

DUDLEY BOROUGH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Tuesday, 29th April, 2014 at 6.00pm in Committee Room 4
at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

PRESENT:

Ms T Boothroyd (Chair)
Mr R J Brooks (Vice-Chair)
Mr D Bates, Mr R Burgess, Mr P Greenaway, Ms A Nicholls, Mr N J Williams
and Ms S Yeadon.

Officers:

Mr D Jacobs – Project Engineer, (Traffic and Transportation), (Directorate of
the Urban Environment), Mrs K Buckle Democratic Services Officer
(Directorate of Corporate Resources).

59. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of
Councillors Elcock and Partridge and Mr D Keeley.

60. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Ms S Yeadon and Mr R Burgess declared an interest in Agenda Item No.
4 – Coombeswood Green Wedge and Agenda Item No. 5 – Pottery Farm
as the Chair of Friends of Coombeswood Wedge and as a Member of
Friends of Coombeswood and a Member of Coombeswood Canal Trust
respectively.

Mr N Williams declared an interest in Agenda Item No 7(a) – Leasowes as
a local resident.

61. MINUTES

AGREED

That the Minutes of the Forum held on 18th February, 2014, be
approved as a correct record.

62. COOMBESWOOD GREEN WEDGE

Mrs K Buckle, referred to a written response received from the Council's Property Management and Valuations Section in relation to Coombeswood Green Wedge and Members noted that the completion of the transfer of land by St Modwen to the Council on Coombeswood Green Wedge should be completed by 30th July, 2014.

Members agreed to adopt a wait and see approach in relation to the transfer of land and confirmed that the subject would be re-visited at a future meeting..

There followed a discussion in relation to enforcement of Section 106 Agreements and the Chair referred to discussions and recommendations that had been made to the appropriate Council Officers which had been made at a previous meeting o the Forum.

The Chair also advised that Members of the Forum could attend future Development Control meetings and make representations if appropriate.

Mr D Jacobs, Project Engineer, Traffic and Transportation responded to a request of Mr R Burgess stating that he would check the number of the path on the B & Q site in Halesowen and he was rigouresley pursuing the transfer of the path with B & Q, advising that the transfer of the path would not prevent members of the public from walking the path.

Mr D Jacobs was requested to forward a further email to the representative of B & Q advising that the Forum were disappointed that the transfer of the path had still not taken place.

AGREED

That the information reported on at the meeting be noted.

63. POTTERY FARM

Mr D Jacobs, Project Engineer, Traffic and Transportation advised that he would conduct a survey of the path at Pottery Farm and would submit to the next meeting of the Forum details of the levels, gradients and width of the steps required in order to make the right of way more accessible to the public.

It was agreed that Forum Members would provide help and assistance with constructing and clearing the right of way.

It was requested that Mr A Radford, Technician Engineer be requested to attend the next meeting of the Forum to provide an up date in relation to the right of way on Pottery Farm.

AGREED

(1) That the information reported on be noted.

- (2) That Mr D Jacobs, Project Engineer, Traffic and Transportation be requested to provide details of the levels, gradients and width of the steps required at Pottery Farm to the next meeting of the Forum.
- (3) That Democratic Services be requested to invite Mr A Radford, Technician Engineer to the next meeting of the Forum to provide the up to date position in relation to the right of way at Pottery Farm.

64. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mr D Jacobs, Project Engineer, Traffic and Transportation referred to a request to divert a footpath that had been made by Earls High School, Halesowen advising that the school had been advised to make a planning application in relation to the footpath diversion and he would make further representations to the Forum once the planning application had been received..

65. ACCESS/RIGHTS OF WAY ISSUES

(a) LEASOWES

Mr D Jacobs, Project Engineer, Traffic and Transportation advised that a report was to be submitted to the Cabinet Members for Transport and Environment and Culture in relation to the definitive and permissive paths on the Leasowes and following this a decision sheet would be publicised advising the public of the intention to make the paths definitive and permissive.

The Chair referred to her discussions with Russ Newey in relation to issues concerning barriers and signage on the paths at the Leasowes and advised that Mr Newey would be invited to the next meeting of the Forum to appraise Forum Members of the current situation in relation to the issues outlined above.

(b) HASBURY/TACK FARM

A Member referred to issues of maintenance and problems with the stream on Hasbury/Tack Farm and it was agreed that Mr A Radford, Technician Engineer be invited to the next meeting of the Forum to provide the up to date position in relation to the issues raised.

AGREED

That the Democratic Services Officer be requested to invite the following Officers to the next meeting of the Forum:-

- (a) Mr R Newey, Team Manager, Green Care in relation to the paths on the Leasowes.
 - (b) Mr A Radford, Technician Engineer in relation to Hasbury, Tack Farm.
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66. GATING ORDERS

Following further discussion it was agreed that Mr D Jacobs, Project Engineer, Traffic and Transportation would produce a list of the Gating Orders and write to the Police to request whether they had any comments to make on the Gating. Mr Jacobs was also requested to produce a schedule of the gating orders and review dates to the next meeting of the Forum.

AGREED

That Mr D Jacobs, Project Engineer, Traffic and Transportation be requested to provide details of Gating Orders made within the Dudley Borough and their review dates to the next meeting of the Forum.

67. RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mr R Brooks confirmed that the £60,000 budget for 2014/15 had been secured by the Council to deal with improvements of rights of way.

Mr R Brooks advised that all 2013 projects had been completed and requested Members to advise him of any rights of way that they wished to be included on the rights of way improvement plan.

AGREED

That the information reported on at the meeting be noted.

68. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr D Jacobs referred to details concerning a recent case which had been heard by Birmingham County Court in relation to the Council objecting to the closure of a right of way, advising that a decision was awaited.

The Chair invited Members of the Forum to join in the celebrations and a 10 year anniversary dinner for Access in Dudley. Invitations were handed to those present with a request that the remainder of the invitations be forwarded to those Members who were not present.

69. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted, that the next meeting of the Forum would be held on:-

- Tuesday 15th July, 2014

The meeting to commence at 6.00pm

The meeting ended at 7.00 p.m.

CHAIR