

Item No.	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>LOCAL ACCESS FORUM</u> <u>Thursday 12th Nov 2015, 7pm</u> <u>Shire Hall Warwickshire County Council</u></p>	<u>Action</u>
1.	<p>Present: Claire Sangster, Roger Stone, Mike Murray, Gina Rowe, John Hall, Robin Hickin, Vaughan Owen, Perminder Balu, Pat Barber, Steven Wallsgrove, David McCann</p> <p>Apologies: Joe Carroll, Sheila Cooper, Dave Allen, Michael Orlik,</p> <p>Members of the Public: Richard Lloyd, Michael Bird (Warks Ramblers)</p> <p>Officers in Attendance: Dave Keaney (SMBC), Keith Davenport (WCC), Marion Borman (WCC), Lex Le Marinel (CCC), Andrew Reynolds (SMBC)</p> <p>Notes: Louise Richards (WCC)</p>	
2.	<p>Notes from the Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights of Way – The target timetable for the whole rights of way reforms package to be brought into effect is April 2016 	
3.	<p>Notes from the LAF Co-ordinator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Expenses to be completed and returned, 2014 – 2015 • Information received from or any requests for information from Natural England to be circulated to the LAF for individual responses 	All LR
4.	<p>Notes from meeting on 2nd July 2015</p> <p>Corrections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Bird (Ramblers) be recorded as a visitor rather than an officer in attendance • Phil Nichols (WC Access Bridleway officer) to be contacted to join the LAF <p>All actions had been progressed.</p>	LR LR
5.	<p>Countryside Stewardship Scheme - Pat Barber</p> <p>Access element of CSS is now much more limited than previous schemes, and we can only offer Educational Access, including Care Farming projects, and limited capital items such as gates and stiles, which would only be where there are other key scheme objectives being met, not just as stand-alone items.</p>	

Regarding expiry of old agreements with access routes (footpaths and bridleways), our advisers are discussing the possibility of keeping access routes open but of course this is asking landowners to do so without any further payment once their agreement expires, so continuation may be limited. We cannot enforce that they do this, only encourage them.

The text below is a little more detail about the new Countryside Stewardship Scheme.

Countryside Stewardship

The main priority for Countryside Stewardship is to protect and enhance the natural environment, in particular the diversity of wildlife (biodiversity) and water quality. Other outcomes include:

- flood management;
- the historic environment;
- landscape character;
- genetic conservation; and
- educational access.

There are three main elements within Countryside Stewardship:

- Mid Tier: multi-year agreements for environmental improvements in the wider countryside, including multi-year management options and capital grants;
- Higher Tier: multi-year agreements for environmentally significant sites, commons and woodlands where more complex management requires support from Natural England or the Forestry Commission, including management options and capital grants; and
- Capital grants: a range of 1 to 2 year grants for hedgerows and boundaries, improving water quality, developing implementation plans, feasibility studies, woodland creation (establishment), woodland improvement and tree health.

Multi-year – can be 5 or 10 years on certain options.


The scheme also provides support for organic conversion and management and access to a facilitation fund.

Unlike previous rural development schemes, applications for most elements of Countryside Stewardship are competitive, which means that applications will be scored against criteria, and that not everyone who applies will be successful. Targeting and scoring will encourage applicants to choose options that help achieve the environmental priorities in their local area.

The Countryside Stewardship (CS) facilitation fund supports people and organisations that bring farmers, foresters, and

	<p>other land managers together to improve the local natural environment at a landscape scale. This landscape scale approach can cover land under existing agri-environment and forestry/woodland agreements, common land and land not currently covered by a scheme. It builds on the principles of partnership working to deliver environmental benefits, as demonstrated by various initiatives, including farm clusters and the farmer-led Nature Improvement Area. Funding will be awarded to successful applications through a competitive process. Priority will be given to approaches which show partnership and a collective approach across holdings to deliver shared environmental outcomes that go beyond what could be delivered by individual holdings acting in isolation.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Rambler Rep Report – Big Path Watch Update</p> <p>Overall update – 12,500 people signed up, 68% new members, 45 squares surveyed, which is 26% of total area.</p> <p>WCC - Update</p> <p>Positive features = 632 Problem features = 1156</p> <p>Outstanding issues from October 2010 = 2050</p> <p>April/March 2014/15 issues Logged 1079, issues resolved 767</p> <p>In addition the LAF might like to see the works carried out by the team.</p> <p>Public Path Orders Confirmed over the last 12 months = 15 Definitive Map is going live on line to the public.</p> <p>On line Fault reporting tool is being procured to that fits onto the current database.</p> <p>Major Bridge Inspection Programme has started. Total number to be inspected = 475 Minor bridges (structures maintained by ROW) = 973</p> <p>Volunteer Hours 2014 - 2015 = 3376 April - June 2015 = 879 July - Sept 2015 = 1051.5</p> <p>42 volunteer groups now of which 6 are rambler groups</p> <p>Bridges</p>	

	<p>Wasperton W101 5m (Aug) Lapworth SL41 7m (Aug) Lapworth SL34 7m (Sep) Fillongley M361 7m (Apr) Morton Bagot AL110 7m (Jul) Oldberrow AL161 (May) Bedworth B11 7m (Aug) Snitterfield SD140 5m bridlebridge (30 Oct 15)</p> <p>Major Vegetation Clearances done by Volunteers. Hampton Lucy SD133 Bridleway Newton Regis T131 Nuneaton N29 bridleway Bentley AE123 Grendon AE35</p> <p>Other</p> <p>Shotteswell SM183 steps installed Middleton T15 Erosion of River bank re-instated.</p> <p>ACTION: CCC and SMBC to provide a similar update</p>	LM/DK
7.	<p>HS2 Update – David McCann</p> <p>General update on Select Committee. The Select Committee will finish hearing Country South petitioners in November 2015. They will then hear Euston and Camden petitioners in December 2015 before moving onto the remaining AP2 and the AP4 petitioners in January 2016. Some Country North AP2 petitioners will be heard in week commencing 16th November, the remainder in January 2016. The Select Committee will then prepare and issue its final report for debate at the Third Reading. The Bill will then be passed to the House of Lords for consideration before the House of Lords petitioning period commences, possibly in March 2016. HS2Ltd anticipate that the House of Lords select committee process will commence in late March or early April 2016, running until late October or early November 2016. More information will become available at the end of the House of Commons period. The programme for completion of the House of Commons and House of Lords committees is set by both parties not by HS2 Ltd., and the key dates have not yet been made available. Granting of Royal Assent is still expected to be in December 2016.</p>	
8.	<p>UK Central Project (access to the Countryside) Update Andrew Reynolds SMBC</p> <p>Presentation attached</p>	

	 <p>Andrew Reynolds presentation.pdf</p> <p>NB – Comments from the LAF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of the designated green belt area between the residential area and the factory site should be confirmed • Clarification - if the estate owners have been included as part of the discussions or in the consultation phase 	
9.	<p>Feedback from LAF Co-ordinators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ROW – Michael Orlik • Disabled Access Issues – Joe Carroll, has been contacted by Disabled Ramblers Association, possible presentation at a future meeting • Canals & Rivers - Roger Stone 	
10.	<p>Election of Chair & Vice Chair The Forum re-elected Claire Sangster as Chair and Joe Carroll as Vice Chair for a further 12 months period</p>	
11.	<p>Suggested agenda items for next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of Local Street Gazetteer – MB & LM • Disabled Ramblers Association - JC 	
12.	<p>Date and venue for next meetings</p> <p>21st April 2016 7th July 2016 10th Nov 2016</p> <p>Meetings will be held in Committee Room 2, CWCC Offices at Shire Hall, Warwick (7.00pm – 9.00pm). Parking will be available in the car park underneath Barrack Street Office.</p>	