



## Minutes of meeting held on 23 January 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	Barry Ingram (BI) Cllr Martin Towler (MT)
In attendance/Observers:	
Andrew Prigmore - Bedford Borough Council April Quinn – Bedford Borough Council Charley Harley – Member of the public	
Clerk: April Quinn	

1.	<b><u>Welcome by Chairman</u></b>  The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.  Minutes from October were amended to advise that the QR code on Herts infrastructure does take you to an official Herts website. However scam QR codes are often overlaid on the infrastructure  The minutes were agreed and signed.  <b>Solar Farm - East Park Energy Proposal Planning Application</b> LAF Letter sent regarding the solar development in North Beds
2.	<b><u>Apologies</u></b>  As above.
3.	<b><u>Agenda and Review</u></b>  a) UK Shared Prosperity Fund

	<p>Anne Pape attended the meeting via TEAMS</p> <p>Money has been allocated to promoted circular walks in the Borough to encourage residents to walk and explore the environment where they live.</p> <p>Routes can incorporate PROW, open green space and green links through and around new conurbations, villages and Bedford urban fringes</p> <p>It was agreed that members will collate and consider strategic routes and interlinking routes to advise the Council.</p> <p><b>b) LCWIP (Local Cycling &amp; Walking Infrastructure Plans)</b> Update requested from the Transport Policy Team.</p> <p><b>c) NCN51 Kempston to Wootton Status</b> The design work has commenced. Badger setts have been discovered</p> <p><b>d) Borough Boundary Walk</b> An update was requested for the next meeting</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b><u>ROWIP (Rights of Way Improvement Plan)</u></b></p> <p>The ROWIP will be sent out to consultation within the next few months</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b><u>Countryside and Public Access Team Update</u></b></p> <p>An update on staff members and responsibilities was provided.</p> <p>DMMO and PPO updates were provided</p> <p>The OSS object to most if not all PPO's written by the Council. The Council will continue to submit orders to the Secretary of State for determination. Currently the PPO's that have received objections from the OSS representative and the previous OSS representative that have been determined in favour of the Council is 6 confirmed orders</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b><u>Volunteering</u></b></p> <p>The Volunteers working both with Barry and the North Beds Ramblers &amp; Ivel Valley Walkers were thanked for their contributions of improving the network for users. The work is appreciated and valued.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b><u>Meetings Attended</u></b></p> <p>Natural England assist and help LAF members. A future platform to replace the previous Huddle is being implemented</p>

8.	<p><b><u>Let's Go Website</u></b></p> <p>There are over 60 walks promoted on the Lets Go Website. There is funding for the page for the next 10 years.</p>
9.	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <p><b>a) East West Rail</b></p> <p>There are no updates to report..</p> <p><b>b) Planning – 2040 Plan/SPD South of Bedford Borough</b></p> <p>A Green and Blue infrastructure plan meeting has taken place to collect ideas and consider options.</p> <p><b>c) Reporting procedures for ROW issues</b></p> <p>Any issues arising on a PROW should be logged on the Borough Council Website, via the Rights of Way page by clicking the 'Report a problem on a public right of way' link.</p> <p><b>d) Rural Payments Agency &amp; Environmental Land Management Scheme</b></p> <p>Post Brexit there is no longer funding provided for cross compliance via the RPA. ELMS is the new replacement initiative bringing forward open access and nature protection.</p> <p><b>e) Byway Damage and Opening</b></p> <p>The byways damaged by illegal use remain closed. The costs of repairs and the damage caused to green byways lanes is extensive by motorised vehicles.</p> <p>There is an organisation campaigning to remove all 4 x 4 drives and motorcycles from the network. The organisation is GLEAM: <a href="http://www.gleam-uk.org/">http://www.gleam-uk.org/</a></p>
9.	<p><b><u>Next LAF Meeting</u></b></p> <p>Next Meeting dates:</p> <p>April 23 2024 July 23 2024</p> <p>Invitation requests sent to members 25/1/24 via email</p>

Signed



Dated 23 April 2024