

Minutes

Minutes of the Bury Local Access Forum Meeting Held at Bury Town Hall on Wednesday 17th October 2018 at 1.30pm

1.0 Present

LAF Members

Edgar Ernstbrunner (Chair)

Lesley Tierney (Vice Chair)

Christine Taylor

Irene Pope

Debra Batchelor

Margaret Stewardson

John Ireland

Also Present

David Chadwick (LAF Secretary) - Bury MBC

Jon O'Connor – Bury MBC

Chris Wilkinson – Bury MBC

Barry Smith

Tom Jeffs

Paul Robinson – Bury MBC

Apologies – John Southworth, Cllr Tony Cummings, Fal Binns, Val Johnstone

		Action
2.0	Minutes of the Last Meeting The Minutes were accepted as an accurate record of the previous meeting.	
3.0	Matters Arising All matters arising were covered under the agenda.	
4.0	Mayor's Cycling and Walking Challenge Fund CW described the Beelines project. £160m has been allocated over 4 years to improve permeability across barriers to walking and cycling within Greater Manchester. Applications for funding can be made on a quarterly basis. IP asked if horses are being considered as part of the scheme. CW	

confirmed that it is aimed at cycling and walking. IP stated that horse riders are vulnerable road users and should be considered. The contact addresses for Chris Boardman and Andy Burnham were requested and IP was advised to look at the Beelines website for the relevant information.

DB asked if the junction at Holcombe Brook had been considered as a scheme. CW confirmed it had been submitted to TfGM for consideration but they had not agreed to fund the scheme at this stage. It is recorded as a crossing point. DB reminded the group that the new housing development would increase the need for the matter to be resolved.

MS asked about the widths of any new routes that may be constructed. CW explained that these would vary dependent upon location and that there are various options available.

MS also raised the issue of Nutt Lane/Old Hall Lane in Simister where a footbridge across the M66 prevents use of the route by cyclists and horses.

DC highlighted the need for Beelines to connect across Authority boundaries as initial proposals were largely considered on a Council by Council basis. In addition, it was clarified that individual schemes need to accommodate both cycling AND walking. CW clarified that there are criteria on which schemes are scored. DB asked if these criteria are published. CW said he would check.

CW

5.0 Bridleway Strategy Update

IP reported that there had not been much progress since the last LAF due to time constraints and a desire to have some feedback regarding the application to create bridleways in Ainsworth based on historical evidence. DC explained that the Authority is to make an Order to create the bridleway route at Elton Reservoir and that the Order is currently being drafted with the intention of advertising as soon as possible. LT asked if this meant that the Ainsworth application could now be progressed. DC responded that this would depend on the level of objections to the Elton Reservoir Order and how much time the PROW Officer would have to allocate to resolving them.

IP informed the LAF that she is attending a workshop on November 4th, looking at historical evidence and how to use it to apply for routes to be added to the Definitive Map and Statement.

		Action
6.0	Digital Mapping/Bury PROW Survey	
	EE reported that the survey is progressing. It is hoped the survey results will help the Authority to consolidate the Definitive Map.	
7.0	Access Through Springwater Park, Whitefield	
	DC then PR explained that the recent formation of a Friends of Springwater Park group had sparked an interest in opening up routes through the land alongside the Irwell between Radcliffe New Road and Manchester Road. Whilst the Definitive Map records public footpaths through this area, a landslip in the late 1980s has left them impassable. Since then, trodden routes and desire lines have been created and the "Friends of" group have looked to improve these with the help of the Bury Countryside Volunteers. The proposal is to create circular routes but there is also the possibility of a link to Manchester Road that could be considered as an alternative to the Definitive paths. This link crosses privately owned land and will need the cooperation of the landowner for it to be progressed. PR explained that the circular routes are the priority of the "Friends of" group. He also clarified that the aim is for these routes to be multi-user.	
8.0	Prospective Capital Projects	
	EE explained that he would like the Authority to produce a list of possible capital projects on the PROW network, with costings to allow priorities to be set and funding to be sourced. DC queried the level of detail required for the list as its production would take him away from other PROW matters. EE asked for a list of what is already known and DC agreed to have this available for the next meeting. EE added that The Ramblers could consider the list and may be able to offer funding for relevant projects. The Ramblers do have funds available and they are often left unspent on an annual basis.	DC
	JOC asked if the information collected from the Ramblers survey could be used to compile a comprehensive list of what is required. EE felt this was possible and that details are already being passed through to DC as problems are discovered. The majority of this information appears to be highlighting locations where bridges are required and both The Ramblers and Peak and Northern Footpaths Society are interested in supporting schemes that include improved access via the installation of a bridge.	
9.0	Officer Report	
	DC presented a list of works carried out since the last LAF meeting. It highlighted the use of different resources in terms of who carries	

out the work and how it is funded. Contractors and volunteers have been utilised and the level of funding secured by volunteer and "Friends of" groups for works on the PROW network is becoming a significant figure.

DC highlighted two schemes that had been funded via a Six Town Housing Environmental Improvement Fund and funding secured by the Brandlesholme Residents Association for improvements to Public Footpath Number 150, Bury and the nearby canal feeder. In addition, the Ramsbottom Countryside Access Volunteers are planning to bid for funds to improve footpaths in Holcombe Village that could be used as alternatives to walking on "The Rake" which is a narrow, steep road with no footways.

DC described a proposal from a landowner to divert Public Footpath No.39, Bury at Bradshaw Hill. A plan and photographs were provided for the LAF members. No objections were raised to the proposal as described by DC.

10.0 Any Other Business

LT asked for an update on the proposed cycle route through Hardman Fold, Radcliffe. CW responded that a topographic survey had been done and we now know where a route could be located and to what width. This now requires the agreement of all the landowners. This will take time to progress.

IP asked for an update on the new cycle route at Lower Spen Moor. CW replied that the routes are now largely in place, from Buckingham Drive, through to Hardman Fold, but that agreements with all the landowners to give the route bridleway status are ongoing. The new private access road which links Lower Spen Moor to Bury and Bolton Road will remain a public footpath.

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.

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.

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.

The members of the LAF asked that the MOD attend the next

meeting.

BS asked if notices could be erected on the new gate on Moorbottom Road to ensure that everyone is aware of why it is in place and when it should be open and closed.

11.0

BS also highlighted that the National Trust Website for Stubbins Estate and Holcombe Moor refers to a photograph of Peel Tower as showing Pilgrims Cross

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Wednesday 16th January 2019. 1.30pm in Committee Room A, Town Hall