



# Minutes

**Meeting held on 10 March 2026 at 18.30 at Borough Hall.**

## **Members present:**

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

## **Speakers:**

Will Ryan - East West Rail (EWR)  
Amir Farooq (EWR)  
Lucy Millier (EWR)  
Paula Cuthbertson (EWR)

## **In attendance/Observers:**

Andrew Prigmore – Bedford Borough Council (BBC)  
April Quinn – BBC  
Peter Simons – BBC  
Harriet Falconer -BBC  
Clare Gregory - National Farmers Union  
Sarah Owen – Member of public  
Chris Evans – Member of public  
Adam Newland - Member of public  
Wayne Bradds – Member of public

## **Apologies received:**

Cllr Nicola Gribble  
Mark Poxton

## **Clerk:**

Andrea Niblett

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

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including members of the public in attendance and invited any that were interested in applying to join BOBLAF following the meeting to contact her or the Secretary. Harriet Falconer was introduced as new RoW Inspector.

Brief introductions were given by all attendees.

Apologies received as above.

Minutes from December were agreed and signed.

There were no matters arising.

## **2. EWR**

Presentation by Will Ryan, Amir Farooq, Paula Cuthbertson and Lucy Millier on the proposed East West Rail Oxford to Cambridge rail connection.

A statutory public consultation with updated designs and more information on Active Travel and PRow will be announced imminently.

Presentation was followed by Q+A session and discussion.

Members requested that Bedford Borough Rights Of Way Team should be included in all future EWR communications with the council.

## **3. Local Transport Plan / LCWIP**

Peter Simons provided a brief update, informing members that a new, online Walking Wheeling and Cycling Infrastructure Plan ('WWCIP') Survey has been circulated to local stakeholders.

It was agreed that LAF members should submit individual responses to the survey as feedback is required before the 24 March.

**ACTION : BOBLAF Secretary to circulate WWCIP email and online survey link to all members.**

## **4. Ouse Valley & Little Barford Village**

**AK** advised that she had attended a Little Barford public information meeting last week. The development aims to provide 125 hectares of outdoor public space. There will be opportunity in May to view latest design plans as part of the planning process.

## **5. East Park Energy**

**AK** highlighted that the proposed solar farm development will have a significant impact on PRow with many paths affected.

**AK, AQ & BI to collaborate ideas for PRow improvements across the development site and beyond the RLP of the site with an aim to achieve substantial enhancement to network connectivity.**

**AK** to attend preliminary meeting on 17 March and will raise concerns regarding the visual and overall impacts to PRow users at channelled corridor sections of the design layout.

**BW** thanked **AK** for her continued commitment and representation on behalf of the LAF.

## **6. Universal**

Currently in period of judicial review, following SDO coming into force in January 2026.

## **7. Planning Applications Review**

### **- South of Wixams**

**AQ** advised that outline planning permission had been refused by council planners.

### **- Gibraltar Corner**

Request for environmental screening opinion submitted – no further update at present.

RoW team will advise LAF if/when new applications are submitted.

**AK** asked members for suggestions on how the LAF can best support RoW team with responses to the larger planning applications.

Following a short discussion, it was agreed that Members should circulate any suggestions for a full discussion and resolution at the next meeting.

## **8. Countryside and Public Access Team Update**

Covered earlier in meeting.

## **9. Volunteering**

**BI** advised that clearance work has recently been carried out in Lower Dean and Turvey. Members thanked **BI** and **RIPPLE** volunteers for the work they do to improve the network for users.

## **10. The Economic Health and Social Value of Outdoor Recreation Report**

No discussion at this meeting due to time constraints.

## **11. NCN51 / Boundary Walk Update**

NCN51 - No discussion

Boundary Walk - Project on hold as funding needed for waymarker signage.

MT Suggested that a request for contribution from Members Ward Funding could be made in new financial year.

**ACTION: MT to speak to councillors to rally interest.**

## 12. AOB

- **Regional LAF Meeting on 15 July 2026**

AQ to attend in absence of LAF member availability.

- **Bedford Park and Ride**

BI asked if Park & Ride facility could be reinstated and considered as viable Active Travel option.

AP advised that Park & Ride is still in use. Not aware of any plans to change timetable and bus frequency at present.

- **ROWIP Review**

No discussion at this meeting due to time constraints.

**ACTION: BoBLAF Secretary to circulate website link to ROWIP document.**

RoW Team to provide ROWIP update for next meeting.

Recurring agenda items, EWR, Walking Wheeling Cycling Infrastructure Plan, East Park Energy, Little Barford, Countryside and Access Team update, Universal and Planning Matters

Next meeting date confirmed for 02 June 2026.

Meeting concluded at 21.10.

Signed: 

Date: 02/06/26