



## THURROCK LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

### Public Meeting – Minutes (2)

Tuesday 18 June 2019  
7pm to 9pm Committee Room 3  
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**  
 Bernard Smith – LAF Member – Thurrock Ramblers Walk Leader – **BS**  
 Bryan Benton – LAF Member – Thurrock Ramblers – **BB**  
 John Lane – LAF Member- Rambler and Cyclist – **JL**  
 Alison Loveridge – Highway and Public Rights of Way Information Officer – **AL**  
 Mike Ostler – LAF Vice-Chair – **MO**  
 Brian Hatcher – Thurrock Ramblers Chair – **BH**  
 Jenny Mann – LAF Member– Local Representative for EBA – **JM**  
 Paul Wakeling – LAF Member – Forgotten Historic Routes – **PWHR**  
 Steve Swinney – LAF Member RSPB Surveyor – West, East and Linford Forum  
 representative – Keen walker & Cyclists – **SS**  
 Chris Tout – EBA – Historic Routes – **CT** Guest  
 Dan Ambrose – Kiers Public Liaison Officer – **DA** Guest

Item	Description	Action
1.	<p><b>Introduction:</b></p> <p><b>SD Madam Chair</b> opened the meeting by thanking those present for attending and welcoming Dan Ambrose from Kiers who updated members on the progress of the A13 widening scheme.</p> <p><b>DA</b> Re-confirmed both temporary and long term closures now in place on Public Footpaths 104 81 12 and 37.</p> <p><b>PWHR</b> as a resident of Orsett Road was concerned of the new haul route entrance located on a dangerous bend. Will this be a permanent route once works are completed? <b>DA</b> The landowners have fought from the start to keep a bridge at Saffron Gardens therefore a new replacement bridge will be constructed to once again allow HGV access via Stanford Road.</p> <p><b>PWHR</b> Concerned about the amount of trees being removed raising the noise level for those living along Orsett Road. <b>DA</b> confirmed replacement saplings will be planted.</p> <p><b>SS</b> Concerns regarding surface water run off <b>DA</b> water runoff is designed to head north of the new A13 to a balancing pond by the Stanford Interchange to be planted with reeds.</p>	

**JL** Will cycle routes be provided around the Orsett Cock Interchange. **DA** Cycle routes will be provided

**BS** Enquired if Kiers had been successful in creating a new footpath to the rear of the A13 westbound service station. **DA** They have been unsuccessful in gaining the land owners permission

**SD** Thanked DA for attending and updating members on the progression of the A13 works to which **DA** informed members they could visit the A13 Project website for up to date details. **DA** left the meeting.

**SD** Introduced Chris Tout who is working on behalf of the Essex Bridal Way Association who has come along to provide details on the 2026 process with regards to lost routes.

**CT** From 2026 you will no longer be able to claim for the re-introduction of ancient rights of way relying on historical evidence. Though you will still be able to claim on usage information. EBA have looked at 500 possible routes and submitted 32 claims to Essex County Council. To date 8 have been rejected with the remainder still waiting on a decision.

The British Horse Society has now got their act together with funding being made available for a year from Sport England. Also BHS has an incentive of £100.00 if you achieve a claim.

Essex Records can provide many historical maps. Also found to be helpful are old cycle route maps.

EBA started by looking at routes appearing on old ordnance survey maps for example bridleways to a parish which then leads into a footpath.. this would then be checked to see if the footpath was also originally a bridleway.

Happy to meet at Essex Records or visit if you have evidence you wish to discuss / determine

**PWHR** Concentrating on just one footpath can be very time consuming 50 hours can be spent on one alone. He has been to County Records, as well as a museum of rural life and viewed the 1910 Review of Finance Act plans and records and now has 400 documents for the Horndon and Orsett area.

**PWHR** Is anyone aware of any funding available for this task as costs are being incurred for obtaining copies of documents, parking, travel..ect

**BH** Suggested maybe write into National Ramblers.

**CT** EBA has a funding manager to help raise money

**CT** advised members do not try and do a first class job but just start getting the claims into either Essex County Council or Thurrock. By formally submitting a claim into the council they have to write and notify the landowner... so be prepared for conflict with the landowners

	<p><b>JL</b> This is a dreadful piece of legislation / deadline. <b>SD</b> It's mainly pressure on the government from landowners that's pushing this through. <b>PWHR</b> It's a shame people are not aware of this deadline</p> <p><b>SD</b> Enquired is anyone aware of any cycling clubs undertaking and making similar claims?.</p> <p><b>SD</b> Thanked CT for attending and advising members on the 2026 deadline. CT Left the meeting</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Apologies:</b> Steve Plumb- Thurrock Council David Fish – LAF Member – Sustrans Ranger</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Minutes of Last Meeting:</b></p>	
	<p>Approved</p>	
	<p><b>4. Matters Arising</b></p>	
	<p><b>(A) Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan</b></p> <p><b>PW Read a report on behalf of SP</b> As the LAF will recall there were some discussions with the LTC team leading on Public Rights of Way and non-motorised users concerning issue and possible opportunities posed by the LTC. Since then however there has been little progress or information to report on as HE are still working their way through 30,000 consultation responses.</p> <p>We are aware that the LTC team are working on a Green Infrastructure Strategy and have been requesting meetings to discuss the draft since January. This has yet to occur. Most of the focus has been on design issues is trying to address some of the major concerns Thurrock Council and others have raised. These changes appear to be slowing progress and it is believed that the target of submitting the final scheme for examination by the end of the year will not now be met (although LTC have yet to confirm this). If the project is delayed it will give us more time to push for further improvements.</p> <p>Thames Chase Community Forest has started to coordinate regular meetings with various environmental bodies and representatives from LTC. While the focus of many of the representatives is on biodiversity I and others are pushing for wider access improvements.</p> <p>Unfortunately at this time there is not anything specific that I can report on.. however we are still pushing for improvements to the overall scheme and much greater benefits for the</p>	

	<p>residents of Thurrock as they will be the most affected by the scheme. When I have more information I will report back to the LAF.</p> <p><b>(B) Lower Thames Crossing</b>  <b>PW</b> As in response incorporated within (5a) above</p> <p><b>(C) Network Rail Closures – Public Enquiry</b>  <b>PW</b> No further updates to report it may even be next year before we receive a report.</p>	
	<p><b>(D). Coastal Path – Natural England</b>  <b>PW</b> Traffic Count information from our Transport and Development team has now been provided to Natural England regarding a proposed crossing point on the A1014 Manorway within the vicinity of Rookery Hill and new DP World Bridleway.</p> <p><b>(E) A13 Widening</b>  <b>PW</b> Up-date was provided by Dan Ambrose.</p> <p><b>(F) Rainbow Lane (BW 39) – Surface condition</b>  <b>PW</b> Has spoken with the Senior Highway Engineer who undertakes our resurfacing programme and it has been agreed that old surfacing material will be used and compacted to help elevate pot holes and flooding areas... no time line given as yet.</p> <p><b>Thurrock Park Way – Signals</b>  <b>PW</b> Has been informed once new cycle route has been completed between Thurrock Park Way and Dock Road Tilbury crossing signals will become into operational, in conjunction with Highways England</p> <p><b>(6) Planning Applications</b></p> <p><b>PW Thames Enterprise Park – Consultation response.</b></p> <p>Requires an active travel corridor towards Pitsea Station, the Council requires arrangements with landowners for an environmental assessment for the building of access routes through the marshes around Vange Creek along with approval from Essex County Council where the routes extends beyond Thurrock’s boundary. To enable this, Thurrock’s Strategic Transport team have engaged with the Transport and Planning teams at ECC to make them aware of potential routes from TEP into their county.</p> <p>Additionally, Thurrock Council would also be interested in ensuring future access to the Thames and the possible enhancement of the Thames Estuary coastal path.</p>	

## **(6) Footpath / Bridleway Issues:**

### **(1) Sections 31 (6) Highways Act 1980**

**PW** Provided members with information on landowner's rights to protect against future rights of ways being established over their land. While it is possible for new rights of way to come into existence through public use, a landowner can also prevent this happening by showing they have taken sufficient action to make it clear to the public they have no right to cross the land. There are various means of doing this, such as a physical restraints in the form of locked gates, fences or other obstructions, such as verbal restraint, or challenging users of the way. The above via the Local Authority legally provides the mechanism for landowners to acknowledge the presence of existing rights of way across their land.

Plans were provided showing the most recent areas of land within the Ockendon and Bulphan areas legally submitted under the above Act which are now formally registered with Thurrock Council and are published on the Councils website.

### **(2) Rainbow Lane – User evidence Forms**

**AL** Reminded members to complete and send in the above.

**JM** Informed the meeting of historical documents she had regarding the above which may be of use.

**BH** Maybe the farmer Mr Freud would be willing to assist.

**SS** Also the local Anglers may assist

### **(3) Harrow Inn Footpath.160**

**AL** To confirm a Diversion Order has been published and as yet no objections. There is however concerns diverted route within this development may not be wide enough? also two new bridges have yet to be installed.

### **(4) Tyelands Farm Laindon FP 85 Route diversions**

**AL** To date we have not received any objections for the diversion of the above path

### **(5) DP World Creation Orders**

**AL** All paper work has now been completed and is with DP World to be signed off.

## **Capital Funding for Public Rights of Ways**

**AL** With this year's capital funding now available it is hoped (should time allow) for surveying to take place to identify the upgrade of stiles to possibly gates for ease of access along with new signage being erected, along with way marking of routes and where required bridge up grades.

**Any other business:**

**MO** Reported FP 95 junction 79 sign has been knocked down. Also field edge of 95 impassable with crops planted right up to the edge of field.

**JL** The recovery of road markings along Woodview is most welcome making it clearer for all users especially cyclists.

**JL** Well done and thanks also regarding the Tank Hill Road layout junction Arterial Road

**JL** Parkers Farm Road further to the report provided at the last LAF meeting in April please note the carriageway is still considered be a danger one of which he and fellow cyclists will continue to campaign for improvements.

**JL** Questioned the validity of the width restriction on Dell Road Grays. PW will enquire with the Transportation and Development team.

**SS** Thanked those present for their warm welcome to and has formally become a LAF member and should anyone be interested you can hear the lovely sound of a nightingale along Footpath 200 at East Tilbury.

**SS** April's Minutes Item Footpath 61 would like clarification on possible accident claim

**SS** West side of Linford (by Northumberland Road) an electric fence has been erected

**SS** Princess Margaret Road, East Tilbury. Light on the level crossing blinding users of Gobions Park. This light should be lighting the carriageway over the crossing

**SS** Footpath 147 is again experiencing flooding issues and Environment Agency is on to this matter.

**SD** Would like to reminded members the Local Access Forum is a strategic group. Minor issues ideally should be sent directly to Paula and Alison in advance of meeting to be placed onto the forthcoming Agenda by which time hopefully a response has been obtained.

**JL** With the greatest respect disagreed and whilst appreciating the need for madam Chair to keep the meeting in order the dangerous condition for example of Parkers Farm Road Orsett (which I do agree is not Strategic) gives us, via the forum, the

	<p>ability to raise this matter and then be able to report back to my cycling colleagues the feedback I am obtaining via this group.</p> <p><b>SD</b> I just wish to organise the meeting so issues can be hopefully resolved in advance of the meeting having already been passed of Paula and Alison.</p> <p><b>BH</b> Wanted to thank <b>PW &amp; AL</b> for a superb clearance job on Bridleway 178 between the A128 Brentwood Road and Parkers Farm Road, Bulphan</p>	
	<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p> <p><b>Working Group Meeting Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019</b></p> <p><b>Civic Offices – Committee Room 2 @ 7pm</b></p>	