

DUDLEY BOROUGH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Tuesday, 14th July, 2015 at 6.00pm in Meeting Room 1, Lower Ground Floor,
at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

PRESENT:

D Bates, T Boothroyd, R Burgess, P Greenaway, A Nicholls, Councillor G Partridge, N J Williams and S Yeadon.

Officers:

D Jacobs – Project Engineer, (Traffic and Transportation), D Keeley – Countryside Manager (Both Directorate of Place) and K Buckle – Democratic Services Officer (Directorate of Resources and Transformation).

1. Change In Order of Business

Pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13(c) it was:-

Agreed

That Agenda Item No. 6 – The Ramblers New Rights of Way Project be considered as the next item of business followed by Agenda Item No. 1 – Election of Chair and the remainder of the Agenda Items.

2. The Ramblers New Rights of Way Project

D Jacobs reported verbally on the Ramblers New Rights of Way Project advising that the Ramblers Association were seeking volunteers to take place in their Interactive Big Path Watch, which included the provision of a survey which would be forwarded onto Local Authorities for action, as they required details of the areas that were maintained by Authorities.

It was noted that following the provision of surveys as part of the Big Path Watch, the Association were to lobby Government to obtain funding for the Rights of Way Improvement Plans.

Members were requested to provide feedback or any queries to either D Jacobs or D Keeley.

In addressing Members' concerns in relation to giant Hogweed, D Keeley suggested that should Members become aware of the existence of the invasive species, they should contact P Clark, Senior Environmental Engineer, Street and Green Care.

Following further discussion it was:-

Agreed

- (1) That information reported on at the Meeting on the The Ramblers New Rights of Way Project, be noted
 - (2) That D Keeley, be requested to provide illustrations of Giant Invasive Hogweed to a future meeting of the Forum
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3. **Election of Chair**

Agreed

That T Boothroyd be elected Chair of the Forum for the period up to the Annual Meeting in July, 2016.

4. **Election of Vice-Chair**

This item be deferred for further consideration at the next meeting.

5. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of R Brooks and Councillor C Elcock.

6. **Declarations of Interest**

R Burgess and S Yeadon declared an interest in Agenda Item Number 8 – Access/Rights of Way Issues as a Member of Halesowen Abbey Trust and Chair of Friends of Coombeswood Wedge respectively.

7. **Minutes**

Agreed

That the Minutes of the Forum held on 28th April, 2015, be approved as a correct record.

8. **Planning Applications**

- (a) Oak Farm Quarry and Landfill Site

D Jacobs distributed the draft concept restoration masterplan of the site, advising that the site would be a public park which would be managed and maintained externally and not by the Council.

The proposed rights of way diversions were referred to together with a route that would facilitate those with disabilities and the proposed cycle plan.

It was noted that there would be a guaranteed payment from the developers to deal with invasive species and it was hoped that the development would be completed within 18 months.

(b) Saltwells Road, Netherton.

D Keeley circulated the proposed plan of a residential site in Saltwells Lane, Netherton, which would convert former industrial units into houses. The impact that the residential site would have upon services and the nature reserve were outlined. Members were requested to forward their comments and observations to D Keeley, who would collate a response on behalf of the Forum to the Council's Planning Section.

Members raised concerns in relation to parking and access to the Saltwells Nature Reserve.

(c) Future Planning Applications

D Jacobs reported on an application to construct a BMX track in Halesowen and the possibility of that affecting a public footpath in Green Lane, Halesowen.

D Keeley referred to a residential planning application on the site of the former Claughton House, Dudley.

Agreed

- (1) That the information reported on at the Meeting, be noted.
- (2) That Members be requested to forward their comments and observations in relation to the proposed residential development in Saltwells Lane, Netherton to the Chair by Tuesday 21st July, 2015.
- (3) That D Keeley be requested to collate a response to the Council's Planning Section in relation to the proposed development at Saltwells Lane, Netherton on behalf of the Forum.

9. **Access/Rights Of Way Issues.**

- (a) B and Q Dedication and Ordnance Survey Maps.

It was noted that the B and Q dedication had been completed.

- (b) Path H13 Monarch's Way, Halesowen.

It was noted that some work had been completed with the provision of sandbags and some spoil being removed. Concerns were raised that some of the work may result in further flooding and a request was made for the culvert to be cleared to prevent further flooding. S Yeadon agreed to consult with the relevant Council Officers in relation to the work.

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

It was noted that although attempts had been made to arrange a meeting with the owners of the Farm there remained the need to establish the right of way. D Jacobs advised that he would continue to endeavour to establish the right of way.

Agreed

That the following items be further considered at the next meeting of the Forum: _

- (a) Path H13 Monarch's Way, Halesowen.
 - (b) Path H69 Lye Cross Lane, Lapal, Halesowen.
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10. **Rights of Way Improvement Plan.**

D Keeley provided details of work conducted on Rights of Way to date, referring to the £20,000 under spend.

D Bates requested that the Woodsetton drainage issue be dealt with prior to winter.

In relation to Pottery Farm it was agreed that D Jacobs would liaise with B Jones, Structural Engineer and Wardens and revert back to R Burgess and S Yeadon to discuss the works that were required at Pottery Farm.

D Jacobs referred to the development proposals in relation to Enville Road, Wallheath and confirmed that he would report further to a future meeting of the Forum in relation to the reinstatement of paths on the site, although it was noted that this was an out of Borough matter.

Agreed

- (a) That the information reported on at the Meeting, be noted.

- (b) That Democratic Services be requested to advise relevant Officers of the request that the Woodsetton drainage issue be dealt with prior to winter.
 - (c) That D Jacobs be requested to report to a future meeting of the Forum on the work required at Pottery Farm.
 - (d) That D Jacobs be requested to provide an update in relation to the reinstatement of paths on the Enville Road, Wallheath development site.
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11. **Dates of Future Meetings.**

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

- Tuesday 29th September, 2015
- Tuesday 15th December, 2015
- Tuesday 23rd February, 2016
- Tuesday 26th April, 2016
- Tuesday 12th July, 2016

It was noted that all future meetings would be held in Meeting Room 1, Lower Ground Floor, The Council House, Dudley at 6pm.

The meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.

CHAIR