

## **DUDLEY BOROUGH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2010 at 6.30pm in Committee Room 2  
at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

### **PRESENT:**

Mr M Freer (Chairman)

Mr D Woodruff (Vice-Chairman)

Mr D Bates, Mrs T Boothroyd, Mr R J Brooks, Mr R Burgess, Mr D Davies,  
Mrs C Freer, Mr P Greenaway, Ms J V Lea, Mr M J Pearson, Mr M J Pearson,  
and Ms S Yeadon.

### **Officers:**

Ms S Orton – Head of Museums, Greenspaces and Bereavement Services and  
Mr D Keeley, Countryside Manager (Both Directorate of the Urban  
Environment) and Miss K Fellows – Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of  
Law, Property and Human Resources)

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Mr R  
Broome, Mr A Cutler, Councillor J D Davies, Ms A Nicholls, Mr N  
Williams, Councillor J Woodall and Mr D Woodruff.

---

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr R Burgess and Ms S Yeadon declared interests, of a non-pecuniary  
nature, in Agenda Item No. 6(a) – Borough of Dudley (Stopping Up and  
Diversion of Public Footpaths, South of Stewarts Road, Coombeswood,  
Halesowen) Orders 2009 and 6(b) – Explaining the Coombeswood  
Footpath Situation as members of Friends of Leasowes.

Mrs C Freer declared an interest, of a non-pecuniary nature, in Agenda  
Item No. 6(a) - Borough of Dudley (Stopping Up and Diversion of Public  
Footpaths, South of Stewarts Road, Coombeswood, Halesowen) Orders  
2009 and 6(b) – Explaining the Coombeswood Footpath Situation as  
members of Halesowen Abbey Trust, Halesowen Athletic and Cycling  
Club and Friends of Leasowes.

Mr M Freer declared an interest, of a non-pecuniary nature, in Agenda  
Item No. 6(a) - Borough of Dudley (Stopping Up and Diversion of Public  
Footpaths, South of Stewarts Road, Coombeswood, Halesowen) Orders  
2009 and 6(b) – Explaining the Coombeswood Footpath Situation as a  
member of Halesowen Abbey Trust and Halesowen Athletic and Cycling  
Club.

---

### **3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

The Chairman reported that points of objection raised by the Forum at  
their previous meeting in relation to the outline planning application in  
respect of land at Bourne Street, Woodsetton had been submitted to the

Directorate of the Urban Environment by the Head of Museums, Greenspaces and Bereavement Services.

AGREED

That the Head of Museums, Greenspaces and Bereavement Services be requested to email the points of objection as outlined above to members of the Forum.

---

4. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of the Forum held on 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2010, be approved as a correct record.

---

5. SITE VISIT TO WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Chairman reported that the site visit to Worcestershire County Council had been successful and beneficial to all who attended. He specifically referred to the Geographical Information System that was operated by Worcestershire County Council.

Following further discussion it was

AGREED

That a Sub-Committee be formed comprising of the Chairman, Mr R J Brooks, Mr D Davies, Mrs C Freer, Mr M Pearson and Mr D Woodruff in order to consider the Geographical Information System, including the cost of installing the system, how accessible the System would be to the visually impaired and those with disabilities and to provide relevant advice and guidance upon the System to the Council.

---

6. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

No items were raised.

---

7. ACCESS/RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES

- (a) Borough of Dudley (Stopping Up and Diversion of Public Footpaths, South of Stewarts Road, Coombeswood, Halesowen) Orders 2009

The Chairman reported that the Forum had made their full representations in relation to the Stopping Up and Diversion of the Public Footpaths south

of Stewarts Road, Coombeswood, Halesowen and referred to the Public Inquiry which was scheduled to take place on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2011.

(b) Explaining the Coombeswood Footpath Situation.

The Chairman referred to the above report, outlining the background of the Coombeswood Footpath situation, the progress and improvements that had been made to the area in question, details of the Planning Application made by St Modwen and the position in relation to the application lodged to add eight footpaths to the definitive map, as outlined in the report submitted.

Following further discussion it was

AGREED

- (a) That the Head of Museums, Greenspaces and Bereavement Services be requested to convene a meeting between the Chairman and Mr D Jacobs, Project Engineer, Traffic and Transportation.
- (b) That the Chairman be requested to provide an up date on the position in relation to the application to add eight footpaths to the definitive map as outlined above.

---

8. CROSS BOUNDARY VISITS BETWEEN SANDWELL AND DUDLEY LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS – SATURDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2010.

A report of Carole Freer was submitted and noted on the Cross Boundary visit between Sandwell and Dudley Local Access Forums on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2010.

---

9. RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Following further discussion it was

AGREED

That Mrs C Freer be appointed as a member of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan Sub-Committee.

---

10. GATING ORDERS

No items were raised.

11. THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WHITE PAPER – DISCUSSION DOCUMENT

A report was submitted by on the Natural Environment White Paper – Discussion Document.

AGREED

That this Item be removed from future Agendas.

---

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mrs J Lea requested that the development at Saltwells Nature Reserve be reported upon to a future meeting of the Forum.

Mrs C Freer requested that Dudley Council's 'What's On' brochure should contain details of the Dudley Borough Local Access Forum.

AGREED

- (a) That the Countryside Manager be requested to present a report on the development at Saltwells Nature Reserve including the measures being taken to ensure access rights are not affected, the future plans for the Reserve and the wardens based there to the next meeting of the Forum.
  - (b) That the Head of Museums, Greenspaces and Bereavement Services be requested to arrange to include details of the Forum in Dudley Council's "What's On" brochures.
- 

13. COMMENTS OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman expressed best wishes to Members and Officers for Christmas.

---

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

That the next meetings of the Forum be held on:-

- Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2011
- Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2011
- Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2011
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2011

All meetings to start at 6.30pm

The meeting ended at 7.40 p.m.

CHAIRMAN