



Minutes of meeting held on 25th April 2023 in Borough Hall commencing at 6:30pm

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| Members present: | Apologies received: |
| Bob Wallace – Chair of the meeting David Mitchell James Russell Barry Ingram Nigel Jacobs | Cllr Royden Ann Kennedy |
| In attendance/Observers: | |
| Andrew Prigmore - Bedford Borough Council April Quinn – Bedford Borough Council Mark Poxton - Member of the public | |
| Clerk: Andrea Niblett | |

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| 1. | <u>Welcome by Chairman</u> The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially to Mark Poxton who was attending his first meeting. Minutes from the September 27 th 2022 were agreed and signed. |
| 2. | <u>Apologies</u> As above. |
| 3. | <u>Item 2 - Governance</u> Election of Chair and Vice Chair for 2023/24 Bob Wallace was re-elected as Chairman for the next year - proposed by James Russell and seconded by Nigel Jacobs. Ann Kennedy and James Russell were re-elected as joint Vice Chairs for the next year - proposed by Nigel Jacobs and seconded by Bob Wallace. |

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| | <p>Reports and papers for meetings</p> <p>It was agreed that, where possible, future Agendas and accompanying papers should be available to view on the Borough website 2 weeks prior to meetings. Members should provide Agenda items prior to the publication of the agenda online. It was requested that reports and papers for circulation to members relating to items on the Agenda be distributed in one email rather than in several individual emails.</p> |
| 4. | <p><u>Item 3 – Green wheel</u></p> <p>Greenwheel and cycling update</p> <p>Andy advised members that Yo Highton no longer works for the Borough Council. There are no plans currently for a replacement. This area of work is managed by Transport Policy Infrastructure and HDC.</p> <p>NCN51</p> <p>Following email discussions between the BoBLAF, National Highways and the Borough, Andy advised that funding for this project had been withdrawn by National Highways. However, because of these discussions and the clarification of the National Highways position, Andy stated he was now able to take the Kempston to Wootton section forward using available S106 funds and had initiated drawings etc. The Chair welcomed this progress and stated that progress would be monitored at subsequent meetings. Andy added that there are no plans currently to extend the route from Wootton to the Forest Centre. It was agreed that the BoBLAF would wait until the Kempston to Wootton link was nearing completion and then consider who could be approached to fund this route to Marston.</p> <p>New routes</p> <p>Members agreed that the priority for the BoBLAF is to focus on the provision for better access and links around Bedford and all routes considered should be for multi-users.</p> <p>Suggested routes linking the A600 to A6; Wixams; and Kempston to Wootton were discussed, the challenges faced with new links often relate to landownership and constructed roads.</p> <p>South of Bedford Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)</p> <p>James agreed to contact BBC and CBC Planning departments to ensure that the BoBLAF is included on their list of consultees.</p> <p>It was requested that the BoBLAF be added as consultees to all Bedford Borough planning policy consultations: COMPLETE</p> <p>Bedford Local Plan Examination</p> <p>It was agreed that the BoBLAF should make a response to Bedford Borough's Local Plan Examination regarding Matter 5 'Spatial Strategy and distribution of growth'. Nigel agreed to lead on this and the BoBLAF Secretary would submit the response. COMPLETE</p> |

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| 5. | <p><u>Item 4 – LCWIP (Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plans)</u></p> <p>Andy said that he would speak to Transport Policy and provide an update for the next meeting</p> <p>It was noted that work to provide improved links in Sharnbrook and Clapham was progressing. It was noted that BoBLAF support is beneficial to all projects within the Borough.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Cycle Route Green Wheel map together with Barry's 'List of ideas' should be circulated to members for consideration so that proposals can be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>For ease of reference, website link to the Cycle Route Green Wheel information has been emailed to members.</p> |
| 6. | <p><u>Item 5 - Landowner Document</u></p> <p>Members agreed that they were happy with the latest draft document wording. It was suggested that the image of a 'waymarker' on the page headed 'Ropes across Public Rights of Way' should be replaced with new photo supplied by Barry</p> <p><u>Action - AN to add new waymarker image to document.</u></p> |
| 7. | <p><u>Item 6 – ROWIP (Rights of Way Improvement Plan)</u></p> <p>Members were thanked for their contributions to this consultation. Additional comments made were -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) With reference to the new 5 Year plan format. It was agreed that items should be reviewed and sorted by relevance with priorities. b) It was suggested that general day to day functions of the council be retained and reviewed but the BoBLAF would focus on the improvements when reviewing the RoWIP c) Successes and achievements should be highlighted in newsletters for circulation to Parish Councils, Council Members and others. <p>The subject of whether volunteers (if able) would be allowed to carry out minor bridge work. Andy was in agreement subject to the provision of training / protective equipment and insurances.</p> <p>Andy confirmed that enforcement action was and had been taken against landowners who did not look after PRow on their land according to Borough's policies.</p> <p><u>Action – Review plan highlighting improvements – Review draft before next meeting.</u></p> |
| 8. | <p><u>Item 7 – Relevant matters</u></p> <p>Excluded Area update</p> <p>Andy provided a brief overview of Bedford's Excluded Area. With the recruitment of additional staff work was now underway with pre-order consultations being carried out.</p> <p>Definitive Map</p> <p>It was agreed that the Countryside and Public Access Team would circulate a list of works to be shared with members prior to each BoBLAF meeting.</p> |

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| 9. | <p><u>Item 8 – Volunteering</u></p> <p>Barry circulated an update on the RIPPLE work recently carried out across Bedford Borough.</p> <p>It was agreed that a BoBLAF newsletter (when written) should include volunteering updates as this will be a good way to communicate the valuable work being done to Parish Councils and Ward Councillors. It was agreed that the Countryside and Public Access Team will assist with a newsletter.</p> |
| 9. | <p><u>Item 9 – Meetings attended</u></p> <p>The Chair advised that he had attended the LAF Regional Chairpersons meeting. Minutes of the meeting had been circulated.</p> |
| 10. | <p><u>Item 10 – AOB</u></p> <p>Definitive Map</p> <p>Mark asked if the Borough Council 's Definitive Map could be viewed online, commenting that he had looked at the link to ArcGIS on the Bedford Borough website. Andy confirmed that paper copy of the map is held in Archives but there is no online link to the Definitive Map Statement.</p> <p>Definitive map anomaly</p> <p>Mark highlighted some difficulties he had experienced when looking at Bedford Borough's Definitive Map and suggested a possible new link in Wilden. April would investigate.</p> <p>Waymarkers and RoW signage</p> <p>Mark advised that he does a lot of walking and signage marked with the relevant Footpath/Bridleway number would be useful. He asked if there were any plans for Bedford Borough finger posts or waymarkers to be changed to include this information.</p> <p>Andy advised that finger posts used within the Borough of Bedford are cast iron, that it would be difficult and costly to upgrade and there are no plans to adopt an alternative.</p> |
| 11. | <p><u>Future Agenda Items</u></p> <p>Green Wheel Communication Landowner Document ROWIP</p> |

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| 12. | <u>Close of Meeting</u> The meeting closed at 20.45 Next Meeting dates: Wednesday, 19 th July 2023 - Committee Room 4 (room booking confirmed) Tuesday, 24 th October 2023 - Committee Room 4 (TBC) |
| | <div data-bbox="207 694 303 739">Signed:</div> <div data-bbox="295 649 534 772"></div> <div data-bbox="869 683 949 728">Date:</div> <div data-bbox="957 638 1204 750">18/6/2023</div> |

