





Gloucestershire Local Access Forum

Thursday 22nd February 2024

DRAFT NOTES of meeting held at Shire Hall, Gloucester

Formal Meeting to include a talk on
The Visual Improvement Project
removing pylons from the landscape on the Cotswolds

	Notes	
Item	Topic	Action
1.	Present: Alison Williamson (Chair); Richard Holmes (Vice chair); Charlie Morriss; Paul Lockley; Alan Shelley; Councillor Robert Vines; Councillors Chloe Turner and Beki Hoyland; Nicola Simpson. Prospective Member Chas Townley. Alan Bently (Speaker – Connecting Parishes); Nicola Chidley (GCC Principal PROW Officer); PROW TEAM - Mark Cooper, Kay Moore, Louisa Rankin, Sarah Macaulay Lowe, Frank Dorrington Ward, Tamsin Hyde Public Guests – x1 Apologies for absence: Cllr Wendy Thomas, Sue Ellis, Jacky German,	
2.	Declarations of Interest - no interests declared.	
3.	Talk on Visual Improvement Project by the National Grid (removing pylons from the Cotswolds) by Stuart Fox and Robbie Griggs – Notes attached. Link to website with introductory webinar.	
4.	Notes of meeting on 19 th October 2023 and matters arising not covered in the agenda below. Agreed and signed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (3a) Connecting Parishes – Plaques for sites – these are proposed and final design to be decided. “Improved by GCC & GLAf, Funded by NH” (9) Some further background supplied by CT on the history. With GCC – NC to update when any progress. 	NC NC
5.	Review of Notices and Consultations received by GLAF and Membership.	
6.	Don't Lose Your Way/Restoring the Record <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defra Update suggests that regulations are being drafted and projected for June/July 2024. DMMO Update – thanks to Karen for the update and answering the questions. Please circulate earlier if possible. (Copy attached). This doesn't include PPOs – can the PPOs be added to the DMMO map layer as proposed changes please. Concern regarding 35 Orders with outstanding objections awaiting submission (some being over 30 years old). Radio Glos interviewed Chas Townley and Charlie Morriss re Slad Road DMMO/Restoring the record for a 10 minute slot. UUCR in other authorities eg Hereford and Devon these have been handed to PROW or PROW have been asked to assist. CM has been engaging with Colin Chick (Direct at GCC) re the Redmarley case and the review. 	
7.	Access for people with disabilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Cuthbertson of Disabled Ramblers very helpful. Main concern is removing barriers. He has made a you tube video for walking the Cotswold Way 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Stroud to Stonehouse Old Railway Line is accessible but concern re the Stroudwater Towpath not being fully accessible. Cllr CT added that being on the Project Board, Accessibility and inclusivity was a major part. Please report concerns through to her. The Canals Connected Project had 42 Community organisations and was National Lottery Funded. Sarah Burgess as Project Manager covered the accessibility concerns community engagement, and inclusivity. - The Gate centre at Aston Rowant was worth a visit. RH organising a trip in August for GLAF. Exemplar gates and barriers by Centrewire. - The Disabled Ramblers commissioned Southampton Uni to design a structure that exclude motorcycles but is inclusive for accessibility and disability. 	
8.	<p>A417 Projects Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Missing Links the kent carriage gaps not being used as other authorities have stated they are not effective; CM requested that the Air Balloon site be commemorated for its history and its contribution to unpowered flight. - Connecting Parishes Project – Of the 18 projects 5 had been completed despite the dreadful weather. The remainder of the projects are being planned especially those that need drier weather and reduced water levels. Update and site visit next time. 	
9.	<p>Other updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cotswold Trails and Access Partnership – Considering existing People counters and consolidation of them. National Trails Charity is formed and operational. To be launched in May in Cheltenham – RH to attend - 3 Choirs/Wysis Way & Gloucestershire Way – These three promoted routes taken on by project group. GCC have Helped with Glos Way Waymarks. Request for help with 3 choirs way WM funded by group/Ramblers - Tetbury to Cirencester Railway Line – The Kemble to Ciren section is subject to feasibility on reinstating as a branch line. The Railway project team having £50k to develop a business case. Aim to have a path beside for pedestrian and cycle. - Brunel Bridge – could ££ be requested from a community group from VIP Pylons project for feasibility on that? NC to ask GCC Infrastructure help. Call it Llanthony Swing bridge. How was it acquired by GCC? - Gloucester Nature Park – National Lottery Heritage bid to enable the nature park to progress. GWT – Master Plan shows the overall vision. This will include access and GWT requested to keep GLAF updated please - 	<p>RH</p> <p>NC/RH</p> <p>NC</p> <p>NS</p>
10.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GLAF Member Expenses – Still outstanding after 18 months NC to check why and progress. NC to ensure correct form is used. (Suggested Democratic Services might be helpful as they deal with expenses. 	NC
11.	Date of Next Meeting: Was to be 13 th June, Now proposed 27 th June 2024	
	2024 Meeting dates:- Thurs 27th June 2024; Thurs 24th Oct 2024	
	Meeting -    	

Signed: Chair..... Date