

Shropshire Local Access Forum	<u>Item</u>	<u>Paper</u>
21 October 2010	9	C
10.00 a.m.		

Annual report of the Shropshire Local Access Forum July 2010

Development and Membership of the Forum

Membership of the forum now stands at 18 following the sad death of Dennis Nesbit, the resignation of Caroline Bedell and the recruiting of 2 new members, Alison Parker and Stuart Morgan.

Jane Ing was elected as chair and Mark Weston as vice chair at the July 2010 meeting.

Forum meetings

Meetings this year have been held at the Shirehall, Shrewsbury and the Community Centre, Craven Arms. Four meetings, which are also attended by the public, have been held in 2009-2010. Forum members have been on an away day to Much Wenlock to look at Walking for Health, the planned work as part of the Shropshire Way upgrade and the acquisition of the Lea quarries by the National Trust.

Attendance

Attendance from the LAF members has been good with the exception of the Councillor Members and the Regional Natural England Access Specialist who rarely attend. This was noted and minuted during the July 2010 meeting.

Presentations, reports and actions

At the meetings a number of presentations and reports were given to the Forum by various bodies or individuals they included:-

- Access in Agri-Environment Schemes by Mrs Lyn Stabler of Natural England.
- Definitive Map of Public Rights of Way by Mrs Shona Lewis, the senior Mapping Officer.
- A report on the upgrading of the Shropshire Way in the Shropshire Hills area by Jim Stabler, the Access Development Officer.
- Ploughing and Cropping by Kevin Jones, the senior Enforcement Officer.
- Public Rights of Way Development by Andrew Ventin, the Definitive Map Review Officer.
- Proposals for extending the upgrading and re-routing of the Shropshire Way in the North West of the County and around Much Wenlock.

- Parks and Countryside Sites by Mrs Carolyn Healy, Parks and Countryside Sites Manager.

Consultations with other bodies

The Forum considered and commented on the following consultations:

- Long term role of The Forestry Commission public forest estate in England
- The future of the English Access Forum and its role with respect to the Local Access Forum
- The National Trust on its plans for the use of Lea Quarries on Wenlock Edge
- Shrewsbury North West Relief road

It should be noted that other consultations have been missed due to the short notice given and/or the requests not being widely disseminated. One such consultation was the DEFRA guidance on the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 received too late to action.

Advice given

Advice has been given to Shropshire Council on the following matters:

- Unsurfaced unclassified County roads, their locations and use.
- Definitive map review processes
- Dog walkers and cattle problems
- Shropshire Way upgrading and routing
- Prioritization of maintenance and enforcement work
- The cultural strategy

Feedback from other Forums

Throughout the year Forum members have been kept up to date with the issues raised at the:

- Shropshire Riders and Carriage Drivers Groups
- Shropshire Walkers Forum
- Shropshire Byways Liaison Group
- Shropshire Cycle Forum
- Shropshire AONB Access and Tourism Group

Working Groups/Interaction with other Forums

LAF members have continued to support and attend the other user group Forums and the AONB access and tourism group. The minutes and reports from these other groups are reported back at the Local Access Forum meetings.

Attempts have been made to hold a joint meeting with the Telford and Wrekin LAF but as yet a suitable date has not been found.

Jim Stabler has been given the role of Regional LAF coordinator for the West Midlands and the flow of information regionally, nationally and with the English Access Forum has improved.

Site visits and other activities

On the 27th of April 2010 members of the LAF visited Much Wenlock for the day. The day started with a talk by the Walking for Health Coordinators and the local Walking for Health group, followed by a walk. The members then went on to Lea Quarry where Mr Peter Carty, the National Trust area Estate Manager briefed on the development plans for the quarries. Lunch was held with Councillors where the work of the Task & Finish Group was discussed. The day was completed by a walk along Wenlock Edge following the proposed new route of the Shropshire Way.

Membership of the Forum July 2010

	Name	Representing
1	Jane Ing Chair	Conservation Wildlife/Voluntary Activities/ Landowning Interests
2	Mark Weston Vice Chair	Horse riding/Carriage driving/Voluntary Interests
3	Sula Rayska	Tourism/Countryside Voluntary Activity/Walking
4	Stephen Bell	Walking/Conservation Wildlife/Disabled Access
5	Gareph Boxley	Motorized vehicular use/ Conservation Wildlife/ Disabled Access Interests
6	Christopher Chillingworth	Walking/Voluntary Activities/ Community Interests
7	Richard Cotham	Landowner/Conservation Wildlife/Walking Interests
8	David Cowell	Landowner/Conservation and Wildlife/Tourism Interests
9	Bob Hill	Conservation Wildlife/Voluntary Activities/ Landowning Interests
10	Clive Leworthy	Community
11	Dr Jane Morris	Health
12	Roger Plowden	Landowner/Conservation Wildlife/Farming Interests
13	Zia Robins	Horse riding Interests
14	David Shelley	Walking/Conservation Wildlife/Tourism Interests
15	Alison Parker	Walking/Conservation Wildlife/Tourism Interests
16	Stuart Morgan	Walking/tourism/route design & application
17	Steve Charmley	Councillor
18	Mike Owen	Councillor