



Committee and Date

Shropshire's Great Outdoors
Strategy Board

7 February 2019

SHROPSHIRE'S GREAT OUTDOORS STRATEGY BOARD

Minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2018

**In the Ludlow Room, Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND
10.00 am - 12.06 pm**

Responsible Officer: Tim Ward

Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 257713

Present

Alex Carson-Taylor (Chairman), Mark Weston (Vice Chairman), Peter Carr, Stewart Pickering, Lezley Picton, Nigel Pocock, Ronald Repath, Jack Tavernor and Andrew Wood

49 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies for Absence

49.1 The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

49.2 Apologies for absence had been received from Sarah Faulkner, Chris Mansell and Cecilia Motley

50 Public Question Time

50.1 The following question had been received from Trevor Allison

Does the Strategy Board feel it should request the Highways and Rights-of-Way Department to resist any large-scale closure of foot crossings as hinted at in this e-mail? ((See below).

Shropshire's extensive and well-used network of Rights-of-Way would be considerably damaged if any programme of closures of this nature were to take place. It would be acceptable for some very minor changes or rationalisation to take place, but being somewhat acquainted with the Health and Safety Regulations under which Network Rail currently administer foot crossings of the railway (I have been out with a Network Rail Officer on more than one occasion when he was assessing the safety parameters of various foot crossings near to Shrewsbury) there is no justification for a wholesale closure of such crossings. I would ask the Outdoor Partnerships Department within which the Rights-of-Way Department functions to confirm that they will, if at all possible, resist all requests or demands from Network Rail to implement such a policy.

Subject: NETWORK RAIL LC CLOSURES

Dear All,

You may soon feel the effects, if you haven't already, of Network Rail's policy to close all level crossings in the country that carry public rights of way over them.

Highway authorities are pressured by Network Rail into stopping up paths at level crossings by applying for Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTROs) - usually on "safety grounds"

This is the first wave of attacks on PROWs and local authorities, being strapped for cash, do not want to enter legal fights so have given way to Network Rail's demands. They also extend the TTROs - with permission from DfT - so that the "temporary" Orders in effect become permanent.

The second wave of attack is to launch Transport & Works Act Orders to obtain planning and compulsory purchase permission to permanently close crossings and divert paths in the interests of "public health and recreation" (making people walk etc. further benefits health!)

I urge you to consider writing to the DfT to complain about any use of TTROs by Network Rail in your area. (If you don't already get notified of them by your LA, ask them to do so now!)

I attach my letter to Chris Grayling the Secretary of State for Transport in case it helps.

Malcolm Lees
LC for Essex

Mr Allison commented that there was a programme of closures of crossings in Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk and that he was worried that this would set a precedent for the rest of the country. He urged the Strategy Board to support the Rights of Way department in resist wholesale closures of crossings.

The Mapping and Enforcement Manager commented that the situation in Shropshire was very different and that the Rights of Way team had a very good relationship with Network Rail and worked actively with them to improve crossings. She added that the team would resist wholesale closures if they were proposed, but would prefer to work with Network Rail on a case by case basis.

Members of the Board supported this approach

51 **Declarations of Interest**

51.1 There were no declarations of interest.

52 **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

52.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2018 had been circulated.

52.2 Resolved:

That the minutes of the meeting of the Shropshire great outdoors Strategy Board held on 11 June 2018 be approved as a true record and signed by the Chairman

53 Actively Improving Lives

53.1 The meeting received a presentation (copy attached to the signed minutes) from Chris Child, Chief Executive of Energize County Sports Partnership, in which he gave an update of the work currently being carried out by the Partnership.

53.2 Members made the following comments: -

- Need ongoing dialogue with Town and Parish Councils who may be a source of funding and also of volunteers.
- People who live in rural areas have less access to outdoor recreation sites and this needs to be built in to the Local Plan.

53.3 The Director of Place commented that the Local Plan would be fundamental in ensuring access to outdoor recreation, and that there was need to work with Town and Parish Councils who were carrying out Neighbourhood Plans to ensure that sites were identified. He added that there was work needed to unlock capacity for volunteering.

53.4 The Chair thanked Mr Childs for his presentation

54 Shropshire's Economic Growth Strategy

54.1 Members received a presentation (copy attached to the signed minutes) from Matt Potts, Business Growth and Investment Manager, Shropshire Council which gave an update on the Council's Economic Growth Strategy. He advised the meeting that the aims of the strategy were to support and grow new and existing businesses, attract inward investment and develop and retain talent and skills and that by 2021, the Council was aiming for 12% growth, 3,700 new jobs, £300 million private sector investment and 1,375 new homes per year

54.2 The Chairman asked how 12% growth would be achieved. The Business Growth and Investment Manager advised that the growth would come from a number of areas and that growth in a number of sectors was key to achieving this target.

54.3 The Chairman asked whether relief from commercial rates could be used to encourage investment. The Business Growth and Investment Manager commented that it was one of a number of things that were being considered as part of a toolkit.

54.5 in response to a question the Business Growth and Investment Manager advised that work was ongoing within the local plan review to identify key employment sites.

54.5 The Chairman thanked the Business Growth and Investment Manager for his presentation

55 **Agriculture Bill**

- 55.1 The Chairman gave an update on the Agriculture Bill that was currently going through Parliament. He advised the meeting that the bill was in committee stage and that the Bill Committee had asked for written submissions of evidence.
- 55.2 The Chairman advised that it was proposed that rural development would be split between DEFRA and the Department for Business and that it was thought further delivery would be through the LEPs
- 55.3 Mr Tavernor commented that there was still a lot of detail missing from the bill.
- 55.4 It was agreed that the Board should make a submission to the Call for Evidence and that the Chair a small group would formulate this

56 **ADEPT National meeting feedback**

- 56.1 The Mapping and Enforcement Manager updated Members on a meeting of the PROW group of Adept that she had recently attended. She advised that the following had been discussed:
- Deregulation Bill – would be coming forward in summer 2019. The working group would be meeting in November to discuss this further
 - PINS were currently updating their guidance leaflets
 - Network Rail – The new regional MOUs were now in place.
 - Highways England representative was to be invited to the next meeting of the group

57 **Updates from Members**

- 57.1 There were no updated from Members

58 **Other Items**

58.1 Walking for Health

The Outdoor Partnerships Manager advised that work was ongoing with volunteers to make the groups more self-sustainable. She informed members that a letter had been sent to the Director of Public Health regarding future funding, and that she had been advised the funding from the public health budget would cease in 2020, and that she was currently investigate other sources of funding.

58.2 Wild Teams

The Outdoor Partnerships Manager commented that she was currently working with health partners to source funding for the Wild Teams scheme, and that she was working with health partners to formulate a lottery bid for funding to evaluate the benefit of the scheme. She added that the new mental health director for the CCG was keen to see the scheme continue.

58.3 ROW User Leaflet

Members thanked Shona for her work in updating the leaflet.

58.4 Members noted the minutes of the Shropshire Riding and Carriage Driving Forum

59 **Agenda Items for Future Meetings**

59.1 Members were asked to feed suggestions for future agenda items to the Outdoor Partnerships Manager

60 **Date of Next Meeting**

60.1 Members were reminded that the next meeting of the Shropshire's Great Outdoors Strategy Board would be held on Thursday 7 February 2019 at 10.00am

Signed (Chairman)

Date: