

**MINUTES OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING
10 JULY 2024**

HELD AT THE COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE, WORCESTER

Attendees

Lyndon Bracewell (LB)	Cycling Interest
Gordon Bunker (GB)	Motorised use of minor highways and byways interest
Rowena Lloyd (RL)	Representing Worcestershire County Council PRow
John Cuthbertson (JC)	Social inclusion interest
Julian Grubb (JG)	Waterways Interest
Bobbie Matulja (BM)	Chair
Linda Robinson (LR)	Councillor Interest (Southern District Councils)
John Jeffrey (JJ)	Parish Interest
Robin Drew (RD)	Councillor Interest (Northern District Councils)

ITEMS

1. Apologies

Georgina Britten-Long (GBL)	Landowner Interest
Peter Hughes (PH)	Business interest
Tony Kerbey (TK)	Secretary
Stephen Glazzard (SG)	Motorised use of minor highways and byways interest
Glyn Thomas (GT)	Walking Interest
Sandra Starkey (SS)	Youth Interest

2. Declaration of Interests

The Chair asked members to declare any personal or business interest in the agenda items.
LB – trustee of Wildlife Trust declared

3. Confirmation of Minutes.

The Chair asked members to confirm the minutes of the previous meeting 14 February 2024 –
carried.

4. Actions.

No outstanding actions related to the last full meeting

Actions from the LAF sub Group

RL and PC agreed to pass on the LAF's concerns regarding absences in Volunteer Coordination and Enforcement posts up to WCC management chain – RL advised Volunteer Coordinator post being

advertised currently and Enforcement post awaiting final confirmation to advertise.

BM to write draft response to Malvern Hills Trust Parliamentary Bill consultation – complete

TK to submit the final LAF report 23/24 to NE - complete

5. Matters Arising

- **Ratify response to MH Trust Parliamentary Bill Consultation.** – approval and seconded by JJ and LR. The response has been ratified and BM has provided a copy for TK to send to consultation
- **New elected member for northern district councils nominated – Cllr Robin Drew, Wyre Forest.** – RD Welcomed
- **Re-election of Chair, Bobbie Matulja.** – BM only candidate to stand proposed by JJ and seconded by LR. LAF re-elects BM for new term
- **Vacancy in Vice-Chair position**– The Chair asked for volunteers to cover the Vice-Chair position; none were forthcoming at the meeting. Nominations kept open until post filled.

6. Speakers

External – Rebecca Lashley, Local Nature Recovery Strategy – Overview and consultation. Slides to be distributed with the minutes.

Questions were taken covering:

Planning and biodiversity Gain

LR - What is being done to prevent Net biodiversity gain from planning development being relocated outside the county?

Education of planners

Providing locations for relocation of net gain in the county (LNRS could help with that)

RD – relocation out of County is happening in sites he is aware of in northern areas - making councillors aware so they can try to stop this happening is useful as well.

GB- mentioned important of adoption as policy by the districts of the LNRS to strengthen its powers.

Funding linked to LNRS

RD- What funding is available to help landowners adopt this? – ELMS and possibly other sources

Could PROW be used and identified as nature corridors in the document? -LB

Yes possibly

BM- Is there a conflict between PROW and wildlife? – in some locations this would need

careful management

Parish council nature sites/identification

RD- Wolverley and Cookley parish council have 2 nature sites they are in the process of development could these be added to the map – RLashley would be happy to hear and have discussions with any PC with such areas.

LR/RD – Would be happy to help ensure that councillors in their area were aware they can declare such areas.

RLashley – Will be in contact with them soon

External (via MS Teams) – Sharon Bayne, RoWIP Development Consultant – Overview and approach. Slides to be distributed with the minutes.

Questions were taken covering:

RD- Asked about the use of Lengths men for strimming purposes – RL to refer question to PC of Operations team

GB- How will introduction of the Deregulation act secondary legislation affect the ROWIP?
It is not anticipated it will have a great effect, but it will need to be considered.

BM – How will the consultation with the LAF be happening? Are extra meetings still going to happen?

Yes, but exactly how has not been decided yet

7. Public Rights of Way Team Report

Report presented by RL.

Questions were taken covering:

GB- Question about what is happening with Old Bridge Powick – Following the meeting RL checked the location and this is an issue being dealt with by Highways rather than PROW.

8. Feedback from the Active Travel Stakeholder Working Group - JC & LB no meetings have happened since last update.

9. Items for Noting

- Brief update on the WBL Greenway Project.

The feasibility study for the Worcestershire section, funded by Worcestershire Council, demonstrated a very favourable benefit-cost ration of 6.4:1. We are now working out how best to work with the landowners to secure the necessary access. In this we have been much encouraged by the progress made by the Two Shires Greenway project round Alcester. We have also joined the Worcestershire Active Travel Group and we look forward to contributing to their work.

Tom Fisher

Chair, Worcester Bromyard Leominster Greenway

10. Topics for Future Meetings

- De-Regulation Act and impact on PRoW
- BHS Gates Trial Results
- West Midlands Circular Walk
- NT 7 Hills Regional Park Project

11. Any Other Business

LB- Update on Rail Trail project

Leaflets are now available and include links to the online routes and downloadable maps. 125 miles of walks

11. Date of Next Meeting

In accordance with the rolling programme, the next meetings are proposed for:

- LAF Main Meeting – Jan/Feb 2025 date TBC.
- Extraordinary RoWIP Sub-group –date TBC (dependent on RoWIP development schedule).
- Sub-group April/May 2025 – date TBC.