteria for the content of an application in order to qualify for the fund.

IP mentioned other possible applications for Old Kays Park and Brinks Lane. It is hoped that the Old Kays Park route could be dedicated without the need for an application as it is on Authority land. LT added that an area adjacent to Brinks Lane has been cleared and an access created. DC said he would investigate.

LT noted that gates have been erected on the path at Higher Spen Moor, Radcliffe. Works have taken place on this route to create a private access to Lower Spen Moor. The gates do not appear to restrict use of the public right of way.

5.0 Digital Mapping/Bury PROW Survey

No update possible due to EE having to give his apologies for the meeting.

A general discussion took place regarding those paths that still need to be surveyed and that the project has been very successful in pulling together information about Bury's public rights of way network.

6.0 Prospective Capital Projects

DC presented a first attempt at a list of Capital Projects that could be carried out if funding and resources allowed. He made it clear that most of the estimated costs were guess work and should not be taken as fixed. The list highlighted that some schemes are currently being progressed. (List attached)

7.0 Officer Report

DC provided a list of works carried out since the last meeting. He felt that good progress had been made, taking into account the time of year and that there continues to be progress with involving volunteers on practical tasks and securing funding from third parties. (List attached).

LT mentioned that the embankment supporting Brinks Lane has partially collapsed and it looks as though there may be further problems. DC said he would look at this when he visits the path.

8.0 Any Other Business

BS reported that the Holcombe Village Heritage Group have found Anglo-Saxon remains about 20m from a public footpath in the Holcombe area. This is a very important find as only 9 equivalent sites have been found in the region. Added to this the group are researching the access to the area and have found evidence of a Pilgrims Way which may date to 700 A.D. and be attributed to St Paulinus. It is possible that this may be a public right of way as a result.

Greater Manchester Spatial Framework –

The GMSF has been published and a consultation period runs until 18 March 2019.

DC has had a quick look at the 443 page document and noted that the public rights of way network does get a mention in the pages relating to the proposal to develop the area around Elton Reservoir. It was good to see that the PROW network had been highlighted.

DC added that he felt that the LAF should be providing a full response to the consultation, although it was for the members of the group to decide how to progress.

LT suggested a sub-group should be formed to meet within the consultation deadline, discuss the contents of the document and draft a response.

LT added that the likely consequences of the GMSF will be an increase in planning applications and the LAF is not currently consulted on such matters. DC acknowledged that this has been discussed at previous meetings but he would like to confirm how the LAF will respond to a consultation before taking the matter to his colleagues in Planning. In particular there is the problem of applications and deadlines falling in between LAF meetings.

IP asked about ensuring the public rights of way network is properly considered as part of the planning process. How can this be achieved? JOC suggested that IP needs to speak with the Councillor with the portfolio for Planning in order to highlight the issue.

IP also asked whether Bury had a policy for avoiding the use of bridleways as access roads to new developments. DC and JOC responded that each development would have to be looked at separately. It may be that an area of land to be developed is only accessible via a bridleway, but it would be hoped that an alternative bridleway route would be provided if this was the case.

The group discussed the news that £1m has been allocated to carry out projects that will retain carbon on local moorland, including Holcombe Moor. The scheme falls under the heading of "Moors for

		Action
	the Future". The LAF needs to discuss this with a view to being involved in the project.	
9.0	Date and Time of Next Meeting	
	Wednesday 8 th May 2019. 1.30pm in Committee Room A, Town Hall.	