

Minutes of the Dudley Borough Local Access Forum

Tuesday, 23rd February, 2016 at 6.00pm in Meeting Room 1,
Lower Ground Floor at the Council House, Priory Road, Dudley

Present:

T Boothroyd (Chair)

R J Brooks, R Burgess, P Greenaway, A Nicholls, N J Williams, S Yeadon and
T Pritchard.

Officers:

A Ravenscroft – Senior Warden, (Place and Environmental Services) and D
Jacobs – Project Engineer, (Traffic and Transportation) and K Buckle
Democratic Services Officer.

33. **Apology for Absence**

An Apology for absence from the meeting was submitted on behalf of D
Bates.

34. **Declarations of Interest**

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

35. **Minutes.**

Agreed

That, the Informal Minutes of the meeting held on 15th
December , 2015, be approved as a correct record.

36. **Membership of the Forum**

A Ravenscroft reported on the membership of the Forum, referring to the
recent appointment of T Pritchard and the interest expressed by the
proprietors of Pottery Farm to become Members.

It was noted that A Ravenscroft had discussed the possibility of
Membership with those attendees of the Health Walking Troop, those who
were interested in Rights of Way and Mr I Dyer of Wrens Nest.

A Ravenscroft referred to the Memberships of those presents apart from the newly appointed T Pritchard, expiring in July and agreed to furnish current Forum Members with new Application Forms in order that they could be re-appointed to the Forum should they wish to be so.

37. **Planning Application**

D Jacobs referred to the proposed development of an Aldi Supermarket just below the old Bronx site on the Dudley Road and the current outline planning permission that had been obtained, which would not involve any closures or improvements to footpaths.

There followed discussions in relation to the Stour Walk and the possibility of a footbridge being installed and D Jacobs advised that the proposed Aldi development would not affect the Stour walking paths.

Agreed

That the information reported on at the meeting, be noted.

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

(a) H13 Monarch's Way, Halesowen.

A Ravenscroft reported on the site visit to Monarch's Way and advised that the culvert was leaking across the pathway. S Yeadon advised that although Council Officers had attempted to resolve the leakage on two occasions a further resolution was required and funding streams were currently being investigated in order that further work could be undertaken.

A Ravenscroft undertook to investigate the possibilities of elevating the path in order that it could remain open whilst Engineers were investigating a permanent solution.

S Yeadon undertook to obtain any relevant drawings/plans of the work that had been undertaken to the path and advise Members at a future meeting of the Forum of the work that would be undertaken to resolve the flooding on a permanent basis.

Following further discussion it was agreed that this item would be considered further at the next meeting of the Forum.

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

D Jacobs agreed to arrange a site visit with the Farm owners in order to discuss the issue concerning the electrified fencing and the dangers it posed to ramblers. It was agreed that this item should be further considered at the next meeting of the Forum.

(c) Pottery Farm

Members referred to the continuing work in order to retain the right of way including work to the steps and it was noted that the handrail was currently awaited.

It was generally agreed that as a dedication to the tireless work and dedication of Robert Pemberton in order to maintain the right of way which had been established nearly 40 years ago, once the work was completed there should be an official opening ceremony including a naming ceremony and the installation of an engraved plaque naming the steps "The Pemberton Steps".

Agreed

- (1) That Path H13 Monarch's Way, Halesowen be considered further at the next meeting of the Forum.
- (b) That D Jacobs arrange a site visit to Path H69 Lye Close Lane, Lapal, Halesowen in order to address issues with the electrified fencing and this matter be considered further at the next meeting of the Forum.
- (c) That following completion of the work to maintain the right of way at Pottery Farm, Members of the Forum arrange an opening ceremony including the installation of a plaque naming the right of way "The Pemberton Steps".

39. **Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

It was noted that no further meetings to discuss the Rights of Way Improvement Plan had taken place and Members were requested to provide details of any right of way they wished to be considered to the Chair and/or Mr R Brooks.

There followed a discussion in relation to Tack Farm being added to the Rights of Way Improvement plan as had previously been requested and it was agreed that the Democratic Services Officer would consult with Mr R Brooks following further consideration of the Minutes of previous meetings.

A Ravenscroft undertook to arrange a site visit to Tack Farm in order to provide details of costs and Officer time in order to address issues with the site.

R Burgess undertook to provide drawings of the work required to Tack Farm in order to assist A Ravenscroft with the costing exercise.

Agreed

- (1) That the information reported on at the meeting be noted.
 - (2) That upon provision of the drawings and costs relating the work required at Tack Farm, A Ravenscroft report on the matter further to the next meeting of the Forum.
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40. **Any Other Business**

It was noted that no further issues had been raised.

41. **Date of Next Meeting**

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

- Tuesday 19th April, 2016
- Tuesday 12th July, 2016.

Meetings to commence at 6.00pm

The meeting ended at 7.05 p.m.

CHAIR