



THURROCK LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Working Group - Minutes (1)

Tuesday 5 February 2019
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 - Sustrans Ranger – **DF**
 Bernard Smith – LAF Member - Thurrock Ramblers Walk Leader – **BS**
 Brian Hatcher – LAF Member – Thurrock Ramblers – Chair
 Bryan Benton – LAF Member – Thurrock Ramblers – **BB**
 John Lane – LAF Member- Rambler and Cyclist – **JL**
 Mike Ostler – LAF Vice-Chair – Local Heritage - **MO**

Item	Description	Action
1.	<p>Introduction:</p> <p>SD Madam Chair opened the meeting by thanking those present for attending this meeting as well as the Lower Thames Working Group meeting held on 30 January 2019.</p>	
2.	<p>Apologies: Steve Plumb – Thurrock Council Jenny Mann – EBA Member & LAF Member Alison Loveridge – Thurrock Council</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of Last Meeting:</p> <p>SD requested amendments to 6th paragraph of item 4 to read:-</p> <p>For example the creation of segregated cycle routes and provision of parking for equestrians horseboxes where possible when bridleways are created.</p> <p>Minutes were then approved.</p>	

4.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>(A) Rights of Way Improvement Plan</p> <p>PW Informed those present Steve Plumb still remains restricted in progressing the above due to both the pending Local Plan and Lower Thames Crossing.</p> <p>SD Advised that on the 8th March Thurrock's Local Plan (a 60 page document) will be realised for consultation though it is not the full plan...as yet. This consultation will provide options before the Council decides where, within the borough they propose to re-develop. An example being to the north of the borough in the West Horndon area... which is all well and good but there is no infrastructure in place to build onto.</p> <p>(B) Lower Thames Crossing</p> <p>PW reported on behalf of SP:-</p> <p>SP has informed Anna Eastgate, Assistant Director for the Lower Thames Crossing that having spoken with Ian Kennard from HE regarding the pending January LAF workshop he had managed to get more of a steer as to LTC requirements which is for us to provide schemes that can deliver modal shifts or otherwise have some wider benefits. Those attending the workshop prioritised and added what they would like to see included in the plan being prepared for submission to HE though the meeting was light on cyclists so there may be a need for further focus on their needs.</p> <p>SP & PW To review the LAF'S priorities to see how they compare to the Councils. not least the emerging Local Plan and its growth areas. SP will then produce narrative to justify the above as part of the Councils first bid.</p> <p>PW Reminded Thurrock Ramblers that Highways England representatives Evelyn Ismail and Ian Kennard had offered to come along to one of their meetings if required...PW provided their contact details.</p> <p>Also as Highways England did offer to send along their PROW representative or at this early stage is it too soon to invite this person to our meeting. It was agreed the meeting should go ahead.</p> <p>JL and DF informed the meeting they were also happy to meet separately with HE engineers regarding cycling requirements.</p> <p>SD Likewise the same applies with regards to Essex Bridleway Association. CH it is all about building relationships from the beginning to achieve an improved public rights of way network.</p> <p>BS One of the main issues for all of us is the correct surface when creating new rights of ways.</p> <p>SD HE will need LAF member's expertise and local knowledge.</p>	
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General request by members of Thurrock Ramblers, MO, JL for copies of the working plans used for workshop in January...
PW to check if this is acceptable

(C) Network Rail Closures – Public Enquiry

PW Informed the above resumed on the 29th January and is scheduled to conclude early February.
For latest updates members were advised to visit
<http://essex-level-crossing.persons-pi.com>

(D) Natural England Costal Path

PW No further updates on this project

(E) A13 Widening Scheme

PW Reported a temporary footpath closure for FP 81 had been registered as from 18th March for a period of 2 months

(F) Parkers Farm Road, Orsett

PW Further to safety concerns from members **JL & DF** both the Highways Maintenance and Development / Transportation teams informed **PW** the carriageway does not meet maintenance intervention levels or road safety engineering intervention, therefore improvements cannot be justified under the current budget considering other roads in the borough have a higher level of personal injury accidents. They request each incident / accident be reported to the above departments. **JL** Said he was disappointed with the response provided as this location continues to be a hazard especially at times of wet or icy weather even on a normal day this bend gives a false sense of a safe carriageway surface. As a list of injuries is required he will produce this information.

Cycle route - Arterial Road, West Thurrock

PW reported the proposed cycle route drop kerb works will be commencing on the 6th February.

Proposed cycle route – Purfleet By-Pass

PW reported the required repair works are programmed to commence on the 6th February allowing for a 6 to 8 completion period.

Stanford Interchange – Request for cycle link to Green Acres access road.

PW Reported the Development & Transportation department had no plans to create such a link either on or alongside the east bound down slip due to safety issues.

Planning Applications / PROW:

PW Informed the meeting Pre App applications have strict rules with regards to the confidentiality of the applicants enquiry. Although consultations are still carried out the whole process is not for the public domain. On enquiring where the LAF advisory role stands I was advised the applications can go before LAF members for discussion only... but with no mention within the minutes.

Members were also provided with a copy of the PROW standard planning response used for both full and pre-app applications.

Two Pre App applications were then re-viewed.

Also reviewed were PROW applications for:-

Arena Essex West Thurrock a proposed new town development.

Land bordered by the railway line, The Manorway and West of Victoria Road, Stanford le Hope a development of 153 residential dwellings.

PW Members were advised to visit the Councils Planning website to view applications being submitted and if so submit any comments they may have to PW for inclusion within the Public Rights of Way consultation process.

Footpath / Bridleway Issue

Footpath 142 China Lane, Bulphan.

It was the Councils intention to install a new footbridge alongside an existing unsafe culvert over (in part) the definitive route of footpath 142.. Due to concerns over this proposal the land owner requested the footpath be diverted further north of the existing route (thereby allowing access along China Lane from the fishing Lake southwards). Member's views were requested. **BH** agreed to carry out a site visit on behalf of Thurrock Ramblers and report back.

Footpaths 146 & 144 Tilbury

Both these footpaths are affected by the proposed Tilbury 2 development... FP 146 will remain along its present route with proposed upgrades (yet to be determined). FP 144 will be stopped up south of the railway line (as the railway network is being widened at this location) It will be requested by PROW team the route is also stopped up from this point northwards through to Hume Avenue at a cost to Tilbury 2

JL Enquired as to why a new bridge could not be provided at this location...**PW** Had been informed due to space availability on the south side of the railway a bridge cannot be constructed

plus residents of adjacent properties would not want people looking into their properties.. **JL** whilst understanding this t feels we must always fight the closures of any public rights of way

Footpath 200

Members were made aware that a Gas Peaking Power Station is proposed just north of the former Tilbury Power Station and to create this an underground gas pipeline needs to be constructed. It will therefore be necessary to temporarily close the above footpath for at least a month... members will be kept up dated.

Bridleway 187 Coalhouse Fort.

There has been no further contact from English Heritage regarding the signage they would like to see at the above **CH** agreed the extent of bridleway along the foreshore could be reduced due to safety issues.

Davy Down Bridge, North Stifford

Please to report new bridge is in and open for use

Closure of FP 129 Bradleigh Avenue, Grays

PW Having received an objection to the proposed order to both remove the highway rights and definitive route of the above public right of way we are not able to complete the legal process required therefore the right to pass and repass still remains over this gated Footpath 129. The Council is now looking into the process for a Public Protection Order (PPO) This will not extinguish the footpath but just like the Gating Order the PPO could keep the gates in place.

MO The issue of this path was not done legally in the first place, LAF informed the Council a 12 month review would not work...

Bridleway 219 Mardyke Way

PW requested assistance from members should they walk or ride the above route between North Stifford and Bulphan and find two new bridleway gates have been installed by the land owners.

Turf Meadow, Stanford le Hope

To date there has not been any response back from the land owners regarding the proposed bridleway creation.

Footpath 2 Buckles Lane, South Ockendon

Following recent flooding issues it has been determined the above Footpath is no longer available for use. If at all this may be picked up by the planning enforcement action presently being reviewed

Ramblers Pathwatch Reports:

PW Thurrock continues to receive good reporting regarding our Rights of Way network.

	<p>Capital Funding for Public Rights of Ways</p> <p>A review is presently underway regarding 2019/20 funding</p> <p>Any other business:</p> <p>PW Provided members a copy of notice by Worcestershire Local Access Forum submitted to the Wildlife and Countryside Team for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The notice was about Worcestershire County Council inability to clear their present backlog of DMMOs... the present outstanding applications stands at 58 with some of these being over 10 years old.</p> <p>SD Reminded members the deadline is the 1st January 2026</p> <p>Evidence may be found under 1859 Finance Act – as Landowners had to pay tax on all their land, but not public roads so they made sure all public rights of ways were listed...therefore this is a good starting point in trying to determine ancient rights of ways</p> <p>1949 by law Definitive Maps and statements were created by Local Councils to determine were Footpaths, Bridleways, Green Lanes routes existed. Mostly land owners governed the Councils in those day so they resisted registering bridleways so routes were mainly defined as footpaths.</p> <p>EBA pay an officer to investigate historic boundaries and presumed rights of ways. Once all the evidence is found the landowner has to be informed of the pending Definitive Map Modification Order application being submitted to the Local Council. Once deemed the route should be registered formally as a bridleway the Order is made. The landowner has no choice in the decision made.</p>	
7	<p>Next Meeting</p> <p>Public Meeting Tuesday 9th April 2019</p> <p>Committee Room 2 @ 7pm</p>	