

Shropshire Local Access Forum

5 July 2011

To: All Members of the Local Access Forum

A meeting of the **SHROPSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM** will be held at **10.00 A.M. on WEDNESDAY 13 JULY** at **CRAVEN ARMS COMMUNITY CENTRE, NEWINGTON WAY, CRAVEN ARMS, SY7 9PS**

Please find the agenda attached.

David Wise
Secretary to the Forum

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Members of the Forum

Name	Fields of Interest
Mrs Jane Ing (Chair)	Conservation Wildlife/Walking
Mr Mark Weston (Vice-Chair)	Horseriding/Carriage Driving/Voluntary Activities
Mr Stephen Bell	Walking/Conservation Wildlife/Disabled Access
Mr Gareph Boxley	Motorised vehicular use/Conservation Wildlife/Disabled Access
Mr Steve Charmley	Shropshire Councillor
Mr Chris Chillingworth	Walking/Voluntary Activities/Community
Mr Richard Cotham	Landowner/Conservation Wildlife/Walking
Mr David Cowell	Landowner/Conservation Wildlife/Tourism
Mr Bob Hill	Conservation Wildlife/Voluntary Activities/ Landowning
Mr Stuart Morgan	Walking /Tourism/route design and application
Dr Jane Morris	Conservation/Wildlife/ Walking/ Disabled access
Mr Mike Owen	Shropshire Councillor
Mrs Alison Parker	Walking/Conservation wildlife/local community
Mr Roger Plowden	Landowner/Conservation Wildlife/Farming
Ms Sula Rayska	Tourism/Countryside Voluntary Activity/Walking
Mrs Zia Robins	Horse riding

Shropshire Local Access Forum

Wednesday 13 July 2011 - 10.00 am

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

Please ensure you sign the attendance record.

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Minutes and any matters arising

To confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on 13 May 2011
(Attached marked: A)

3.1 Public Question Time – Foxholes Farm, Little Ness (Paragraph 5)

To report that an appeal against the refusal of Shropshire Council to grant planning permission for the erection of five poultry sheds, improvements to existing highway and creation of new access at Foxholes Farm Buildings, Little Ness, has been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate.

3.2 Shropshire Local Transport Plan (Paragraph 8) Use of buffer zones for village speed limits

Jan Cook has provided the following answer in respect of the question regarding speed limit buffer zones.

'Buffer zones' are used in a minority of circumstances when introducing a new 30 mph speed limit in a village. Each location is considered on its merits and a 40mph buffer zone applied when either:

- There is considerable outlying development on the edge of village (development that is not of a density that justifies an extension of the 30mph limit, but is not suitable for 60mph), or
- There are high approach speeds (this tends to be on higher levels A and B roads)

This approach is in line with Department for Transport guidance. It is not considered necessary or appropriate to apply a 40mph buffer in all cases because approach speeds may already be low, or there might be

enforcement issues of a 40mph limit where the environment does not help to re-enforce that speed limit (i.e. no development).

4. Public Question Time

To receive any questions, statements or petitions of which notice has been received from members of the public.

5. The Sale of the Public Forest Estate in England

The Independent Panel on Forestry are seeking views on forests and woods in England, and what this landscape can and should provide, now and in the future. Background information on the work of the Independent Panel is available at: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/forestry/panel/>

Attached (marked: B) is a "call for views". All LAF Members are asked to consider and bring to the meeting their answers to the questions in writing. The deadline for submitting views is 31 July 2011.

The "Sale of the Public Forest" LAF Working Group have met and agreed a statement which will be appended to the response to the "call for views". A copy is attached marked: C for discussion at the meeting.

6. Individual Planning Applications

At the last meeting differing views were expressed on whether the Forum should get involved in individual planning applications.

The Forum advises Shropshire Council and other bodies on improving access to the countryside. As Forum members are volunteers and give their expertise and experience freely it is recognised in the constitution that there is a limit to the amount of time members can dedicate to the work of the Forum. It is stated that the Shropshire Local Access Forum will prioritise their time by identifying issues which are of special interest or relevance to the area in relation to access and open-air recreation. These are likely to include:-

- Development of recreation and access strategies which cater for a wide range of people
- Strategic improvements to the rights of way network
- Implementation, management and review of the statutory right of access to the countryside.

In addition to LAFs being statutory consultees on various matters, such as Rights of Way Improvement Plans and gating orders, it has also been suggested in national guidance that LAFs should be alert to situations

where their advice may be valuable. Examples have been when plans, strategies and programmes are published by prescribed bodies which have access and recreation implications and when proposals for developments are publicised.

7. Away Day: Meres and Mosses

An oral report will be made by the Chair.

8. Disabled Access at Bettisfield, Whixall

A report will be made by Jim Stabler.

9. Unclassified County Roads

An oral report by Richard Knight.

10. Natural England

An update will be given by Evelyn Stabler of Natural England

11. Natural Environment White Paper and Local Nature Partnerships

The Government's White Paper on the Natural Environment entitled: The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature may be viewed at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/>

An extract from the press release and summaries for citizens, land managers and conservation organisations is attached marked: D

12. LAF Co-ordination

An update will provided by Jim Stabler.

13. Community Infrastructure Levy

Earlier this year representations were made about the draft charging schedule for the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Sue Turner of the Planning Inspectorate has been appointed as the independent examiner of the Draft Charging Schedule. As part of her examination of the Draft Charging Schedule there will be public hearings, commencing at 10am, on 27 and 28 July 2011 at the Food Enterprise Centre, Vanguard Way, Shrewsbury.

14. Feedback from other Forums and items for noting

The following minutes/papers are provided as updates for members:

Shropshire Cycling Forum 2 March 2011 (attached marked: E)

Letter from Richard Benyon MP, Minister for the Natural Environment and Fisheries (attached marked: F for information). The Alban Way is an off-road trail between Hatfield and St Albans, Hertfordshire (and forms part of National Cycle Network Route 61). The management plan states that Alban Way is not a designated right of way but has a permissive agreement in place to allow access for walkers and cyclists with reasonable accompaniment. Access is not permitted for horses except where bridleways cross, or for motorised vehicles other than for maintenance purposes.

15. Secretary

David Wise is taking voluntary early retirement from Shropshire Council at the end of August 2011. The first meeting of the Joint Local Access Forum for Shropshire and the Borough of Telford and Wrekin was held on 27 June 2003 and David took over as Secretary on 30 November 2004.

Mr Richard Thomas, Democratic Services and Elections Manager, has agreed that this role should continue to be provided and has put forward Mrs Linda Jeavons for appointment.

16. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 20 October 2011

Members are asked to suggest agenda items for the next meeting.

The photocopied Agenda papers have been produced on recycled paper