

Gloucestershire Local Access Forum





Thursday 27th June 2024

DRAFT NOTES of meeting held at Brockworth Community Hall

Morning site walk from Brockworth to the Mill Lane project 15 of the Connecting Parishes Scheme.

	Notes	
Item (No from Agenda)	Topic	Action
1	<p>Present: Alison Williamson (Chair); Richard Holmes (Vice chair); Charlie Morriss; Paul Lockley; Alan Shelley; Councillor Robert Vines; Councillor Chloe Turney; Sue Ellis, Jacky German, Chas Townley.</p> <p>Alan Bently (Speaker – Connecting Parishes); Nicola Chidley (GCC Principal PROW Officer); PROW TEAM - Frank Dorrington Ward</p> <p>Public Guests – Debbie Harwood (Brockworth Town council); Mark Holland & Kelvin Varney</p> <p>Apologies for absence: Cllr Wendy Thomas, Nicola Simpson,</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of Interest – CT declared interest in DMMO report as outstanding applications in his name.</p>	
4	<p>Talk on Eelscapes from Ben Spencer of Glos Wildlife Trust – Slides to be circulated. Following a 95% fall in eel population over previous 40 years this project aims to improve wetland habitats landscape recovery. It's funded by DEFRA and is centred on 3 sites across GCC area (total 1700 ha). The aim to restore nature rich wetland in the severn Vale focussing on two key indicator species – the True Fox Sedge and the European Eel. It's a joint project by Glos Wildlife Trust, Env Agency, Wetland and Wildfowl Trust. It also includes 27 land managers as stakeholders. Aim to have 2 urban access honeypot sites (Alney & Tewkesbury) and one quieter rural site at Hasfield. It's a 20 year project with phase one being the development phase with studies, surveys and maps being prepared this summer. The organisational arrangement includes GWT & WWT on Project board, a stakeholder advisory group, a communications group, a technical group and a monitoring and evaluation group. The stakeholder to include Ramblers, Sustrans, OSS, BHS, Town and county authorities - (+ GLAF?).</p> <p>Points from GLAF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A member of GLAF on stakeholder group? - Llanthony swing bridge requested to be included within consideration of access as historic and heritage feature with possible contribution; - updates to GLAF when available please. 	NC Circulate slides
7	<p>Update on Connecting Parishes Project following morning site visit. Funded by National Highways Designated Funds. The update was given by Alan Bently who is Project Manager for the 18 schemes for accessibility and connectivity improvements. A progress chart was circulated – updates from that included Project 7 now completed, the morning site visit highlighted how several barriers being removed and new or widened bridges made routes accessible and stile free, linking people and</p>	

	<p>paths from the urban fringe to the Cotswold Scarp. The bridleway dedication at Ebworth had been completed and offered a link for users avoiding having to go on the main road. The projects still to be completed include some drainage and surface, a further dedication, barrier improvements and the provision of steps on a very steep section of path.</p> <p>Project 9 was the full appraisal and options report on the bridge that was closed 9 years ago. Owned by Cheltenham borough with a PROW footpath across. The best option is repair of the structure at around £355k, ramps costing £443k – 694k, replacement bridge being £830 – 880k. The next steps sit with GCC to identify any funding mechanisms for delivery of the repair.</p> <p>Request to add Project 9 as agenda item to drive progress.</p>	
3	<p>Notes of meeting on 22 Feb 2024 and matters arising not covered in the agenda below. Agreed and signed.</p> <p>CT asked why Notes and not minutes as in 2007 regulations (This was amended in 2016 in agreement with GLAF, Chair & Former Principal PROW Officer). The Notes are the minutes of the meeting.</p>	
5	<p>Review of Notices and Consultations received by GLAF and Membership.</p> <p>Only 2 localised felling licences that GLAF have felt not appropriate for them.</p>	
6	<p>Don't Lose Your Way/Restoring the Record</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DEFRA – New regulations delayed by General election, we wait to see if the DMMO exemptions and other regs (eg 2031 fallback) are brought in. - DMMO Update – thanks to Karen for the update. Can this be circulated to all attendees (Check if CT on list); This doesn't include PPOs – can the PPOs be added to the DMMO map layer as proposed changes please - CT can a report on PPO updates be brought to GLAF in similar vein. Including Backlog, Waiting list, in progress, stages. There is a spreadsheet online of those in progress. - DMMO - Concern about 35 Orders with outstanding objections awaiting submission (some being over 30 years old). An Inquiry or Hearing may prove difficult and be an injustice with a large proportion of User Evidence forms supporters no longer alive. - Concern re the 41 Undetermined archived applications – JG explained that these related to a bundle of NERC Act applications for Byway that were made post the 2006 deadline and are being determined singularly now having been archived initially at request of TRF. - The 73, Non S14 Compliant involve applications where landowners have not been notified and no certificate served to that effect. This may be covered by new regulations. CM advised that if a member of the TRF could get permission to serve the notices & ensure these were S14 compliant. - Debate about how the 'Oxfordshire' model appeared speedier was answered in the February Update from Karen (circulate to CT). Case Law requires an authority to consider ALL available evidence, there is some scope for officer delegated decisions but many cases need to go to CROW Committee. Some temporary staff have been made permanent to assist with the process. But staff resourcing is difficult in current climate. 	<p>KP (DMMOS)</p> <p>NC (PPOs)</p> <p>CT/AW</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cllr CT advised that questions could be brought to Full Council as scrutiny committee for the CROW Committee if concerns were raised regarding the processing of the orders. It might raise the flag for the Forum and flag their concerns. Next available Cttee on 4th September. (Email address of Cllr Chloe Truner for the details). 	
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CTAP – Highlights - People Counters – Coordinating results from CNL/NT/GCC; Some further CNL tramper routes being developed; Friends of Leckhampton Hill have a You Tube video “Leckhampton Trail by Tramper Mobility scooter”; The Natural England funding formula is being reassessed with the inclusion of Coast Path as National Trails; the CTAP had a site visit walk around Cold Ashton. - National Trails Summit (RH attended) RH to circulate his report. No mention of Highways Authorities. There was a theme of removing barriers on the Trails but no significant suggestions - Eleven Rivers Group - Glos Way/Wysis Way/3 Choirs Way – From Gerry Stewarts Books to monitor and improve the paths, new route at Robinswood agreed, new waymarks funded by Ramblers for 3 Choirs Way have been ordered and received by GCC ready for distribution. - Old Railway Line from Tetbury to Cirencester. NC update on the Ciren to Kemble – A bid is being made for funding for Sustrans & GCC following the feasibility study to fund the initial preliminary design. Request for the public access to be multi user for the path section. - Llanthony Swing Bridge – Difficulty as no access from one end, no plans by GCC to develop or refurb the bridge. GLAF ask if a Gloucester City CIL bid could be made to revamp it. Request further information on the current status and update to be brought to next meeting (NC) - No update on review of Open Access Land. 	RH (report from NT Summit)
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visit to Centre for Outdoor accessibility training at Aston Rowant, GLAF trip on 14th August. Exemplar gates and barriers by Centrewire. Let RH know numbers; NC arranging some transport. RH to circulate his email to members. - 	RH/NC
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GLAF Member Expenses – NC has the process now in hand and is able to circulate the correct form. Anyone wishing to claim expenses must be added to the Vendor list first (contact NC). AW requested forms to be circulated to all members. - CT requested a GLAF Annual Report – (Checked records last annual report was 2014). NC to update. 	NC NC
11.	Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 24 th October in Shire Hall, Gloucester – Coaley Room (come to Shire Hall reception).	
	Meeting -    	

Signed: Chair..... Date

Reports & Attachments:-

Eelscapes Slides (NC)

DMMO report June and Feb 2024 (NC)

Link to You Tube video in notes Done

Expenses form (NC)

Report from National Trails meeting (RH)