

Milton Keynes Local Access Forum
18.30, 7th March 2024, MK Council Civic Offices Room 1.25

Item		Action
1.0	<p><u>Present:</u> Steve Crowther (SC) Stephen Hobbs (SH), John Franklin (JF), Gail Dunn (GD), Terry Smith (TS), Mike Bowley (MB)</p> <p><u>Guest:</u> Mike McDonald (MM)</p> <p><u>MKCC LAF support:</u> James Walsh (JW)</p>	
2.0	<p><u>Apologies:</u> Suzanne Martin (belated). SC explained that Geraint Green had contacted him to inform that he has recently suffered a stroke. It all remarked that the best wishes of the entire LAF were with him and wished him a speedy recovery. There was a discussion around accessibility and whether any additional support could be offered to GG to help him keep up to speed with LAF matters.</p>	MKCC
3.0	<p><u>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</u></p> <p>3.1 JF requested for the wording to be used when approaching potential LAF members that had previously been discussed.</p> <p>3.2 GD had put together a bid for the Rambler Path Accessibility fund with assistance from JW. GD opted for a section of public footpath on the Millfield at Stony Stratford that needed resurfacing. This is the first time such a bid has been put together so GD will keep the LAF updated as to its outcome.</p> <p>3.3 JF commented he was pleased to have seen the DMMO notice in place relating to the claimed route at Blue Bridge and thanked JW for making this happen. JW explained the order was currently going through the required 6-week consultation phase.</p> <p>3.4 SC outlined that Ben Everritt (Milton Keynes North MP) had contacted him requesting his support against MK East. SC explained to him that it was in fact the policy of his own Government to be building needed housing and such support would not be forthcoming.</p>	RA/JW GD
4.0	<p><u>Rights of Way Section Report</u></p> <p>4.1 <u>Rights of Way Reform Update</u> JW provided an update on the timescales associated with changes coming to Rights of Way legislation. Right to apply, which isn't believed will have much of an impact here in MK is scheduled to come in June/July of this</p>	

<p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p>	<p>year. Reforms to Definitive Map Modification Orders and exception regulations are scheduled for later on within the next 12 months.</p> <p><u>Petsoe DMMO Case</u></p> <p>It was outlined that a barrister had been selected and MKCC were currently in the process of hiring him for the case.</p> <p>A company specialising in the analysis of aerial photography is being explored as an option to identify the historical location of farm gates within the farmyard.</p> <p>JW explained some useful related case law that would be considered by the barrister. This included Carr vs Foster (1842) which was summarised as “we didn’t put cows on the common for 2 years because in those years we didn’t have any cows (but if we had we would have done!)”.</p> <p><u>Bridge Structures on PRow Update</u></p> <p>JW discussed a brand new bridleway bridge made of glass reinforced plastic which has been installed at Lodge Lake. This structure is believed to be the first of its kind installed within MK. JW explained the process and timescales associated with this project.</p> <p>A bridge recently damaged by floodwater between Olney and Clifton Reynes was also discussed and how that will be resolved.</p> <p>The structure underneath the railway between Bradwell Abbey and Bradwell as also highlighted as work was due to commence. JF asked for further details which JW would e-mail him regarding.</p>	<p>JW</p>
<p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p>	<p><u>Planning applications</u></p> <p>JW provided a review of the recent planning appeal decision at Linford Lakes (21/02533/OUTEIS). A paragraph within the appeal report relating to the status of a section of highway was discussed.</p> <p>JW provided a recent example of relevant policy used for Rights of Way planning consultations. This included national (NPPF), local (Plan: MK) and parish council (North Crawley Neighbourhood Plan). JW commented that Rights of Way are becoming a key theme in rural Neighbourhood Plans which is great to see.</p>	
<p>6.0</p> <p>6.1</p>	<p><u>Members Items</u></p> <p>GD – Brought up the viability of a volunteer RoW maintenance team. GD was aware of other initiatives within other local authorities including a team led by Bill Piers in Buckinghamshire who install gates. JW felt</p>	

6.2	<p>vegetation clearance would probably be the type of work that would prove most effective.</p> <p>TS mentioned in North Crawley, a lot of this type of work is undertaken by himself and other parishes perhaps should follow this example.</p> <p>SH such a move if handled badly could increase conflict between users and landowners. Whilst in principle it seemed reasonable, it would need to be done cautiously and with the involvement of the MKCC RoW Team.</p> <p>JW outlined it was an area identified within the ROWIP and in principle would be something to welcome. However, the finer details and how such a group would work would need to be looked at.</p> <p>SC asked about the enforcement policy utilised by the RoW Team and how the threat of and then actual enforcement were working in practice. JW explained the team use an ‘ask, tell, demand’ principle in dealing with matters. Generally, most landowners will comply with any requests and often it more a case of misunderstanding when issues arise. However there are occasions when such action is required. A recent example was provided where Highways Act Section 154 had been used as regards tree work with invoices being sent to landowners.</p>	
7.0	<u>AOB</u>	
7.1	<p>SH mentioned an upcoming Local Nature Recovery Strategy event is to be held locally for farmers. It will be held at the Caldecotte Arms on 18th March at 6pm. It was remarked it was a good thing and important that such events took place.</p>	
	Meeting closed at 8.30pm	
	<u>Next meeting</u> – 6.30pm, 6 th June 2024, Civic Offices.	

These minutes are a true record of the event.

Signed:

Date: