



**Gloucestershire Local Access Forum,
Notes of Meeting
Thursday 23rd February 2023, 1.30pm to 4pm**

Robinswood Hill Country Park, Gloucester

Present: Alison Williamson (Chair), Richard Holmes (Vice-Chair), Charlie Morriss, Jacky German, Sue Ellis, Alan Shelley

Officers in attendance: Nicola Chidley (Principal Public Rights of Way Officer) & Frank Dorrington-Ward (Area Public Rights of Way Officer – South Cotswolds); Suzanne Hopes (Area PROW - North Forest and Gloucester)

Other attendees: Alan Bently (Lunchtime for WCAP update); Meyrick Brentnall GWT;

Apologies: Nic West, Cllr Robert Vines, Cllr Wendy Thomas, Paul Lockley

Members not attending: Katie Jarvis

Item	Topic	Actions
1.	See above	
2.	Declarations of Interest: Alison Williamson stated that she has a professional interest in several Definitive Map cases. CM was working on DMMOs within a few GCC Parishes.	
3.	Meyrick Brentnall of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. MB having been a Town planner and worked on various other projects is now the Severnside Officer for the GWT. His project is to establish the Severnside Nature Park in Gloucester that will include Alney Island and that GLAF have visited on past occasions. From Ebenezer Howard's first designs for Garden Cities and Abercrombie inventing the idea of Greenbelt it has been recognised how important access to greenspace and wildspace is for the health of local inhabitants. The 1949 National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act included further measures to set up and protect Country Parks and Access. With No statutory definition of Nature Park or Eco Park the aims are to encourage biodiversity, improve landscape, enable access and increase the contribution towards climate resilience as well as flood alleviation. The Gloucester Nature Park has been set up by partners including The City Council, Enovert (Landfill) and Severn Trent Water as well as GWT. It is included in the Draft development Plan of the City Council, funded by Severn Trent as well as the UK wide Prosperity Fund (Levelling up) and other capital grants and other partner funding. MB showed us the Opportunity Map of the area including the former landfill, wetland and woodland pastures (grazing with trees) – a vision of how the Nature Park could work to improve access using existing PROW, Severn Way, new permissive paths and guided walks. The Community Payback Team had been helping by clearing the path at Helmsdale Road and replacing stiles with kissing gates. Long term the project is looking to provide biodiversity net gain using the Habitat Regs to achieve carbon offsetting and mitigating the adverse effects of	

	<p>development. In answer to points raised by GLAF members MB assured that the underused little-known paths on Alney would form part of the promotion and marketing for the Eco Park including guided walks, booklets and information boards. The GLAF were invited for a walk in a years' time to see how the project had progressed. That the Brunel bridge was now listed and hence protected from demolition, that the solar and wind energy would assist the financial sustainability of the eco park. GLAF thanks MB and plan to revisit Alney Island in June 2024. The possible availability of having a GWT member on the GLAF was raised. MB would be happy to circulate the map once leaflet was published.</p>	NC NC NC (MB)
4	<p>Notes of last meeting October 20th 2022</p> <p>Approval and amendments</p> <p>3.1 The notes were agreed as correct except addition of 'too' to item 3 regarding radar gate keys availability.</p> <p>3.2 AW signed & dated the corrected notes.</p> <p>Matters Arising</p> <p>3.3 NC to ask Jed at Centrewire about the auto gates LOWRA system no update.</p> <p>3.4 Arrange a future trip of GLAF to Aston Rowant Gate centre</p>	
5	<p>Review of Notices and Consultations received by GLAF</p> <p>It was expressed that the locally based felling licences didn't need to be circulated. Other more general consultations to continue to be circulated.</p>	NC
6	<p>Don't Lose Your Way/ Restoring the Record – Update and review of DMMO Statistics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CM updated GLAF that he had completed the initial cataloguing of Quarter Sessions Order Books which will be extremely useful for the research into lost ways as well as future DMMO. - Thanks, and compliments to Karen in Highway records for her update and for persevering with the archived DMMO applications. - Could we have an update next time on her contact with Oxford re their methodology and whether it could apply in GCC. 	NC (KP)
7a	<p>Access to Old Kemble to Tetbury Railway Line update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update Next Meeting 	
7b	<p>A417 Missing Link and Designated Funds Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Some preparatory works have started on 417 with a few paths affected by archaeology works. A Business partner meeting to be held on 6th April 2023. - Alan Updated the GLAF on the designated Funds project over the lunchtime. There were 36 suggested project sites which were being assessed by the working group and scored. The next step was to identify those that could be progressed to include in detailed design and delivery bid. The feasibility study to be submitted by end of March will feed the bid for next stage. Projected funding over next two years is likely to be in the range of £400k. To include delivery of accessibility and surface improvements, addition of new routes to link up previously severed and include counters and onward monitoring of the success of the projects. 	
8	<p>3 Choirs, Wysis and Gloucestershire Ways (Promoted paths handed to RH).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stakeholder group to manage and monitor the routes. Group - Daniel Hughes, Richard Holmes and Gerry Stewart meeting following week at Maiseymore VH with the Council partners (GCC, MonC, WorcCC. To discuss surveys, how to deal with issues and next steps. - Cicero to republish the Guidebooks 	
9	<p>Rights of Way Improvement Plan Refresh</p>	

Signed.....Chair of GLAF; Dated

February 2023 Update to Members of GLAF
Recent DMMO Statistics: (to 9 Feb 2023)

Total number of 'unresolved' applications:	211
No. of new 'min.14(1) compliant' applications received in 2023 to date	1 (21 in 2021, 35 in 2022)
Number of applications 'resolved' in 2023 to date	0 (11 in 2021, 5 in 2022)
Number of routes added to DM&S by 'other means' in 2023 to date	0 (3 in 2021, 4 in 2022)

("Minimum 14(1) compliant" applications are valid applications in terms of needing determination. They are only described as 'fully 14(2) compliant' once the applicant has confirmed they have served Notice on the landowner via Forms 2 & 3.)

Recent determinations, as at 9 February 2023:

Determinations	1 App on 29 March 22 - decision to make Order for additional FP - objection received. 1 App on 16 May 22 - decision to make Order for additional FP - objection received, but withdrawn. Order now confirmed. 1 App on 4 Oct 22 - decision to make Order for additional RB & FP, Order published and confirmed. 1 App on 14 Dec 22 - as application was superseded by S25 Creation Agreement, DMMO determined not to make additional Order. Now resolved. 1 App on 8 Feb 23 - as application was superseded by a S119 Diversion Order, DMMO determined not to make additional Order. Now in appeal period. 1 App on 8 Feb 23 - decision not to make an Order for BOAT, due to NERC. Now in appeal period.
Next...	(subject to change if late rebutting evidence is submitted) March 2023 - CROW Committee to determine 1 application

Number of all 'undetermined' applications, as at 9 February 2023:

	Undetermined	Undet-Archived	Undet-Non14(2)
No.	50	51	72

("Archived" applications are whereby the intended effect of the application is likely to be nulled by a subsequent change in legislation (for example, the NERC Act); "Non14(2)" applications have not been 'fully made' but are still valid applications in terms of needing determination.)

Number of all unresolved 'determined' applications, as at 9 February 2023:

	Apps at appeal/ publication/ confirmation stage	Apps with unresolved objections	
		Submitted to SoS	Awaiting submission
No.	3	1 - on 30/6/2022 (1- pending in Feb'23)	34

Staffing update

As advised in the October 2022 update, we employed two individuals into the DMMO Team c. August 2022 with the allocated temporary 2-year budget provision. They are both being effective in

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helping the team, and one of the recent determinations indicated above was lead by the new Officer.

Recommendation by GLAF to approach Mike Walker

I have recently spoken to Mike Walker in his current capacity as managing the Definitive Map operations at Oxfordshire County Council, and I am currently collating this and additional information to put to Management. I will advise GLAF further after that is complete.

Karen Brookes Pearman

Asset Data Team Leader (Highway Records & DMMO), Gloucestershire County Council
9 February 2023