



# Minutes

**Meeting held on 02 September 2025 at 18.30 at Borough Hall.**

## **Members present:**

Ann Kennedy (AK) – Chair of the meeting  
Bob Wallace (BW)  
James Russell (JR)  
David Mitchell (DM)  
Nigel Jacobs (NJ)  
Barry Ingram (BI)  
Cllr Martin Towler (MT)

## **Speaker:**

Simon Clewloe (Bedford & MK Waterways Trust)

## **In attendance/Observers:**

April Quinn – Bedford Borough Council  
Andrew Prigmore – Bedford Borough Council (left meeting at 19.10pm)  
Vicky Barrett – Member of the public

## **Apologies received:**

Mark Poxton

## **Clerk:**

Andrea Niblett

## **1. Welcome by Chairman/Apologies for Absence**

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Brief introductions were given by all attendees. Apologies received as above.

Minutes from June were agreed and signed.

There were no matters arising.

## **2. Ouse Valley Way**

The representative from Great Ouse Valley Trust was not in attendance.

No discussion.

## **3. Waterways**

Presentation by Simon Clewloe on the ongoing B&MK Canal project.

Members agreed that in view of the project's potential for improved access opportunities, the LAF should support the proposal and promote its development.

**Action – Presentation slides to be circulated to members for further reading.**

#### **4. Local Transport Plan**

Online survey now closed.

#### **5. EWR**

Awaiting further updates since the latest consultation. Ongoing agenda item.

#### **6. Universal**

AK confirmed the LAF consultation response letter had been submitted.

More information on routes to and from the resort site to support active travel for visitors and staff is required.

Members discussed/ and it was agreed that a collaborated and firm approach would be necessary to push forward ROW and active travel routes around and connecting to the Universal site.

Members agreed that Universal will be a running agenda item.

#### **7. Network**

AQ provided an update on network improvement works carried out over the summer.

AK confirmed that Bridleway improvements were shared with the horse-riding community.

#### **8. Break**

#### **9. Countryside & Public Access Team Case updates**

AQ provided a DMMO and PPO update.

BI said he would like to suggest a couple of “dead end paths” for the team to investigate. AQ requested the details be passed on to her.

#### **10. Volunteering**

List of volunteering work carried out (Jan to date) was circulated to members during meeting.

BI to meet with AQ to discuss the Vols capacity to take on a greater number of regular tasks which they are keen to do.

## **11. Membership**

AK confirmed that adverts have been placed on the council's intranet and emailed to PCs.

The next step would be to email universities and possibly also doctors surgeries.

Other suggestions discussed: BBC Comms Team to include in a public 'Whats On' publication and printed flyers to display on public notice boards at Libraries and Marston Vale Forest Centre.

**Action – AK to investigate.**

## **12. Updates**

**Boundary Walk** – Currently no progress. Awaiting confirmation that funding will become available for this project.

**NCN51** – No update

**LCWIP** – Consultation closed end of August. Awaiting details of Stakeholders consultation.

## **13. AOB**

### **Queens Bridge**

Closed for safety reasons.

### **Reporting issues on ROW**

Paths that become overgrown and require vegetation clearance, and all other network issues need to be flagged via the council website 'report a problem' online system to ensure that the problems are recorded and dealt with correctly.

Agenda items for next meeting; LCWIP and Green Space issues, Ouse Valley Way and ROWIP update (Spring meeting Agenda item).

Next meeting date confirmed for 02 December 2025.

Meeting concluded at 20.50.

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a horizontal line.

**Date: 02 December 2025**