**Milton Keynes Local Access Forum**

**18.30, 11th May 2022, MK Council Civic Offices Room 1.05/106**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Item |  | **Action** |
| 1.0 | **Present**: Steve Crowther (SC), Donald McCallum (DM), Suzanne Martin (SM), Phill Fox (PF), Deborah Cooper (DC) John Franklin (JF), Gail Dunn (GD), Mike Bowley (MB) Geraint Green (GG)  **LAF support**: James Walsh (JW) – MKC, Jeanette Melbourne - MKC (JM) |  |
| 2.0 | **Apologies**: Eric Swain |  |
| 3.0  3.1  3.2 | **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**  It was noted that concerns were raised at the last LAF meeting regarding the Newlands Marina inlet. It was agreed that the results on the ground are better and safer than what had been expected.  Mike Mellor Walk  From the options suggested, the circular route taking in Sherington and Olney was deemed to be the most appropriate choice. SC enquired how the route could be taken forward. JW outlined that when the ROWIP hopefully became adopted policy, it would be a suitable time to create the route to mark this step forward for the RoW team. Special waymarker disks can be ordered in and the route can be properly promoted on the MKC website with maps, photos and relevant information. Members expressed an interest in volunteering to installing waymarker disks if required.  DC requested that paper version of maps be made available which JW agreed with. | RoW Team/  LAF |
| 4.0  4.1  4.2  4.3  4.4  4.5 | **Rights of Way Section Progress Report**  **Staff Team Structure**  JW gave an update on the structure on the RoW section. RA is on maternity leave until the Autumn 2022. During her absence JM and PF have joined the team. JW gave a break down on the duties carried out by each individual member and the scope of different tasks the team undertake. Whilst discussing the planning side of the role DC asked if LAF can be informed of any relevant planning applications. JW said this would be fine and any big applications could be discussed in future LAF meetings or via e-mail. There will be a LAF section on the new MKC website when ready which might help facilitate discussions. GD asked if LAF members were allowed to discuss planning applications between themselves. JW agreed that this should be encouraged and that LAF also have the right to respond to planning applications in their own right.  **ROWIP (Rights of Way Improvement Plan)**  JW talked through the process involved with producing a ROWIP which will be the first for MKC. A draft consultation has gone out to all stakeholders by various communication methods. There will also be a section on the MKC website with a form for any interested party to complete. LAF members are encouraged to complete the form. There will be a separate survey for landowners which will go out with the Headland Maintenance documentation. Other stakeholders contacted included the Scouts, Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme, Sport England, The NUF and disability groups. DC suggested the ‘Better Points’ app to help promoted the consultation.SC asked if Parish Councils have already been sent the information. JW confirmed they have. PF advised that that the information submitted will be constantly reviewed and shared.  **Petsoe Update**  JW advised that at the last LAF meeting that an Order would be made for the bridleway routes subject to a DMMO claim. An order was made with the relevant processes undertaken including installing signage and advertising through the required channels. An objection was received during the consultation phase relating to the order. MKC have now appointed Sue Rumfitt, an experienced RoW consultant who specialises in these types of cases. She is currently undertaking research and compiling a report which is required before the matter is progressed further. A query was raised about costs and it was outlined that MKC will probably have to cover their own legal costs. DC asked if there is anything the walking and cycling communities can to assist. PF replied that the best way is to attend the Public Enquiry. SC asked for the timescale on this, JW explained the process and would hope that everything would be ready for the Planning Inspectorate by the end of 2022. SM mentioned it would be good if the route is opened to have signage in reference to Dana Green, possibly a small route. mention of Dana with reference to possibly Petsoe signage  **Recent Definitive Map Modification Applications**  JW gave an outline of recent DMMO applications received by MKC. These were Astwood, Aspley Woods and Windmill Hill Drive, Bletchley.  A general discussion took place regarding these applications. A query was raised regarding linking up RoW at Broughton Grounds Farm. JW outlined he believed Bedfordshire RoW team were looking into and there were discussions regarding involving Cranfield University.  **New Rights of Way Website**  JW showed an example of the new RoW website page and explained how it will be easier for the user to access Public Path Orders and other documents. There will also be a dedicated LAF page. It is hoped to be live by the end of May but this may be delayed. SM asked if suggested routes with maps could feature. JW agreed that this would be a good idea and would be something to be added to the website in future. |  |
| 5.01  5.1 | **MK EAST**  JW gave an overview on the MK East project and outlined its scope and scale. The developer, St James Group, have been very pro-active and are looking at RoW in the early stages of the site. JW explained why this was the right way round of approaching the development. There have been  five Public Path Orders to divert existing RoW within the MK East area.  A general discussion took place regarding Moulsoe FP14 and Moulsoe BW3 including route selection and surfaces. Samples of a bound rubber crumb surface (Conipave) were shown to all. It was generally agreed that that this was the most the most compatible for multi-users although SM expressed concerns about its suitability in the context of the location. Moulsoe BW3 has been negotiated to have a grass strip next to rubber crumb surface in consideration of horse riders and there will be some safety means of slowing down cyclists. The intention is for the bridleway to be diverted and constructed earlier on in the project timescale so it can be open for use with minimal disruption. |  |
| 6.0  6.1 | **Members Items**  GD sent JW an email today regarding Moulsoe BW3 and BW19. The query as regards Moulsoe BW3 related to whether the northern end of the section should be made a footpath which might be better suited to the route. JW explained given the context of the location, it would be better to keep it as a bridleway which may be improved or altered to bridleway standards in the future.  It was reported that there were various issues at the northern end of BW19 and it was agreed that JM would undertake a site visit.  . | JM |
| 7.0  7.1  7.2  7.3 | **AOB**  SM advised the group that John Duncombe, a former member of the LAF, had recently passed away.  MB asked if there was a confirmed date for claims for public footpaths. JW advised that the cut-off date for 2026 was now likely to be removed following guidance from DEFRA.  SC gave his thanks to DM for his many years of service to LAF, this being his final meeting. A card of thanks, signed by the group was given to DM to acknowledge his massive contribution to the LAF. It was agreed his presence and knowledge will be greatly missed. |  |
|  | Meeting closed at 8.55pm |  |
|  | **Next meeting** – 6.30pm, 1st September 2022 |  |