

Minutes of the Dudley Borough Local Access Forum

Tuesday, 17th February, 2015 at 6.00pm in Meeting Room 1,
Lower Ground Floor at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

Present:

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

Officers:

D Jacobs – Project Engineer, (Traffic and Transportation), D Keeley –
Countryside Manager and K Buckle Democratic Services Officer.

39. **Apology for Absence**

An Apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of
Councillor C Elcock.

40. **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 Coombeswood Canal Trust and 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 .

41. **Minutes.**

Agreed

That, the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th January, 2015, be
approved as a correct record.

42. **Pottery Farm**

D Jacobs circulated photographs of the Holloway and ancient pond on
Pottery Farm and advised that an Engineer had been instructed to survey
the site and produce engineering scheme proposals in relation to the area
which should hopefully be available within the next two months. D Jacobs
confirmed that the survey would be brought to the attention of the Forum
for consultation purposes prior to work commencing on the site. Members
noted that further funding for work was available from the Rights of Way
Improvement Plan.

D Jacobs referred to a site visit that had taken place with R Burgess advising that this had revealed that in the main the tipping of spoil and rubble had taken place over a number of years, however there would not appear to be any contaminated waste on site which could have raised health and safety concerns.

D Jacobs agreed to convey members concerns in relation to the possible spoil and debris running off into the ancient pond and confirmed that he would advise contractors that the Holloway should remain and should not be filled in and no further debris should be pulled down any further to the ancient pond.

Following further discussion it was

Agreed

That D Jacobs, Project Engineer, Traffic and Transportation be requested to:-

- (a) Arrange a site visit at Pottery Farm during the last week in March with Members of the Forum.
- (b) Provide a further update in relation to Pottery Farm at the next meeting of the Forum.

43. **Planning Application**

It was noted that St Modwen had expressed an interest in building a residential development in Coombeswood and following further discussion it was

Agreed

That the Forum continue to carefully monitor the situation in relation to the possible St Modwen planning application.

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

- (a) Halesowen Golf Club

D Keeley advised that in relation to the creation of a new entrance to the side of the Golf Club that drawings and a plan were to be produced with Access in Dudley being consulted in relation to the new entrance prior to the commencement of work to create the new path.

- (b) B and Q Dedication.

In view of the lack of progress with B and Q dealing with the path which surrounded Coombeswood Green Wedge it was agreed

that this item should be further considered at the next meeting of the Forum.

D Jacobs advised of a meeting with R Burgess, S Yeadon and Wardens when the matter of the paths on Coombeswood Green Wedge and the Leasowes which were not shown on the Ordnance Survey Map had been discussed and it had been agreed that D Jacobs would re-enforce all Orders to ensure that the Ordnance Survey Department were aware of the paths that required inclusion on the Ordnance Survey Maps.

(c) Path H13 Monarch's Way, Halesowen

In relation to the costs involved dealing with problematic flooding, S Yeadon agreed to follow up an email received from R Morgan, Principal Engineer and forward a copy of the email to G Dean, Head of Street and Green Care.

D Keeley agreed to consult G Dean, Head of Street and Green Care in relation to flooding issues, although it was noted that the allocation of funding would be prioritised in relation to the risk of flooding to households.

D Bates referred to Landfill Grant Organisations outlining funding criteria and it was agreed that D Bates would meet with the Friends of Coombeswood Green Wedge to discuss possible funding that may be available.

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

D Jacobs advised that following investigations it may be deemed reasonable to erect electric fencing in certain types of environment and following further discussions D Jacobs agreed to attend a site visit and update the Forum on the position in relation to the fencing at the next meeting of the Forum.

Agreed

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

- (a) The creation of an entrance to the side of Halesowen Golf Club.
- (b) B and Q Dedication and Ordnance Survey Maps.
- (c) Path H13 Monarch's Way, Halesowen.
- (c) Path H69 Lye Close Lane, Lapal, Halesowen.

45. **Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

Details and photographs of work carried out under the Rights of Way Improvement Plan were circulated to Members.

R Brooks advised that he had commenced walking paths and where necessary requesting that certain paths were added to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

It was noted that the Local Transport Funding Programme was due to expire and a bid would be made for a further 20 year programme.

D Jacobs reported on that part of the strategy relating to linking the path from Pedmore Road to Merry Hill and passing through Saltwells and the circular path that would be created around the Midland Heart development in Slade Road, Cradley.

Agreed

That the information reported on at the meeting be noted.

46. **Any Other Business**

It was noted that no further issues had been raised.

47. **Date of Next Meeting**

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

- Tuesday 28th April, 2015

The meeting to commence at 6.00pm

The meeting ended at 7.35 p.m.

CHAIR