



Minutes

Meeting held on 29 October 2024 at 18.30 at Borough Hall.

Members present:

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)

In attendance/Observers:

April Quinn – Bedford Borough Council
Andrew Prigmore – Bedford Borough Council

Apologies received:

Charley Harley
Cllr Martin Towler

Clerk:

Georgina McDade

1. Welcome by the Chairman

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes from July were agreed and signed.

Apologies received as above.

2. Funded Opportunities

- a. UK shared Prosperity Fund**
- b. Active Rural Grant**

Discussion with Anne Pape via TEAMS

All members support the routes that have been prepared.

Proposed walks agreed by members.

AnP confirmed that the print room are drawing up the relevant tags and waymarkers.

Leaflets will be produced and relevant info will be uploaded on to the Council website.

AnP confirmed that as the project is an ongoing project, more walks can be added, but final routes must be agreed by the end of Feb 2025.

Update to be provided for January 2025 meeting.

AnP confirmed that some payments from the Active Rural Grant had been made. Great Barford have received a grant to resurfacing.

BBC are submitting 4 schemes for consideration.
AnP confirmed the funding ceases in March 2025

LAF member to provide suggestions for future schemes ie routes to be improved/upgraded/new routes to be added to DMS for when future money becomes available.

3. LCWIP & NCN51

Statement from Peter Simons;

“Aspects of mapping and survey methods discussed with local stakeholders. Software being procured, which will allow people to place notes on a live online map. It is hoped this will be ready mid-November. LAF will be notified accordingly”.

AP confirmed NCN51 is progressing.
Design work has commenced and route has been agreed.

B&MKWT are looking to route the waterway on a similar line to NCN51. The aim is for the waterway to reach Wootton from Bedford when funding is available.

LAF agreed this will be an ongoing agenda item.

4. ROWIP & Case updates

Members approved draft ROWIP 2025 – 2030

All closures of ROW are shown and updated on the website on a regular basis:
<https://www.bedford.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-travel/public-rights-way/current-temporary-rights-way-closures>

Updates of extended closures will be produced

5. East Energy Park

AK will provide final draft of response on behalf of LAF. Members to send any additional comments to AK. Final response will be sent by Secretary.

6. Volunteering & Boundary Walk

Up to date volunteering list circulated to members prior to meeting. The Volunteers have carried out over 50 tasks within the Borough in 2024

SSSI site in Pavenham to be added to next agenda.

No update re Boundary Walk.

7. Meetings Attended

A428 – National Highways are continuing with the feasibility study.

AQ & AK raised concerns that the project is moving away from the original plan, which was to establish a riverside route linking communities. Members agreed that AK to take lead on behalf of LAF. To be added as agenda item for next meeting. AK to draft response letter on behalf of LAF

Regional LAF- Minutes circulated to members prior to meeting

PROW in Stewartby to be reviewed at a later date

AOB

Water Buffalo are being investigated by Health & Safety Executive. The animals have been classed as domesticated beasts and are beyond the legislation applicable for rights of way.

AK requested agenda items for next meeting; Structures & barriers, Prior approval of change of any surface on a RoW

Meeting concluded 21.05

Signed:



Dated: 18/03/25