



# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Minutes of the LAF meeting held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at the Woodland Discovery Centre, Ecclesall Woods

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** H. Norman (Chair), T. Howard, R. Owen, M. FitzGerald, L. Seaman, J. Harker, R. Kite, C. Prescott, R. Williams (CLLR), P. Price (CLLR).

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:** S. Beaton (Principal PROW Officer), G. Brooksbank (Senior PROW Engineer), Z. Hodgkinson (Senior PROW Technician & LAF secretary).

**OBSERVERS IN ATTENDANCE:** N/A

## **AGENDA ITEM 1 (APOLOGIES)**

The LAF accepted apologies from the following members... R. Godley, J. Horscroft, M. North, A. Butler, R. Longhurst.

## **AGENDA ITEM 2 (CHAIR/ VICE CHAIR APPOINTMENTS)**

Members of the LAF were invited to elect a new chair of the forum following TH stepping down from the position at the last LAF meeting in February. HN volunteered to chair the meeting but made members aware that he would not be able to commit to becoming the permanent chair of the LAF due to other commitments. After much discussion it was decided that members will rotate turns as Chair of the LAF. J Harker volunteered to chair the next meeting in October.

## **AGENDA ITEM 3 (MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – FEBRUARY 2023)**

The minutes from the last LAF meeting held in February 2023 were reviewed and accepted by all members without objection.

SB had contacted Property Services to invite them to this LAF meeting as requested. No reply was received. RW offered to take this up with Property Services. SB to forward the correspondence previously had with Property Services to RW.

## **AGENDA ITEM 4 (LAF MEMBERSHIP UPDATE)**

The LAF is in need of new membership with members asked to help recruit new people with interests in the following: land ownership, recreational driving on unsealed highways, fell running and disabled access.

It was again mentioned that the LAF lacks diversity and is not necessarily a true reflection of Sheffield as a city.

CLLR's Peter Price and Richard Williams were confirmed as member appointees to the LAF for 2023 – 2024.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5 (OPEN ACCESS UPDATE & MOORLAND FIRES)**

SB informed members on the recent reopening of Moscar Cross Road (BRA/185) following maintenance repairs. A seasonal traffic regulation order (TRO) is currently being drafted for the route by Sheffield City Council. It is currently unclear at present if the PROW team will have the funds available to pay for the necessary infrastructure as soon as any seasonal TRO is confirmed. RO and MFG offered to contact the

Hallam Horse Riders and Heritage Highways to see if they would be able to offer a donation towards the infrastructure. ZH offered to organise a site visit to Ughill Farm to see what the Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust plan to do with the land they have recently acquired at the farm which includes an area of CROW Access Land. ZH will liaise with the PDNPA LAF and arrange a joint site visit with a date to be confirmed.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 6 (DEFINITIVE MAP UPDATE)**

GB gave an update of ongoing schedule 14 applications to the LAF...

- Clough Fields – An order has been made for a bridleway. The order notice period has concluded however objections have been received. The schedule 14 application has now been referred to the planning inspectorate.
- Penistone Lane – A decision has been made with an order to be made for a Bridleway. This has been passed on to Sheffield City Council’s legal team to make the order.
- Dark Lane – A decision was made not to make an order; the applicant has appealed so this has been referred to the planning inspectorate.
- Cobden View Road – Closure order has now been confirmed.
- Whitwell Ridge – A decision has been made with an order to be made for a Bridleway. This has been passed on to Sheffield City Council’s legal team to make the order.
- ECC/100 (Level crossing closure) – TTRO in place now. Most likely option is that network rail will install a new bridge but at the moment they are working on the design principles and funding.
- Since the last LAF meeting in February we have received two new schedule 14 applications... one in Gillifield Woods and the other one between Ecclesall Road and Neill Road.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 7 (POTENTIAL FUTURE CAPITAL SCHEMES)**

The LAF is happy that the PROW team’s current capital monies allocation is being used to contribute to PROW improvements on land owned by SCC Parks & Countryside where major improvement projects to those green spaces are in progress already.

The LAF suggested that SB could contact landowners such as Yorkshire Water, Eastern Moors Partnership and Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust to gauge a level of interest in working specifically on land they manage to improve the PROW networks in those areas. SB will do this.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 8 (REPORT BACK FROM NEIGHBOURING LAF’s)**

ZH contacted Sheffield’s neighbouring LAF’s for their latest meeting minutes to see if there is anything happening where the Sheffield LAF needs to be or could be involved. There wasn’t anything of major importance to report back on. ZH will make contact again with neighbouring LAF’s before the next Sheffield LAF.

#### **AGENDA ITEM 9 (PROW TEAM STAFFING UPDATE)**

The PROW Ranger Team has now been transferred to P&C. Going well. Early indications are that this has made things more efficient and that we might be able to increase the amount of work we get through. Due to static and limited budgets and rising materials costs, we wouldn’t be able to carry out any more construction work, but we could focus on doing more vegetation clearance work if we can instead, which is our biggest single maintenance issue in terms of complaints and workload in any case.

**AGENDA ITEM 10 (LONG TERM ACCESS ISSUES UPDATE)**

TH asked if ZH could contact PDNPA regarding access improvements around Agden Rocher. ZH to make enquiries and report back.

**AGENDA ITEM 11 (AOB)**

TH confirmed that he will continue to represent the Sheffield LAF at the Sheffield Moors Partnership meetings and report back to the LAF as and when required.

**AGENDA ITEM 12 (DATE OF NEXT MEETING)**

Date of next LAF to be confirmed by ZH in the coming weeks pending availability of the conference room. Most likely to be either the 13<sup>th</sup> or 20<sup>th</sup> October. The date of the Christmas meal will either be on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or 15<sup>th</sup> of December ZH to make enquiries and report back.