



Central Baptist Church, Victoria Road South, Chelmsford, CM1 1LN

MINUTES

3rd November 2009
2pm – 5pm

Present

Members:

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| Mick Brash (Chairman) | David Corke | Hazel Jarrold |
| Alan Adcock | Edward Dixon | Robert Johnstone |
| David Anderson | Bob Drane | Richard Tattersall |

Observers: Roger Gibbs, Robert Turner (participants for Item 1)

Apologies: Kevin Ascott, Karen Fulcher, Norman Hunt, John Victory, Garry White, Ed Woods

The following Officers were present in support:

Michelle Gardiner – Rural Community Council of Essex
 Stella Meesters – Rural Community Council of Essex
 Christine Allman – ECC Public Rights of Way & Rural Network Manager

| | | ACTION |
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| 1 | Local Transport Plan 3 workshop session | |
| | Essex County Council had contracted Rural Community Council of Essex to undertake a series of stakeholder consultation workshops with local interest groups for the Local Transport Plan 3. Michelle Gardiner and Stella Meesters delivered a presentation provided by ECC and facilitated an interactive workshop session to enable ELAF members and any other attendees to input their comments to the LTP3 process. | |
| 2 | Minutes of previous meeting | |
| | The minutes were proposed as a true record of the meeting held on 1 st September 2009. All agreed. <i>Matters arising</i> Michelle Gardiner reported that ELAF's response to the Forestry Commission | |

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| | <p>consultation had been submitted and a letter had been sent to ECC outlining ELAF's recommendations for managing roadside verges based on David Corke's report which had been discussed at the September meeting. The letter has been acknowledged by ECC but no response received. Michelle will pursue this with ECC.</p> <p>A meeting is still to be held with Southend Borough Council to discuss combining Southend LAF with ELAF. Southend BC officers have been unable to attend the meeting dates offered. Michelle to offer further dates for a meeting to Paula Dawson at Southend BC.</p> <p>The A133 Little Clacton bypass connectivity ideas cannot be progressed at present because Sally Bartrum is on sick leave.</p> | MG |
| 3 | Re-appointment of ELAF members | |
| | <p>MB reported that the following ELAF members had come to the end of their three year term and have agreed to be re-appointed for a further three years: David Corke, Hazel Jarrold and John Victory. Richard Tattersall has agreed to stand for one more year.</p> <p>MB reported that David Anderson will not be standing again and acknowledged David's significant contribution to the forum over the last few years.</p> <p>MB explained that he had served his term as chairman and his role was therefore subject to renewal. MB specified that he is prepared to serve one further year as chairman. Bob Drane proposed MB as ELAF chairman for one year, Alan Adcock seconded and all agreed.</p> | |
| 4 | Shoreline Management Plan – November events | |
| | Michelle Gardiner had circulated details of the upcoming SMP stakeholder events. Kevin Ascott and Norman Hunt will be representing ELAF at the session in Marks Tey on 6 th November (area covered Colne, Blackwater, Dengie) and David Corke will attend the session in Ipswich on 10 th November (area covered Stour, Orwell, Hamford Water, Tendring). | |
| 5 | East of England Plan | |
| | <p>Ed Woods and David Corke attended a consultation event for the review of the East of England Plan on 3rd September. Ed Woods had produced copies of all the papers from the event which were circulated to ELAF members at the meeting.</p> <p>David reported that the event was well presented and delegates had opportunity to input to the consultation, however the information was mainly focussed on housing allocations. David felt that it was not appropriate for ELAF to respond to the consultation but that members might want to submit a personal response or pass information on to other organisations they represent. The deadline for responses is 24th November. Michelle Gardiner will circulate the consultation link to all members.</p> | MG |
| 6 | Defra consultations | |
| | <i>Guidance on the DDA in relation to structures on ROW</i> | |

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| | <p>Michelle Gardiner had previously circulated this draft guidance. The consultation period for this document is three months.</p> <p><i>Amendments to the CROW Act 2000 for coastal land</i></p> <p>Michelle had circulated details of this consultation. The deadline for responses is 1st December. MB asked ELAF members to send any comments to Michelle.</p> <p>MB read extracts from a Natural England letter about the next stages of coastal access implementation. It is likely that coastal local authorities will be holding stakeholder workshops next year.</p> | |
| 7 | Commons and village greens | |
| | <p>David Corke reported that Uttlesford District Council is considering his application for a Commons Regulation Order for Ellis Green Common. It could be a slow process but might be an effective mechanism for other groups to take management of ownerless commons in the future.</p> <p>Ed Dixon alerted members to a planning application affecting Galleywood Common that CPRE is concerned about. The application has been called in by the Secretary of State and CPRE is following its progress. It was agreed that it is not appropriate for ELAF to input at this stage but there would be an ELAF interest if the replacement land being offered is not as good for access as that being lost. Ed will keep ELAF members updated.</p> | |
| 8 | Correspondence | |
| | <p>Michelle Gardiner had received an e-mail from Jason Botelho, the new PROW officer at ECC, requesting an article from ELAF for inclusion in the next edition of Access Essex. David Corke suggested that the verges letter recently submitted to ECC could be summarised and sent to Jason as a possible article. Members agreed that it would be useful for ELAF to have a regular column in Access Essex. Michelle will reply to Jason.</p> <p>Michelle reported that Nicky Rowbottom is organising a conference for all LAF members in the Eastern region to be held in Ely on either 11th or 17th February. Further details to follow. There will also be another event for LAF chairs and vice chairs on 3rd March. Hazel Jarrold is now chair of Thurrock LAF as well as vice chair of ELAF. MB offered his congratulations.</p> <p>MB read a letter from Duncan Graham, England Access Forum, which referred to the positive news that LAFs had recently been acknowledged in parliament by Minister Huw Irranca-Davies www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200809/cmhansrd/cm091026/debtext/91026-0010.htm</p> | MG |
| 9 | Any other business | |
| | <p>MB reported that the National Trust AGM to be held in Swindon on 7th November will include a debate about footpaths.</p> | |

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| | <p>MB will circulate a link to members to a paper about the future of cycling in the countryside.</p> <p>MB advised members to search on the internet to find DMMO proposals that the PROW Stakeholder Working Group is currently drafting.</p> | |
| 14 | Date of next meeting | |
| | <p>The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 5th January. However, it was felt that attendance could be low on this date as members may still be on their Christmas/New Year break. Michelle Gardiner will check availability of the venue for alternative dates. The meeting was subsequently re-scheduled for Tuesday 19th January.</p> | |