

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

Tuesday, 28th April, 2015 at 6.00pm in Meeting Room 1,  
Lower Ground Floor at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

### **Present:**

R J Brooks (Vice-Chair)(In the Chair)  
D Bates, 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 and K Buckle Democratic Services Officer.

#### 48. **Apologies for Absence**

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

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#### 49. **Declarations of Interest**

R Burgess and Ms S Yeadon declared an interest in Agenda Item No. 4 – Pottery Farm and Agenda Item No's 6(a to d) – Access/Rights of Way Issues as a Member of Halesowen Abbey Trust and as Chair of Friends of Coombeswood Wedge respectively.

Mr N Williams declared an interest in Agenda Item No's 6(a to d) – Access/Rights of Way Issues as a local Leasowes Park resident.

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#### 50. **Minutes.**

##### **Agreed**

That, the Minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2015, be approved as a correct record.

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#### 51. **Pottery Farm**

D Jacobs advised that due to the amount of money that would be required to clear the site investment opportunities were being investigated by the Chief Officer of Environmental Service, Matt Williams and Councillor H Bills the Cabinet Member for Environment and Culture. Following further discussion it was agreed that D Keeley would arrange a site meeting with Park Wardens and R Burgess in order to investigate the possibility of forming a sub group separate to the Forum to discuss future Pottery Farm.

Following further discussion it was

**Agreed**

That D Keeley, Countryside Manager, be requested to arrange a site visit at Pottery Farm with Park Wardens and R Burgess.

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52. **Planning Applications**

(a) Oak Farm Quarry and Landfill

D Jacobs advised that due to sustainability issues, the Applicant had agreed to submit further proposals in order to improve the contour and views of the site and extend the disabled route.

(b) Halesowen Road to Cradley Road, Netherton.

D Jacobs reported on an application to prevent access to a path from Halesowen Road to Cradley Road, reporting that further information was awaited and as soon as the information was available D Jacobs would report further to a future meeting of the Forum.

(c) The Guest Hospital Site.

D Jacobs advised that proposals to develop on the Guest Hospital Site may involve implications in relation to access and linkages to the Birmingham New Road and the Tipton Road, Dudley. Members were advised that the Application was in the public domain and requested to view the plans on line.

(d) Mears Coppice – Bobs Coppice

R Brooks raised concerns in relation to links to the River Sour via Mears Coppice and Bobs Coppice should the proposed Aldi development be built on the former Bronx site in Lye. D Jacobs advised that he would continue to monitor the situation and report on any proposals received to a future meeting of the Forum.

**Agreed**

That the D Jacobs, Project Engineer – Traffic and Transportation be requested to report to a future meeting of the Forum on the proposed four applications above.

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

(a) Halesowen Golf Club

D Keeley advised that a new entrance to the side of the golf club had now been installed and new signage was to be installed shortly.

(b) B and Q Dedication/OS Maps

D Jacobs reported that he had advised the Ordnance Survey Department of the creation of the paths on Coombeswood Green Wedge and the Leasowes who had confirmed that they would be included on the next issue of the Ordnance Survey Maps.

D Jacobs advised that the freehold ownership of the path which surrounded Coombeswood Green Wedge had changed and following discussions with the Solicitor for the new owner, he was confident that the issue of the dedication of the path would now be resolved.

(c) Path H13 Monarch's Way, Halesowen

S Yeadon advised that she would discuss funding options with the Woodsetton Trust in relation to clearing the spoil from the site. N Williams agreed to provide D Jacobs with the co-ordinates for the site in order that ownership could be investigated. Following establishing ownership further funding opportunities would be investigated.

(d) Path H69 Lye Cross Lane, Lapal, Halesowen

D Jacobs reported that he had undertaken a site visit which had been curtailed due to dogs obstructing the path. D Jacobs had reported the incident to the Police and had arranged to meet with the owner in order to discuss the line of the path and relevant markings.

**Agreed**

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

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

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

(c) Path H69 Lye Close Lane, Lapal, Halesowen.

54. **Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

R Brooks referred to a briefing note that had been circulated to Members from K Perkins, Transportation Officer in relation to improvements that had been carried out.

R Burgess requested clarification of the expenditure on Pottery Farm and whether any further funding was available. R Brooks confirmed that he would seek clarity on the point and report to R Burgess.

It was noted that Tack Farm had already been included in the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

R Brooks requested that the Mill Race Lane path to the housing estate and the steps that climb to Stamford Road, Stourbridge be added to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

D Bates requested that the footpath drainage between Roper Way via the Parkes Hall Reservoir to the Tipton Road be added to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

**Agreed**

- (1) That R Brooks be requested to obtain clarification in relation to the expenditure on Pottery Farm and whether any further funding was available.
- (2) That the Mill Race Lane Path, Stourbridge and footpath drainage between Roper Way and the Tipton Road be added to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

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55. **Any Other Business**

R Burgess referred to the lower section of Path H26 Coombeswood, advising that it was extremely muddy and required ditching, regading and stone surfacing. He also referred to some of the steps in the very last section that required replacing.

D Keeley referred to reducing council budgets to carry out such work and suggested that Members investigate external funding opportunities.

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56. **Date of Next Meeting**

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

- Tuesday 14th July, 2015

The meeting to commence at 6.00pm

The meeting ended at 7.10 p.m.

CHAIR