



THURROCK LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Working Group - Minutes (2)

Tuesday 10 April 2018
7pm to 9pm Committee Room 2
Civic Offices, New Road, Grays

Present:

Paula Watts – Projects Leader Highways Information & LAF Secretary - **PW**
 Sue Dobson - LAF Chair and Essex Bridleway Association Representative – **SD**
 Carley Hollands – LAF Member - EBA Member **CH**
 David Fish – LAF Member - Sustran’s Ranger - **DF**
 Bernard Smith – LAF Member - Thurrock Ramblers Walk Leader – **BS**
 Bryan Benton – LAF Member – Thurrock Ramblers - **BB**
 John Lane - LAF Member- Rambler & Cyclist - **JL**
 Mike Ostler – LAF Vice Chair- **MO**
 Jenny Mann – LAF Member & EBA Local Representative – **JM**
 Peter O’Rourke – Forestry Commission – Beat Manager – **PO**

| Item | Description | Action |
|-------------|--|---------------|
| 1. | Introduction: SD Madam Chair opened the meeting by thanking those present for attending. | |
| 2. | Apologies: Steve Plumb – Thurrock Council Alison Loveridge – Thurrock Council | |
| 3. | Minutes of Last Meeting: Minutes of Working Group meeting of the 13 th February 2018 were reviewed and approved by members. | |
| 4. | Matters Arising Proposed Regional LAF meetings SD Informed the meeting she had not received any further update on the proposal by Shirley Anglin, PROW and Localism Officer at Essex Highways, following the suggestion by Essex LAF to revisit Eastern area LAF Chairs and Vice-Chairs once again holding regional LAF meetings. Once a date is confirmed Sue will notify MO as Vice Chair. | |

SD provided members copies of her draft letter supporting Cambridge LAF, the British Horse Society, Byways and Bridleway Trust, Open Spaces Society and the Ramblers regarding the improvement of public access post Brexit following the UK's departure from the EU.

JL Once the formal letters have been sent could copies of the letter (and hopefully responses) be sent also to our local Councillors, and Leader of the Council. **PW** Once the May elections have been held we will know our new Portfolio Holder for Environment and Highways is as well as re-elected or newly elected Councillors.

SD also confirmed BHS had submitted an online petition in respect of the consultation, supported by EBA, for members to show their support.

PW Provided further updates on Thurrock's Cycle Infrastructure – Creations and Improvements along Stonehouse Lane and A1306 Junction 31 **JL** requested his concerns noted over the drop kerb issue on the A1306. **PW** informed JL that Highway Engineer Phil Thowney offered to meet on site with JL if requested.

DF was disappointed no further works intended for cycle improvements at Junction 31.

JL On a positive note well done for the new east west shared cycle route along Purfleet By Pass though what has happened with the an open trench preventing the new route being completed? **PW** to report back

4 (A) Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan

PW Unfortunately SP was unable to attend this meeting though he informed PW he is still trying to bring together many issues which relate to the ROWIP, in particular the Council's Local Plan. It is still looking like it will be 2021 before the Local Plan is ready for publication and it may still be beneficial to create an interim ROWIP up to say 2022 so we at least have a document from which we can negotiate... especially regarding the Lower Thames Crossing as Highways England will be looking to work in conjunction with Thurrock's ROWIP Plan.

4 (B) Lower Thames Crossing

SD Having contacted John Lamb Interim Assistant Director for the Lower Thames Crossing he informed her he is very keen to engage and meet with Thurrock LAF at an appropriate time to discuss public rights of way affected by the land required for the proposed new road.

SD Informed members she had contacted Highways England directly via a link on one of Highways England's newsletters asking to meet with HE representatives working on the scheme.

PW Reported on a meeting held in March whereby representatives attended from Essex Highways, Thames Chase, Lands of the Fanns, Forestry Commission, John Meehan ECC, Thames Estuary Path and Coastal Environment Officers. Those not attending were listed as Essex Wildlife, Tilbury 2, Environment Agency and representatives from Havering Council where the meeting was informed of the following:

A consultation period may start around September 2018 followed by an application for a Development Control Order in the Autumn of 2019 which will allow three Planning Inspectors to review the motorway proposal and hold a six-month period for the public to be consulted.

It could be that existing PROW may be closed for up to 5 years.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | <p>HE have implied they do not just want to cut a route through Thurrock therefore they want to know our desire lines for equestrians, cyclist and walkers HE will therefore require plans from Thurrock showing where people should be encouraged out into the open space.</p> <p>There may be a possible scheme of investment into cycle routes, if need be involving a wider network than those routes directly affected by the new motorway.</p> <p>Extra resources needed by the Council - HE should have money available for this need.</p> <p>Possibly 2022 start on project with 2027 becoming operational.</p> <p>7% of green belt likely to be affected</p> <p>Possibly 3 to 5,000 operatives working on the project, accommodation being an issue for these operatives.</p> <p>Highways England needs to segment the route both sides to provide all year round vegetation cover.</p> <p>Ultimately Thurrock Council needs to get HE to talk to us.</p> | |
| | <p>4 (C) Network Rail Closures – Public Enquiry</p> <p>BS Informed the meeting that Network Rails Public Enquiry in Essex will resume on the 25th September 2018 at Chelmsford Civic Centre. Reportedly 10 proposed closures in Essex have been removed from the enquiry. Suffolk’s Public Enquiry is underway now</p> <p>4 (D) Natural England- Coastal Path</p> <p>PW No further contact since our February meeting from Natural England when they implied they would be happy to attend one of our future LAF meetings.</p> <p>4 (E) Operation Sacrifice</p> <p>PW Informed the members of a meeting held by Essex Police on the 26th March regarding the illegal use of quad and motor bikes.</p> <p>Present and leading the meeting were PC Rowan Perrior and two fellow Police officers along with management from Grangewaters, and Council staff from Parks and Leisure, Housing, Highways and Anti-Social Team Leaders, along with local Farmers and the Conservator of West Tilbury Commons Land.</p> <p>The meeting was informed the Police can issue Section 59 notice warnings which can be tagged to a quad or motor bike and its rider. The serving of this notice gives the Police future powers for ceasing and clamping of quad and motor bikes. Notices must be correct and effective at the time of issue. Under Section 59 owners who then try to claim vehicles back must produce confirmation of both tax and insurance for use on the highway.</p> | |

At present Essex Police have a no pursuit policy in place. though there is a bill going through Parliament to hopefully provide Police with more assistance.

Public Nuisance Orders are being used by West Midlands Police, but it is a long drawn out process with some Notices issued in 2016 only now going to court.

More work is needed with Media asking for public assistance as to finding out where the bikes / quad bikes are being kept.. ideally maybe Housing Officers could help. Housing representative informed the meeting enforcement action under the tenancy agreements could possibly be taken.

Photographic evidence is needed by the Police from the public. Dash Cam information and CCTV footage is needed, along with Petrol Station footage... ideally Trading Standards be asked to assist with under age purchasing of fuel as action can be taken against Petrol Station owners.

Possibly the use of Network Rails cameras was suggested.

West Tilbury Conservator informed the meeting they have by laws for damage to pastures which they can ask the police enforce and arrest.

Another suggestion was the use of Essex Fire Brigade when undertaking fire safety fire inspections.

Landowners are requested to assist by trying to reduce less entrance / exit points to make it easier for the police to block escape routes.

4 (F) A13 Widening Scheme

Preparation works are continuing though at present one parcel of land is being contested which needs to be clarified before works get underway.

4 (G) Deposit of Statement and Plans under Section 31 (6) of the Highways Act 1980 & Section 15A(1) of the Commons Act 2006

For land adjoining and within the vicinity of the A128 Brentwood Road, Bulphan has been submitted whereby the landowner's state they do not intend to create any new footpaths over their land parcels indicated. The land owner also intends to confirm the position of any definitive routes and no others. In this instance no definitive rights of way were present on the land in question.

Planning Applications / PROW:

Land between R/O Lytton Road and A108, Chadwell St Mary
PW Has requested the upgrade of Public Footpath 114 to a bridleway status from Riverview northwards to Chadwell Recreation Ground to link onto Bridleway 112.

Footpath 116 St Johns Road, Chadwell St Mary

The above residential development at the start of construction works illegally blocked of the above Public Footpath. This and other recent planning applications have failed to capture this issue therefore following a meeting between AL and Senior Planning Officer Lee

Nicholson it was agreed that the following condition is included within any future planning consents affected by Public Rights of Way.

Planning Conditions: A condition has been added to the planning manual under H37 - Public Right of Way (PROW) which states no development shall be carried out which obstructs any part of the public right of way Footpath number XXX [shown on the Definitive map or on a Planning application drawing) which shall be kept open for use at all times.

Reason: Unless an Order under Section 257 has been made and confirmed or the right of way otherwise extinguished under an order of the Magistrates' Court it is a criminal offence to obstruct a public right of way. Planning permission alone does not authorise obstruction.

Arena Essex - Re-development.

A pre-app has been submitted which is not for public consultation, however **PW** assured LAF members she had requested north south links be provided between Stifford Road, South Ockendon and Arterial Road ideally as Bridleway way (with a suitable surface for all users) along with contributions or even the creation of bridleway link from Love Lane Aveley (once over the A13 via an existing bridleway bridge). This route would travel along the southern boundary of the A13 to connect onto Ship Lane then southwards along Ship Lane connecting onto the permissive BW route through Davy Down leading to BW 219 along the Mardyke. In addition, a signalised crossing point between Davy Down and the start of BW 219 was requested.

Purfleet Regeneration

PW Requested the existing route of Public Footpath be retained along the river frontage following the raising of land, plus a request to create a link onto and along the adopted footway fronting Harrisons Wharf residential development, though ideally the creation of shared cycle and footway would be of great advantage to link into Rainham via the RSPB Bird Sanctuary.

Footpath / Bridleway Issues:

Davy Down Bridleway Bridge

PW Continued to report further delays in providing the new bridleway bridge.

BW 161 Green Lane Stifford Clays Road Orsett

Bridleway gate has been destroyed by illegal off roaders along with a further bridleway gate junction Stifford Hill and Pilgrims Lane onto BW 219. It was hoped there would be enough revenue funding to replace these gates by end of the 2017 / 2018 financial year. At present the 2018 /2019 budgets are being reviewed.

BW 58 East Tilbury

PW Brand new BW railway gates and surface found to be in place. (**SD** Essex LAF has been made aware Network Rail appears to be bolting a lot of their crossings throughout Essex.)

BW 187 Coal House Fort, East Tilbury.

Still to be investigated by **PW & AL**

FP & BW 91

Still to be investigated by **AL & PW**

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| | <p>Capital Funding for Public Rights of Ways</p> <p>Footpath 147 Flooding Still continuing to obtain an agreement from the land owners (when we can find them) for the creation of a permissive route and relevant signage and footbridge.</p> <p>Footpath 162 up-grade to Bridleway has commenced. We are waiting on landownership. If this cannot be determined there is a procedure whereby the Council can place signs on site asking for alleged owner/s to come forward.</p> <p>Bridleway 219 Mardyke Way Nth Stifford to Bulphan New step over bridleway gates now on order for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Bottom of Nth Stifford Hill; (2) Two new gates to be installed to try and prevent quad bike use; (3) Green Lane junction with Stifford Clays Road replacement gate ordered. <p>Any other business</p> <p>JL Reported fly tipping along the carriageway of Parkers Farm Road which is a hazard to cyclists. PW to action</p> <p>PO Reported bridleway gates installed with bunding around within Mardyke Woods. Issues with Council and open frontage (opposite Daiglen Drive) JM Maybe signage needed to separate bridleway area and playground.</p> <p>JM requested update on Hardie Park and Buckingham Hill Road bridleway; PW to report back at next meeting.</p> <p>CH reported since the introduction of shared cycle route along Sandy Lane the gaps created in the fencing /hedgerow now allows quad bikes illegal access onto adjacent land.</p> | |
| 7 | <p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Public Meeting Tuesday 5th June 2018 Working Group Meeting Tuesday 14th August 2018</p> <p>All in Committee Room 2 @ 7pm</p> | |