

## **Minutes of the Informal Meeting of the Dudley Borough Local Access Forum**

Tuesday, 29th September, 2015 at 6.00pm in Meeting Room 1,  
Lower Ground Floor at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

### **Present:**

T Boothroyd - (Chair)  
A Nicholls, N J Williams and S Yeadon.

### **Officers:**

D Jacobs – Project Engineer, (Traffic and Transportation), D Keeley –  
Countryside Manager, A Ravenscroft – Senior Warden, Street and Green Care  
and K Buckle, Democratic Services Officer.

### 12. **Opening Remarks**

It was noted that as the meeting was not quorate, recommendations would be made for ratification at the next quorate meeting of the Forum.

D Keeley advised that he would shortly be taking special leave and introduced A Ravenscroft who would become the interim Lead Officer to the Forum.

There followed a discussion in relation to the need for a further recruitment exercise and it was agreed that D Keeley and A Ravenscroft would produce leaflets in relation to the Forum for distribution by current Members to potential Members.

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### 13. **Election of Vice-Chair**

This item was not considered.

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### 14. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of D Bates, R J Brooks, P Greenaway and Councillor G Partridge.

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### 15. **Declarations of Interest**

S Yeadon declared an interest in Agenda Item No 6(a) – Path H13 Monarch's Way, Halesowen and Agenda Item No 7 – Rights of Way Improvement Plan in relation to any matter pertaining to Pottery Farm as Chair of Friends of Coombeswood Wedge.

16. **Minutes.**

**Recommended**

That, the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th July, 2015, be approved as a correct record.

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17. **Planning Applications – Planning Application No. P15/0349 – Manor Way, Halesowen.**

D Jacobs referred to the planning application in relation to Manor Way, Halesowen advising that the developers were proposing to include a link from the right of way to the Old Manor Abbey which would involve the developer dedicating a public right of way and disabled access would also be considered by the developer.

D Keeley suggested that given the historic nature of the area the possibility of installing wooden panels around the pools be considered.

In responding to a question from a Member, A Ravenscroft advised of the significant work and cost that would be involved in restoration of the Dudley number 2 Canal concluding that it was extremely unlikely that restoration work would be undertaken.

Following further discussion it was

**Recommended**

That the information reported on Planning Application No. P15/0349 – Manor Way, Halesowen, be noted.

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18. **Access/Rights of Way Issues**

(a) Path H13 Monarch's Way, Halesowen.

S Yeadon advised that she had emailed R Morgan, Chief Engineer, however she had not received a response and raised concerns in relation to the water run-off which was adversely affecting the centre of the path.

(b) Path H69 Lye Cross Lane, Lapal, Halesowen.

D Jacobs reported on a site visit attended by both himself and D Keeley, when the owner had agreed to insert a wooden gate in order to replace the electric fencing on the path, however to date that work had not been undertaken. D Jacobs agreed to continue to monitor the situation.

## **Recommended**

- (a) That the Chair be requested to liaise with R Morgan, Chief Engineer in order to ascertain details of the work programmed in relation to Path H13 Monarch's Way, Halesowen.
- (b) D Jacobs be requested to report on the up to date position in relation to Path H69 Lye Cross Lane, Lapal, Halesowen to the next meeting of the Forum.

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19. **Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

A Ravenscroft advised that the plans that R Burgess had submitted in relation to Pottery Farm had been approved and funding was being discussed with the Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and the provision of labour by Wardens and Volunteers would be pursued.

A Ravenscroft agreed to email the plans referred to above to D Jacobs.

D Jacobs was requested to consult the owner of Pottery Farm in relation to the possibility of them becoming a Member of the Forum.

S Yeadon requested D Jacobs to notify the Ordnance Survey Department of the dedication in relation to the B and Q path.

## **Recommended**

- (1) That A Ravenscroft be requested to electronically email the plans submitted by R Burgess in relation to Pottery Farm to D Jacobs.
- (2) That D Jacobs be requested to:-
  - (a) Consult with the owner of Pottery Farm in relation to the possible Membership of the Forum
  - (b) Notify the Ordnance Survey department of the dedication of the B and Q path.

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20. **Date of Future Meetings**

Noted, that future meetings of the Forum would be held on:-

- Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2015
- Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 2016
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2016
- Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2016

The meetings to commence at 6.00pm

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The meeting ended at 6.55 p.m.

CHAIR