



Minutes of meeting held on 23 April 2024 in Borough Hall commencing at 6:30pm

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Members present:	Apologies received:
Bob Wallace (BW) – Chair of the meeting David Mitchell (DM) Ann Kennedy (AK) Nigel Jacobs (NJ) Mark Poxton (MP) James Russell (JR) Barry Ingram (BI) Cllr Martin Towler (MT)	Andrew Prigmore (AP)
In attendance/Observers:	
April Quinn – Bedford Borough Council Charley Harley – Member of the public	
Clerk: Georgina McDade	

1.	<u>Welcome by Chairman</u> The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Minutes from January were agreed and signed. Apologies received as above.
2.	<u>Governance</u> It was agreed that the re-election of members and posts would take place every April. The Chair will sit for 3 years. All members agreed that Bob should continue as chair. He advised he would be stepping down next year. All members agreed that AK and JR would continue as joint vice chairs. Charley Harley will become a full member moving forward.

3.	<p><u>Funded Opportunities</u></p> <p>a) UK Shared Prosperity Fund</p> <p>Discussion with Ann Pape via TEAMS.</p> <p>It was agreed that maps should be in a digital format so they can be downloaded making them more accessible to a wider audience including younger generation.</p> <p>Ann confirmed that the funding for this project is available until March 2025 and the funds form part of the “levelling up” funds from central government.</p> <p>It was agreed that the target length of routes should be between 2-5 miles. Filters such as lengths, parking facilities may be considered. The first routes should focus on deprived areas and new developments.</p> <p>It was agreed that the next steps will be shortlisting routes. Routes should include open accessible green space, off road alleyways and through parks.</p> <p>Suggested routes;-</p> <p>Hill Rise (by nature reserve) Eastcotts (Harrowden Road) Wixams Great Denham</p> <p>Ann will forward her shortlist routes by end of May for members to investigate.</p> <p>b) Active Rural Grant</p> <p>No discussion.</p>
4.	<p>Update on; a) LCWIP status b) NCN51 status</p> <p>Items forwarded to next meeting as Peter Simons and AP unavailable.</p> <p>Members requested a written update regarding the LCWIP as soon as possible.</p>
5.	<p>ROWIP Notts CC - Barriers on Rights of Way Countryside and Access Team updates; Status of current cases</p> <p>Members expressed that they were pleased with the progress on all issues with regards to the ROWIP and the maintenance provided by the Council, especially considering the resources available.</p> <p>BW asked to be updated with regards to Parish SVC.</p>

	<p>General consensus from members is that barriers/limitations are rarely successful preventing 100% criminal activities on RoW. It was agreed that the flow chart provided as part of the draft policy was helpful. AK suggested there should be a consultation on limitations and any limitations should be maintained by a landowner up to British standards and its status reviewed periodically.</p> <p>Members will submit written comments by the end of May.</p> <p>DMMO and PPO updates were provided.</p> <p>Members discussed claiming costs against frequent objectors.</p>
6.	<p><u>Volunteering</u></p> <p>The Volunteers working both with Barry and the North Beds & Ivel Valley Ramblers were thanked for their contributions of improving the network for users. The work is appreciated and valued.</p> <p>Volunteering updates circulated.</p> <p>BI to send electronic copies to the secretary for circulation.</p> <p>Members discussed the Borough Boundary Walk and logos.</p> <p>BI to send electronic copy of the Boundary map and logos to the secretary for circulation.</p> <p>The members requested the Mayor's opinion and views on progressing the walk further.</p>
7.	<p><u>Meetings Attended</u></p> <p>N/A</p>
8.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>A feasibility fund has been allocated by National Highways to assess legacy PROW routes around the Black Cat development.</p>
9.	<p><u>Next LAF Meeting</u></p> <p>Next Meeting dates:</p> <p>July 23 2024</p>

Signed



Dated 23 July 2024