



# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Minutes of the LAF meeting held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 at the Woodland Discovery Centre, Ecclesall Woods

**MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** R. Owen (Acting Chair), T. Howard, M. FitzGerald, L. Seaman, J. Harker, R. Entwistle, R. Williams (CLLR) M. North, R. Kite. 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:** T. Broadhead, A. Butler, K. Busfield, V. Murphy.

## AGENDA ITEM 1 (APOLOGIES)

The LAF accepted apologies from the following members... J. Horscroft, C. Prescott, H. Norman

## AGENDA ITEM 2 (CHAIR APPOINTMENT FOR NEXT LAF MEETING)

Following the last LAF meeting in October ZH has produced a chairperson rota for the following nine LAF meetings. Members of the LAF were shown the rota on the overhead projector and agreed that the rota was the best way to organise the chair for future meetings. All members have also been emailed the chair rota for reference. It was agreed that ZH is to book the Ecclesall Woods meeting room for the next three LAF meetings to allow plenty of time for members to plan their schedules.

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

The minutes of the last meeting (October 2023) were reviewed on screen by members. It was brought to the secretary's attention that M. North featured twice on the attendance record. ZH to amend the record in advance of the LAF meeting in June 2024. Following the admin error, the minutes of the October meeting were accepted by members.

## AGENDA ITEM 4 (CURRENT MAINTENANCE BACKLOG)

SB gave the members of the LAF an update on the current maintenance backlog of work the Public Rights of Way team is dealing with. As it stands the PROW team estimates there to be approximately £3,000,000 worth of maintenance work required across the PROW network. The backlog of work is predominantly statutory maintenance work which the PROW team has not had budget for or officer time to undertake. A request for the most urgent £1,000,000 worth of work, which is mainly flood related was made to senior management in November and so far there has not been a response to the request.

A proportion of the backlog is to rectify parts of the Rivelin Valley which has been heavily damaged during the autumn/winter storms. There are currently five Public Rights of Way in the valley which are in such a state of disrepair that temporary closures have had to be issued to restrict public access.

The PROW team along with the Property Services and Parks & Countryside departments are trying to coordinate the repairs as the damage in the valley affects each service area. The coordinated approach will help as each service area struggles with budget pressures and a lack of officer time to manage the repairs.

M. North asked S. Beaton whether 3<sup>rd</sup> party funds could help pay for the repairs such as the missing stepping stones in the river on SHE/525. SB explained that he would welcome more funding from external providers however it would still require officer/project manager time which the PROW team doesn't have.

## AGENDA ITEM 5 (LAF MEMBERSHIP UPDATE)

S. Beaton reiterated the agenda item from the last meeting that new members are required preferably with interests in disabled access, fell running or cycling. Several members raised concerns that a couple members of the LAF have not attended a meeting in over a year. SB is aware of this fact and will speak to the affected members in due course to discuss this issue.

### **AGENDA ITEM 6 (OPEN ACCESS UPDATE)**

SB gave the following update to the LAF regarding the seasonal TRO at Moscar Cross Road. The seasonal TRO has now been implemented and has been in place since the start of February. Sheffield City Council received several objections regarding the TRO with all objections focused on the exclusion of Motorcycles from the seasonal TRO. SB explained that the PROW team does not have enough evidence to support the exclusion of motorcycles from the byway. The byway will undergo a condition inspection each month to determine whether the seasonal TRO is working and whether motorcycles contribute to any damage caused on the byway. The PROW team will have these results by the end of Spring 2025 after the seasonal TRO has been in force for whole year. Currently the byway is heavily waterlogged/rutted and the PROW team intend to repair the byway as soon as the ground dries out. The LAF agreed with SB comments and look forward to hearing the results of the condition inspections.

TH spoke to members regarding access to woodlands. TH would like there to be an agenda item at the next LAF regarding this matter. TH said that he feels that Sheffield would benefit from woodlands being dedicated as access land. TB said that any such dedication would require a large amount of consultation and planning. It will be decided by the next Chairperson which items will be on the agenda however SB told TH that he could try emailing the woodlands team and see what the response is.

### **AGENDA ITEM 7 (DEFINITIVE MAP WORK UPDATE)**

GB gave members of the LAF the following update regarding ongoing schedule 14 applications.

SHEFF/SCH/14/004 – Whitwell Ridge – Determined, order to be made

SHEFF/SCH/005 – Mucky Lane – Determined, order made, in notice period

SHEFF/SCH/009 – Dark Lane – Was determined, no order to be made, applicant appealed, Pins dismissed appeal.

Ronksley Lane – Order confirmed by planning inspector after objections lodged. Now a restricted byway!

New Applications – There has been three new applications received for Collegiate Crescent.

### **AGENDA ITEM 8 (CAPITAL SCHEMES UPDATE)**

SB gave members of the LAF the following update regarding large schemes currently being undertaken or planned on PROW across Sheffield. SHE/28, Lenny Hill Bridleway at Blackamoor, currently being repaired by PDNPA using money left over from Cut Gate. There may be more money left over from this project that we intend to use repairing the stepping stones on footpath SHE/450. SB then showed members of the LAF a spreadsheet of approximately £100,000 worth of work which was hopefully due to be delivered during summer 2024. Currently there is no officer time to deliver the programme however as many of the projects are on Parks & Countryside sites, we hope to use their project officers to deliver the programme.

### **AGENDA ITEM 9 (AOB)**

ZH said that the date of the next meeting has not been confirmed yet but is likely to take place in June followed by meetings in October 2024 and February 2025.

MFG asked if other venues across the city could be looked at as potential meeting destinations. Ecclesall Woods is a long way for those who live close to the Sheffield boundary. SB said that he would investigate potential venues and email members with a selection of venues to choose from. ZH said that he will hold back on booking the next meeting until the venue had been confirmed.

The meeting concluded by giving thanks to the observers and members in attendance.