



THURROCK LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Public Meeting - Minutes (1)

Tuesday 5 June 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**
 Brian Hatcher – LAF Member – Chair of Thurrock Ramblers - **BH**
 John Lane - LAF Member- Rambler & Member of Gateway Cycle Club – **JL**
 Mike Ostler – LAF Vice Chair- **MO**
 Alison Loveridge – Thurrock Council - Public Rights of Way- **AL**
 Jenny Mann – LAF Member & EBA Local area Coordinator – **JM**
 Ray Booty – Vice Chair of Essex LAF – Chair of Land Rover Club - **RB**
 Kim Tolson – Chair of Horndon on the Hill Thurrock Forum – **KT**
 Osman Dervish - Northern Home Counties- Account Manager - **OD**
 Daniel Cavanagh – London Strategic Land - **DK**

Item	Description	Action
1.	Introduction: SD Madam Chair opened the meeting by thanking those present for attending the first of two public meetings for 2018.	
2.	Apologies: Peter O'Rourke Forestry Commission - Beat Manager Steve Plumb – Thurrock Council	
3.	Minutes of Last Meeting: Minutes of the Working Group meeting of the 10 th April 2018 were reviewed and approved by members.	
	(1)	

4. Matters Arising:

SD Agreed the meeting should commence with **Item 5 Planning Applications – Public Rights of Way** to allow the presentation on Arena Essex by our guests Dervish Osman and Daniel Cavanagh who wish to engage with a variety of local organisations and groups including Thurrock Local Access Forum to help them understand the needs of the local people and discuss their initial thoughts for a new community at Lakeside.

OD Informed the meeting London Strategic Land are exploring future options with regards to Arena Essex which have they have recently purchased being some 127 acres of land bounded by the A13 to the North. A126 and Spiral Link Road to the east, A1306 to the south and the Granada Services to the west had been purchased. Their proposal is to create a 50% residential development with the remaining 50% becoming communal areas thereby creating an outdoor life style incorporating water sports to include the creation of a Lido on the Lake. There are also proposals to provide a Primary School. This re-development would be a 10 year project.

KT With the proposal to build a new Primary School within the development where would the pupils then go regarding Secondary School placements **OD** At present a new Harris Academy is being built in Purfleet which could accommodate the pupils. **KT** Surely this would increase traffic congestion for parents transporting their children to and from Purfleet on what is already a very congested highway network also causing even more increase in pollution within this area. **OD** As a developer we will be meeting with Highways England to ensure we would develop our highway network in conjunction with at least their next five year plan. This would be in conjunction with Thurrock Council requesting our development contributes towards west facing slips into Lakeside via a Section 278 Agreement.

SD Connectivity albeit for pedestrians, cyclist and horse riders is the main remit of this Forum which as a group we need to focus on.

JM With the creation of bridleways both within this proposal and hopefully further funding to create new rights of way connections linking to existing routes would provide much needed use for not only equestrians but cyclists and pedestrians especially if suitable surfaces are provided to allow access for the disabled to enjoy the outside lifestyle mentioned.

PW Provided a plan of Arena Essex which formed part of the Public Rights of Way planning consultations response. The plan showed ideally where rights of way improvements could be achieved from as far as Ship Lane, Aveley, Stifford Road South Ockendon and Pilgrims Lane North Stifford via Planning's Section 106 Agreements.

MO Along Public Footpath 16 (which travels between the A1306 Arterial Road southwards leading down onto West Thurrock Way and ultimately Hilltop Road West Thurrock) there is an old bridge which Network Rail does not service. When Chafford Hundred was being built the idea was the bridge would be re-opened but C to C allegedly said it was not there's...(all they do is stop it from falling onto their track). Would this bridge not be considered for any access improvements in conjunction with the Arena Essex development?.

SD Madam Chair thanked both Osman and Daniel for their presentation after which they left the meeting

4. (A) Regional LAF meeting.

SD Informed members the 21st June has been set for the East of England Local Access Forum Chairs & Vice Chairs meeting to be held in Cambridge. A report from this meeting will be presented to members in August.

4. (B) Cambridge and Thurrock's LAF'S letter of support and responses.

PW Provided copies of responses received from Stephen Metcalfe MP, Jackie Doyle-Price MP and Lord Gardiner of Kimble Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Rural Affairs and Biosecurity following Madam Chairs letter. **JL** asked members thanks be noted for the work undertaken by Madam Chair in writing to the above. It was agreed copies of the MP letters will be sent to the new Portfolio Holder for Environment Cllr Aaron Watkins and all Councillors.

4. (C) Cycle Infrastructure Updates.

A1306 Arterial Road by Junction 31 - PW has now received an email dated 3rd May from the Transport & Development team relating to the request for a drop kerb along the above shared cycle route stating this request is being investigated.

PW The new cycle route along Purfleet By Pass is now awaiting a new design to either try and lower major cables which were hit during construction or raise the ground level over the cables. No works will commence until after October due to major gas works being carried out along London Road.

JL Reported dangerous highway for use by cyclist between Asda Roundabout and Main Dock Entrance. **PW** would inform Highways England but ideally a report by John himself would provide a more detailed report of the situation.

4. (D) Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

PW No Further update to report on other than Steve Plumb is still **trying** to bring together many issues which relate to the RWOIP in particular the Councils Local Plan.

4 (E) Lower Thames Crossing

PW Further to a meeting held 24th April regarding task priorities in relation to the proposed Lower Thames Crossing my comments were requested which are as follows:-

With South Ockendon, Tilbury and Chadwell St Mary having been identified as areas of concern over health issues the provision of walking and cycling accessibility needs to be of high priority due to the vicinity of the proposed new motorway route.

Thurrock's ambition is to be an active travel borough by shifting travel use to cycling and walking along with it is hoped safer access for equestrian users (with Thurrock having a very large amount of horse owners). The idea of providing wide and planted green bridges for new community links (for all users) would be a welcomed proposal

if the suggested idea of significant planting on either side of the bridge was implemented to mask the motorway below. This would also hopefully provide much needed wildlife protection.

Once again South Ockendon, Tilbury and Chadwell St Mary being identified as areas of concern over health issues walking and cycling accessibility needs to be of high priority to retain, safeguard and provide new accessible links thereby creating connectivity between communities.

Another concern is that of both Tilbury 2 and the Lower Thames Crossing affecting what little PROW's are available to the residents of Tilbury.. an area already known as in need of promoting good health and means of access. Both Tilbury 2 and HE need to retain and upgrade the existing river front public footpath to a shared access along with possible new links being created within this area as far east as Coalhouse Fort. Ingrebourne Valley (based on the river front have a planning conditions to create a new footpath link (which will hopefully be up graded to a bridleway for use by all) from the river front northwards to Station Road.. such Section 106 Agreement must not be lost because HE are taking over this land (in part)... HE should be made to take on the responsibility of providing this route and any other conditions within Planning approvals for new routes to be created.

Ideally we need as soon as possible sight of HE detailed motorway proposals which would help us govern the future rights of access within the new ROWIP as we need to be prepared that possibly in 6 years' time Thurrock's PROW are likely to be drastically severed throughout. We also need to take on board the issue of Network Rail who also have plans to shut over time nearly all of Thurrock's At Grade level crossings over which our public rights of way travel.

I agree that a Forum within cross departments is much needed for if and when HE produces their PROW policy we must be allowed to use our influence by providing a detailed assessment of what cross departments want.. especially relating to health impacts. We must not allow HE to consider or decide whether a definitive or permissive route is being used, worth keeping or upgraded. The wellbeing of our communities needs to be protected. Though as discussed both officer's resources and time issues needs to be clarified with relevant managers.

We must ensure Sustrans, Thurrock Ramblers and Essex Bridleway Association play a large part in not only the ROWIP but the LTC proposal. We need them to assist in setting out a clear task of preserving, creating and up grading Thurrock rights of access. This can be achieved by the established Thurrock Local Access Forum members who are an advisory body required under The Countryside Act. We must also ensure that both the established Thames Estuary

Path is retained and protected along with the Government's proposed coastal path creation from Pitsea through to the Tilbury Ferry is incorporated into HE consultations. Ultimately Thurrock Council needs to ensure their Rights of Ways are enhanced and increased greatly should the new motorway be constructed.

JL Ultimately we need to strive to get the best we can especially regarding non-motorised users.

SD We as a Forum need to seriously concentrate on what we want to achieve for rights of way therefore it is proposed a special meeting with the newly appointed Assistant Director for the Lower Thames Crossing will be requested.

KT Would we invite the Lower Thames Crossing Action Group to this meeting? as formal consultations have not taken place.. not until possibly 2019

SD Whether or not we agree to the proposed crossing we need to be prepared to work towards strategic routes in conjunction with the Council.

4 (F) Network Rail Closures – Public Enquiry

No further updates to report on

4 (G) Natural England – Coastal Path

PW Natural England report they have now pretty much met all of the main affected landowners and key partners such as the Environment Agency, Ports of London and Tilbury, Wildlife Trust etc.

They plan to put a restriction on Coastal Access rights to all saltmarsh and mudflat (these will not affect any existing access) and are currently considering whether nature conservation restrictions may be needed at the managed Thames Nature Park at Mucking as well as Fobbing Marsh.

The coastal path has been mapped to the seaward side of the concrete sea wall north of Coalhouse Fort (The Prow and Thames Estuary Path lies on the landward side). We will also be following the Thames Estuary Path route around the Enover (formerly Cory's) site at Mucking as crossing that site at present would compromise public safety as well as the site's security.

A road safety assessment on The Manorway to be carried out to see whether at a point close to the southern most of the two junctions by Rookery Hill can be achieved.

4 (H) A13 Widening Project

PW Has met briefly a Dan Ambrose from Kier Construction who will be overseeing Public Rights of Way changes and wishes to attend one of our forthcoming LAF meetings.

Planning Applications / PROW:

PW None recently to report on other than Arena Essex already discussed.

Footpath / Bridleway Issues:

Davy Down Bridleway Bridge

PW reported further delays in providing the new bridleway bridge.

BW 161 Green Lane Stifford Clays Road Orsett

PW Bridleway gate has been destroyed by illegal off roaders along with a further bridleway gate junction Stifford Hill and Pilgrims Lane onto BW 219. New gates now on order...

BW 58 East Tilbury

PW & AL Need to be kept aware if the new gates our found to be locked especially **as** Network Rail appears to be bolting a lot of their crossings throughout Essex.

BW 63 Linford between Blue Anchor Lane and Low Street Lane

PW Reported a proposal has been agreed to stop up Low Street Lane, Linford to vehicles by introducing step over bridleway gates. This may now lead to the land owner up grading the surface of bridleway 63 to allow him ease of access to his land either side of the bridleway. Members are requested to keep an eye on the condition of this bridleway throughout the winter months.

CH EBA - Bridleway Issue list

It was agreed a CH & JM meet with AL to go through the above list at the end of the meeting.

Capital Funding for Public Rights of Ways

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.

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.

Any other business:

JL Requested an update on Traffic Signals Buckingham Hill Road junction A1013 Stanford Road. **PW** it is / was the Councils intention to install traffic signals at this junction prior to the commencement of the A13 widening works..unsure as yet whether this will be achieved.

BS Requested an update on Footpath 162, Laindon Hills proposal. **AL** We are still trying to determine land ownership and if unsuccessful we will arrange for notices to be placed on site.

CH Reported rubble along the in complete shared cycle route makes the route dangerous also it appears works have come to a halt.

PW Provided the following details of forth coming Thurrock Walk 100 events:-

Saturday 14th July from INTU Lakeside to Davy Down via the footways of Chafford Hundred. Refreshment break at Davy Down then return to Lakeside

Sunday 15th July Rainham Hall to Rainham Marshes and RSPB Purfleet Village to Rainham Marshes RSPB

Tuesday 17th July Orsett Circular Route

Dates of future meetings all in Committee Room 2

Working Group Meeting:
Tuesday 14th August 2018 at 7pm

Public Meeting:
Tuesday 9th October 2018 at 7pm

Working Group Meeting:
Tuesday 4th December 2018 at 7pm