



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

19th October 2004

2pm – 5pm

AGENDA

2 - 2.15 **Arrival and coffee**
2.15 **Meeting starts**

For discussion / Decision

- | | | | |
|-------------|------|--|----------------|
| 2.15 - 2.20 | (1) | Welcome and Apologies | SG |
| 2.20 - 2.30 | (2) | Appointing Chairman and Vice Chairman | All |
| 2.30 – 2.40 | (3) | Minutes of Previous Meetings | SG |
| 2.40 – 3.10 | (4) | | Cllr Bass |
| 3.10 – 3.55 | (5) | Training – Enforcement Workshop | Ian Blomeley |
| 3.55 – 4.00 | | <i>Comfort Break</i> | |
| 4.00 – 4.25 | (6) | Update on Ways & Means | Paula Cheesman |
| 4.25 – 4.40 | (7) | Annual Report | All |
| 4.40 – 4.55 | (8) | Future Agenda Items | All |
| 4.55 – 5.10 | (9) | Future meeting times and dates | All |
| 5.10 – 5.15 | (10) | Correspondence | |
| 5.15 | | Close | |



Minutes of the 7th meeting held on 19th October 2004
At Central Baptist Church, Chelmsford

Present

Alan Adcock
David Anderson
Kevin Ascott
John Colthorpe
Bob Drane
Ted Durey
Jenny French
Simon Gibson
Lawrence Hammond
Nicola Haycroft
Carol King
Simon Leatherdale
Susan Pattrick
Richard Tattersall

Apologies

David Knight
Edward Woods

Officers

Merryl Mackenzie
Geoff Wilkinson
Garry White
Ian Blomeley
Paula Cheesman
Katy Haines

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the members and the public who were in attendance. He made special welcome to the new members who had attended. Apologies were accepted from 2 members.

2. Appointing Chairman and Vice Chairman

During the previous meeting held in August, Simon Gibson was nominated for a second term as Chairman and Nicola Haycroft was nominated as vice Chairman. The vote was carried on both positions.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no amendments to the previous minutes and they were signed off as a true record.

4. Councillor Bass

Councillor Bass was not available to attend the meeting.

4.1 Garry White explained that the recently received Defra circular was an information document. He explained that there were 2 aspects to the circular, the first aspect was the mapping and the second aspect was the signage of restrictions and access. Annex A explained that Local Access Forums will be expected to take some lead on the management of Access Land.

5. Training – Enforcement Workshop

Garry White introduced the subject and explained how the Definitive Map affects and is involved in this subject. There was a presentation given by Ian Blomeley, the Liaison and Enforcement Officer, explaining what enforcement was about.

It was decided that as Enforcement, as a complex issue, would have to be put on a future Agenda in order to discuss it again, with the emphasis on the powers and authority of the officers.

6. Update on Ways and Means Magazine

Paula Cheesman gave an update on the situation with Essex County Council magazine, Essex Matters. It was originally decided that Ways and Means would be incorporated into the Essex Matters magazine which goes to every household in Essex, a much greater distribution than the existing Ways and Means magazine has. Paula has been in talks for some 6 months about incorporating the pages into Essex Matters and on the strength of these talks has cancelled the existing publishers. However there now seems to be a problem and it is uncertain whether Essex Matters will include Ways and Means. Problems include the cost of incorporating Ways and Means, the fact that Essex Matters is not longer changing its format in December but is now waiting for July. They have offered Ways and Means a 2 page spread in the January issue.

After discussion it was again decided that there should not be a gap between issues. The 2 pages would be accepted in Essex Matters and then, depending on Corporate policy, there may be a possibility of finding a sponsor for Ways and Means or of going out to tender again.

Action:

The Forum members were asked for ideas and articles for future issues and these are to be sent in to Merryl Mackenzie. David Anderson will be writing a report on Byways for the January issue.

7. Annual Report

The Annual Report is due for the first year of operation. It was discussed and decided that the addition of the member's names and the year's budget would complete it. It is to be passed to Simon Gibson and Nicola Haycroft to approve on behalf of the Forum.

Action:

Merryl Mackenzie to make the changes to the report and send it to the Chairman and Vice Chairman for approval.

8. Quorum

The Essex County Council accepts 25% as the quorum for any committee as long as these members do not come from the same interest group. This would equate to 4 members of the Forum being in attendance to make a meeting quorate. After discussion it was decided that 6 members would make up the Quorum for the Local Access Forum. As the Chairman cannot vote it would then make 5 members from different interest groups with voting capacity.

9. Future Agenda Items

A number of items were discussed for future inclusion as Agenda items:

Enforcement

Essex County Council policy on compulsory purchases

Essex County Council policy on land sales

Essex County Council policy on dedication of land

PRoW User Group meetings

Foreshore and Floodplains

10. Future meeting times, dates and venues

During the first year the Forum held meetings in various venues around the county. Meetings were held both in the evenings and during the afternoon. After discussion it was decided that afternoon meetings were preferable and a Tuesday was still the preferred day for meetings. Chelmsford was decided on as the preferred venue as, despite advertising, the public seemed to attend these meetings rather than those in other venues. It was decided that there would be 5 set meetings held in Chelmsford on the following dates:

15th February 2005

5th April 2005

14th June 2005

6th September 2005

22nd November 2005

Meetings will be held from 2 – 5pm at Central Baptist Church, Victoria Road South, Chelmsford.

Field visits were discussed and it was decided that these could be scheduled over and above the set meetings as and when the situation arises.

11. Correspondence

The secretary was contacted by One Train and offered advertising space at the Chelmsford Train Station. It was discussed and decided that members would not take up the offer as it did not meet the Forum's requirements or the target audience.

Action:

The secretary to draft a letter to thank the editors of Ways and Means for their support of the Local Access Forum.

12. Next meeting

14th December 2004

Braintree Leisure Centre

Panfield Lane,

Braintree

CM7 1FF

The meeting closed at 5.15pm.

Background Papers

Defra Circular 02/2004 Part 1 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Access to the countryside.

Local Access Forum Annual Report 2003 – 2004



Braintree Leisure Centre, Panfield Lane, Braintree CM7 1FF

14th December 2004

2pm – 5pm

AGENDA

2 - 2.15 **Arrival and coffee**
2.15 **Meeting starts**

For discussion / Decision

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--|------------------|
| 2.15 - 2.20 | (1) | Welcome and Apologies | SG |
| 2.20 - 2.25 | (2) | Minutes of Previous Meetings | SG |
| 2.25 – 2.45 | (3) | Update on RoWIP | Katy Haines |
| 2.45 – 2.55 | (4) | Cycling – Presentation | Lawrence Hammond |
| 2.55 – 3.05 | (5) | Defra Consultation –
Rights of Way Registers and Joint Orders | Garry White |
| 3.05 – 3.25 | (6) | Enforcement – discussion on making
recommendations for more powers and authority
for officers | All |
| 3.25 – 3.45 | (7) | Discuss letters to ECC regarding various
land issues (see Minutes – Future Agenda Items) | All |
| 3.45 – 3.55 | (8) | Future Agenda Items | All |
| 3.55 – 4.10 | (9) | Correspondence | All |
| 4.10 – 4.25 | (10) | Public Questions | |
| 4.30 | | Close | |



Minutes of the 8th meeting held on 14th December 2004
At Braintree Leisure Centre, Panfield Lane, Braintree

Present

Alan Adcock
David Anderson
Kevin Ascott
John Colthorpe
Bob Drane
Jenny French
Simon Gibson
Lawrence Hammond
Nicola Haycroft
Carol King
Simon Leatherdale
Susan Patrick
Richard Tattersall
Edward Woods

Apologies

Officers

Merryl Mackenzie
Geoff Wilkinson
Garry White
Ian Blomeley

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the members and the public who were in attendance.

2. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no amendments to the previous minutes and they were signed off as a true record.

A copy of the 1st Local Access Forum Annual Report 2003 – 2004 was handed out to each member of the forum.

The Chairman made note of a change to the Agenda order for the meeting. Because of its importance, Agenda Item 5 – Defra Consultation would be discussed first, followed by Item 3 and carrying on down the list of items. This motion was accepted by the members.

5. Defra Consultation – Registers of definitive map modification order applications; and Highways Act applications and declarations

Garry White opened the discussion with an explanation of the document. He explained that all applications for statutory declarations were lodged with Law & Administration and held on a database. The remaining information is dispersed between Law & Administration and the Definitive Map team in Highways but it is not in a format that is easily accessible to the public. There are 3 registers, the first register will be to divulge information about claims to the Definitive Map. The second register is for public path orders under the Highways Act 1980 and the third register is for statutory declarations made under section 31 of the Highways Act 1980. Garry felt the LAF might want to comment on the desirability of details being kept in the registers. After discussion the following was decided –

Question 1: The forum agreed with the general guiding principles but thought that they should be searchable by date and easily accessible to the general public.

Question 2: The forum felt that setting up the database was going to be a burden but that once it was up and running it would reduce the overall burden on the authority.

Question 3: It was felt that the proposed content was the minimum that the database could have however the forum was not happy with the name and address of the landowner being published. The forum also felt that the database should be searchable by Parish name.

Question 4: The forum felt that authorities would need 2 – 3 years to set up. They felt that there should be a definite cut off date by which it should be done.

Defra Consultation – Consultation on joint orders and the power to include modifications in other orders

Garry White started off the discussion by explaining that authorities were burdened by an additional layer of bureaucracy and that cutting the extra layer would make recording the definitive map much easier.

Question 1: Yes, the forum agreed with the proposed list of orders.

Question 2: No, the forum was not aware of any other orders that should be included.

Question 3: Yes, the forum agreed with the proposed relevant date.

Question 4: Yes, the forum agreed with the proposed relevant date where the order is challenged.

Question 5: Yes

Question 6: Yes, the forum agreed that the scale of section 53A maps should be in line with current regulations.

3. Rights of Way Improvement Plan

As Katie Haines (ROWIP Officer) was unable to attend the meeting Geoff Wilkinson (Rural Network Manager) gave a brief update of the progress of the ROWIP. He explained that although the department was behind on it's work on the ROWIP, a framework for consultation had been put together. It was based on a themed approach. He explained that consultation with statutory consultees would start from the 2nd week of January 2005. Public consultation would begin in February 2005 and will be handled by an outside Consultancy company. The time limit for consultation was discussed and it was decided that it should be a minimum of 12 weeks with some flexibility built in where necessary. Forum members were asked how they saw their role in the process and how they wanted to be consulted. After discussion it was felt that until members had seen something from PRoW on the ROWIP process they would not be in a position to answer that.

Action: The Chairman will write to PROW regarding the minimum consultation time frames.

4. Cycling presentation

Laurence Hammond, representing cycling interests, introduced the subject and a discussion followed on the various aspects of cycling.

6. Enforcement – discussion on making recommendations for more powers and authority for officers

Discussion was held following on from the last meeting where a presentation was given to members about the way enforcement was dealt with in Essex County Council. There was a discussion about the role of Enforcement. The point was made that the council seemed to be biased towards enforcement with little mention of the liaison side. It was felt that with more liaison there would not need to be so much enforcement. It was also felt that those that consistently failed in their obligations should be treated to more aggressive enforcement measures than were currently employed.

7. Letters to ECC regarding various land issues

Essex County Council has land holdings some of which are open to the public. It was agreed to formally ask the council what it's policy is on voluntary dedication of land that is already open to the public. It was also agreed to formally ask the council what the policy is towards the disposal of land and what is being done to ensure that Rights of Way are not lost with the sale of the land.

Action: On behalf of the forum the Chairman and Simon Leatherdale will draft letters to be sent to the Council.

8. Future Agenda Items

1. Alphabetical listing
2. Closure of paths until a dispute is settled
3. Disabled access at public places
4. Coastal trails (Sail Project)

9. Correspondence

1. There was a letter of resignation from one of the members, Edward Durey who is unable to attend future meetings due to personal reasons.
2. There was a letter from a member of the public regarding the issue of blocking off access to land when the right of way was in dispute.

Action: The Chairman will reply on behalf of the members.

3. There was a letter from British Canoe Union Access Officer offering assistance and information on their activities within the county. This was prompted by the letter to members from the minister, Alum Michael, regarding the issue of access to water for recreational purposes.

10. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

Next meeting : 15th February 2005, Central Baptist Church, Victoria Road South, Chelmsford. From 2 – 5pm

The meeting closed at 4.45pm.

Background Papers

Defra Consultation – Registers of definitive map modification order applications; and Highways Act applications and declarations

Defra Consultation – Consultation on joint orders and the power to include modifications in other orders



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

15th February 2005

2pm – 5pm

AGENDA

2 - 2.15 **Arrival and coffee**
2.15 **Meeting starts**

For discussion / Decision

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|---|--------------|
| 2.15 - 2.20 | (1) | Welcome and Apologies | SG |
| 2.20 - 2.25 | (2) | Minutes of Previous Meetings | SG |
| 2.25 – 2.45 | (3) | Member Presentation – Walking | Kevin Ascott |
| 2.45 – 3.15 | (4) | Response from Defra on Mechanically Propelled Vehicles | Garry White |
| 3.15 – 3.25 | (5) | Future Agenda Items | All |
| 3.25 – 3.35 | (6) | Correspondence | |
| 3.35 – 3.50 | (7) | Public Questions | |
| 4.00 | | Close | |



Minutes of the 9th meeting held on 15th February 2005
At Central Baptist Church, Chelmsford

Present

Alan Adcock
David Anderson
Kevin Ascott
Bob Drane
Ted Durey
Jenny French
Simon Gibson
Lawrence Hammond
Nicola Haycroft
Carol King
Susan Pattrick
Richard Tattersall
Edward Woods

Apologies

Simon Leatherdale
John Colthorpe

Officers

Merryl Mackenzie
Garry White
Ian Blomeley
Katy Haines

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the members and the public who were in attendance.

2. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no amendments to the previous minutes and they were signed off as a true record.

3. Member Presentation - Walking

Kevin Ascott gave an interesting and informative presentation giving the viewpoint of walkers and the problems they face with the network. Kevin mentioned the consultation on the A120 Braintree – Marks Tey. This will be sent out to members shortly and will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

4. Response from Defra on Mechanically Propelled Vehicles

Since the publication of the Defra Consultation Paper 'Use of Mechanically Propelled Vehicles on rights of Way' in December 2003, Defra has been reviewing over 9000 formal responses nationally. The 2 documents published by Defra in January 2005 represent a culmination of the findings and set out a framework for action. The findings show a clear division between supporters of motor vehicles on claimed Byway routes and those wishing for a ban. There was no evidence of widespread damage to the existing Byway network from motor vehicles. The key conclusion was that the law needs to be changed to reflect more closely the historic use of Byways (ie) non-mechanical which are the subject of future claims. For Local Authorities such as Essex, where all ways have already been reclassified, the impact of new legislation is likely to be minimal.

The document places greater emphasis on enforcement. Clearly Defra are relying on duties under common law to stamp out the misuse of byways.

Following input from Richard Tattersall, there was some discussion about the historic use of horse drawn vehicles being an inappropriate and unsustainable basis on which to establish vehicular rights. There was some discussion as to how sensible it is for the County Council to pursue a legal process which Defra is changing and whether a letter should be sent to the solicitors about this. However it was decided that it would be more appropriate to consider this should the Defra recommendations materialise into a Bill to be put before parliament, when there would be further opportunity to comment.

5. Future Agenda Items

1. Rights of Way Improvement Plans
2. A120 Braintree – Marks Tey
3. Defra Paths – Countryside Stewardship – how they are recruiting

6. Correspondence

7. Public Questions

A member of the public enquired as to whether the letters send out by LAF are open to the public. Letters (correspondence) which are discussed in the open forum are open to the public to see.

8. Next meeting

2 – 5pm
5th April 2005
Miami Hotel
Princes Road
Chelmsford
CM2 9AJ

The meeting closed at 4.00pm.

Background Papers

Defra document: Use of mechanically propelled vehicles on Rights of Way. The Government's frame work for action.



Miami Hotel, Princes Road, Chelmsford, Essex, CM2 9AJ

5th April 2005

2pm – 5pm

AGENDA

2 - 2.15 **Arrival and coffee**
2.15 **Meeting starts**

For discussion / Decision

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----|---|-------------------|
| 2.15 - 2.20 | (1) | Welcome and Apologies | SG |
| 2.20 - 2.25 | (2) | Minutes of Previous Meetings | SG |
| 2.25 – 3.00 | (3) | ROWIP update | Katy Haines |
| 3.00 – 3.30 | (4) | A120 Braintree – Marks Tey | Peter Chappell |
| 3.30 – 4.00 | (5) | The Interaction of Access and Conservation | Simon Leatherdale |
| 4.00 – 4.10 | (6) | Future Agenda Items | All |
| 4.10 – 4.20 | (7) | Correspondence | |
| 4.20 – 4.35 | (8) | Public Questions | |
| 4.35 | | Close | |



Minutes of the 10th meeting held on 5th April 2005
At Miami Hotel, Chelmsford

Present

Alan Adcock
Kevin Ascott
Bob Drane
Simon Gibson
Lawrence Hammond
Nicola Haycroft
Carol King
Simon Leatherdale
Susan Pattrick

Apologies

Jenny French
Richard Tattersall
David Anderson

Officers

Merryl Mackenzie
Peter Chappell
Garry White
Katy Haines

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the members and the public who were in attendance.

2. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no amendments to the previous minutes and they were signed off as a true record.

3. Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Katy Haines gave a presentation on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan giving the highlights and pertinent points which they will be working towards. Katy mentioned that they will be coming back each meeting with an update on their progress with the plan.

4. A120 Braintree – Marks Tey

Peter Chappell, ECC Project Manager, attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the A120 Braintree – Marks Tey proposed route. He pointed out that the A120 was a County Council route until recently when it became a trunk road. The proposed plans are being put forward by the Highways Agency and not Essex County Council. The deadline for this consultation has been moved to 17th June.

After Peter finished, Garry White discussed the rights of way affected by the proposed and alternative routes. Peter stated that it was better to discuss the proposed route rather than the proposed and alternative routes together. He explained that if the proposed route was scrapped any alternative route would have to go out for consultation in its own right.

There was some discussion about the type of input LAF could have and it was decided to bring the next meeting forward from 14th June to 24th May so that we could discuss the matter further and put forward recommendations in time for them to be considered by Peter Chappell before the deadline.

Action: Peter Chappell to provide Merryl Mackenzie with the CD of the alternative environmental study which will be forwarded on to members before the next meeting.

Action: Merryl to change the date of the next meeting and to find new venue.

Action: Everyone to look at the options and the paths which will be affected to see where bridges can be sited or where paths can be diverted etc.

5. Interaction of Access and Conservation -

Simon Leatherdale gave a presentation on this topic where he described the problems that allowing access can have on conservation. He explained that education was the key to pedestrian access and that it was up to the experts to teach.

Simon also gave a quick brief on the Coastal Access Workshop held by CA and attended by Simon and Kevin Ascott on behalf of LAF. He said it was well worth attending but that it was an exploratory meeting with no solid conclusions at this stage.

6. Future Agenda Items -

Rowip update

A120 Braintree – Marks Tey

7. Correspondence

The chairman is to write to Mr Meisner, Property Services, requesting a reply to his letters of 31st January 2005.

8. Next meeting

The meeting closed at 5.00pm.

Background Papers

Highways Agency A120 Braintree – Marks Tey public consultation document – Feb 2005.



Central Baptist Church, Victoria Road South, Chelmsford

24th May 2005

2pm – 5pm

AGENDA

2 - 2.15 **Arrival and coffee**
2.15 **Meeting starts**

For discussion / Decision

2.15 - 2.20	(1)	Welcome and Apologies	SG
2.20 - 2.25	(2)	Minutes of Previous Meetings	SG
2.25 – 2.45	(3)	RoWIP Update	Katy Haines
2.45 – 4.25	(4)	A120 Braintree to Marks Tey – Discussion with Garry White and Peter Chappell	Garry White
4.25 – 4.35	(4)	Future Agenda Items	All
4.35 – 4.45	(5)	Correspondence	SG
4.45 – 5.00	(6)	Public Questions	
5.00		Close	



Minutes of the 11th meeting held on 24th May 2005
At Central Baptist Church, Chelmsford

Present

Alan Adcock
David Anderson
Kevin Ascott
Bob Drane
Jenny French
Simon Gibson
Carol King
Simon Leatherdale
Richard Tattersall

Apologies

Susan Patrick
Nicola Haycroft
Lawrence Hammond
Edward Woods

Officers

Merryl Mackenzie
Garry White
Peter Chappell

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the members and the public who were in attendance.

2. Matters arising from previous minutes

There was one amendment to the previous minutes. Item 4: the date was changed from 17 July to 17 June. They were then signed off as a true record.

3. Rights of Way Improvement Plan

This item was cancelled from the Agenda as the relevant officer was unable to attend the meeting.

4. A120 Braintree to Marks Tey -

Members wished it noted that they were discussing only the Highways Agencies preferred option and not the 3 options as a whole. Members wished it understood that they are only giving advice on what, and how, Public Rights of Way cross major routes. They are not

endorsing the proposed route. Some of these issues are long term and the Forum would like to be consulted as things evolve.

There was some discussion as to whether members could leave comment until the route was more definite but it was decided that comments should be made sooner rather than lose the opportunity. It was decided that comments should be made now but the Forum would very much want to be involved in the key decisions when the final route is approved.

Garry White explained stopping up orders and how they affect the Rights of Way crossing major routes. Members were given plans and schedules and Garry went through the schedule and the plans showing all the rights of way affected by the proposed route.

Plan 1: The Southern alternative route would be preferable as it crosses fewer rights of way.

Plan 2: Members are in favour of moving the proposed route to the north to reduce the impact on Pantlings Lane.

Plan 4: Members were in favour of the alternative Southern Route.

Subject to the fact that members prefer the alternative Southern Route, members felt that the route A – F, parallel to the road, is too long and not acceptable. They would encourage ECC to look for any improvements to the local network that would encourage the creation of a circular route that does not go parallel to the road.

Members feel that diverting rights of way to cross major junctions should be avoided from both the enjoyment and Health and Safety aspects.

Members would encourage ECC to have a circular route at the airfield in the future once the diversions and restrictions have been lifted.

A bridge will be preferable to a diversion at G1 – H1 as this is a very well used path.

The Forum feel that in the event of having a bridge, any bridge built should be to bridleway standard.

Members favour extinguishing the route K1 – J1 with a creation of K1 – Stocks Green.

With regard to Plan 4 members are strongly in favour of the alternative southern route. As there are a number of unanswered issues regarding the new route and the A12, members feel that commenting on anything else is difficult at this stage.

Members would like to thank Garry White and Peter Chappell for all their help with this item and for the time they have spent in assisting the Forum and explaining the issues to us.

5. Future Agenda Items -

Access to rivers – talk from British Canoe Union.

6. Correspondence

John Colthorpe has resigned from the forum due to other commitments.

A letter was received from Alun Michael, Defra, with regard to delivering better opportunities for sport and outdoor recreation including water based activities.

A letter from British Canoe Union was received, requesting that they attend a meeting to talk about access to rivers. Members agreed to this and a letter will be sent to them in response.

An email was received from John Dowding enquiring whether the Public Bodies Act applies to LAF. A reply was sent stating that the Local Access Forum is not listed in the schedules of this Act as one to which the Act applies.

7. Public Questions

Mr King suggested that ECC should have an independent review of the rights of way affected by the proposed A120.

8. Next meeting

6th September 2005 at Central Baptist Church, Victoria Road South, Chelmsford. 2-5pm

The meeting closed at 4.15pm.

Background Papers

Plans 1 – 4 and relevant Schedule of Rights of Way along the A120 proposed route.

Environmental study Appendix Q: Non-motorised Users Baseline Conditions and Schedule 13 of the Environmental study.



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

6th September 2005

2pm – 5pm

AGENDA

2 - 2.15 **Arrival and coffee**
2.15 **Meeting starts**

For discussion / Decision

- | | | | |
|-------------|------|--|--------------|
| 2.15 - 2.20 | (1) | Welcome and Apologies | SG |
| 2.20 - 2.25 | (2) | Minutes of Previous Meetings | SG |
| 2.25 – 2.30 | (3) | Election of new Chairman & vice Chairman | All |
| 2.30 – 2.40 | (4) | Membership Application forms | All |
| 2.40 – 2.50 | (5) | Discussion on letter from Cllr Bass | All |
| 2.50 – 3.10 | (6) | ROWIP update | Katie Haines |
| 3.10 – 3.30 | (7) | Defra Consultation on the diversion of rights of way | |
| 3.30 – 3.50 | (8) | Defra Consultation on confirmation of Bylaws relating to Countryside Recreation | |
| 3.50 – 4.00 | (9) | Future Agenda Items | All |
| 4.00 – 4.10 | (10) | Correspondence | |
| 4.10 – 4.25 | (11) | Public Questions | |
| 4.25 | | Close | |



Minutes of the 12th meeting held on 6th September 2005
At Central Baptist Church, Chelmsford

Present

Alan Adcock
David Anderson
Kevin Ascott
Bob Drane
Jenny French
Simon Gibson
Lawrence Hammond
Susan Patrick

Apologies

Carol King
Nicola Haycroft
Richard Tattersall
Edward Woods
Simon Leatherdale

Officers

Merryl Mackenzie
Geoff Wilkinson
Katy Haines

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed the members and the public who were in attendance.

2. Matters arising from previous minutes

There were no amendments to the previous minutes and they were signed off as a true record.

3. Election of Chairman and Vice Chairman

Simon Gibson was re-elected as Chairman by popular vote as was Nicola Haycroft as Vice Chairman.

4. Membership Application Forms

There were 3 short-listed candidates who were accepted by the Forum as new members to replace the 3 lost through natural wastage. It was decided that the 3 candidates available met the required criteria and would be a welcome addition to the Forum. The short-list will now go to Cllr. Rodney Bass for approval.

The Chairman requested a change in order of the items on the Agenda and it was decided to first visit item 6 – Rights of Way Improvement Plan and then to visit item 5 – Discussion on letter from Cllr Bass.

6. Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Katy Haines handed out a consultation list to members for their discussion and recommendations. Katy asked for feedback on the list for any other groups she may have missed out. From this list the questionnaires will go out to selected groups. There is to be specific questionnaires for each user group (eg) walkers, cyclists, equestrian, conservation etc. It was also stated that the questionnaires will be posted on the Internet.

After discussion, it was decided that rather than sending papers to all the Rambler groups, Katy should be able to send directly to the Essex Area Ramblers Ass. for distribution. Focus groups will be set up to deal with the ethnic and minority groups.

Katy will be setting up a Steering Group to keep the ROWIP on track. 2 members from LAF are invited to join.

Action: MM to send out ROWIP consultation papers to members not present at this meeting. Responses by members are requested by the 25th September.

Action: Members are to decide who will represent LAF on the Steering Group. Names are to be forwarded to the Secretary for inclusion in the group.

5. Discussion of letter from Cllr Bass

The letter was read out and in light of the present ROWIP situation the reply was deemed reasonable – no further comment was made.

Byways Leaflet – the first question asked of the Forum was ‘Does the name say what it is?’ It was felt that there was some confusion as to exactly what the document was addressing. Geoff Wilkinson asked that the Forum go through the document and make comments. The second question to answer was ‘Is the leaflet for information to Byway users or is it for all users?’ After discussion it was decided that LAF would comment and advise on the future leaflet. It was decided that this subject would make a future Agenda item.

Action: MM to do copies for everyone to comment on covering the issues of what the leaflet is about / what it actually says / do you want it publish it?

7. Defra Consultation on the diversion of rights of way -

Garry White was not able to attend this meeting but he sent written summation of the consultation document. After discussion it was decided :

Question 1. English Nature should have to justify specifically why it wanted a diversion (eg: it had to name plants of specifically state how the site would be affected).

Question 2. No comment

Question 3. English Nature should have to justify specifically why it wanted a diversion (eg: it had to name plants of specifically state how the site would be affected). Greater emphasis should be given to looking at alternatives to diversions (eg) maintenance.

Question 4. No, there needn't be a departure from the established form.

Dangerous Acts:

If this provides a common sense alternative to a temporary diversion order provided the shortest practical, clearly marked diversion is offered as apposed to a closure then the LAF would be happy with the proposal. LAF agree that the Highway Authority should be notified, in writing, prior to the commencement of work.

8. Defra Consultation on confirmation of Bylaws relating to Countryside Recreation -

LAF had no comment to make on this consultation. They were happy with it as it stands.

9. Future Agenda Items -

Sports conference update – Edward Woods

Byway Leaflet

Review of Local Access Forums – Final Report

10. Correspondence

1. The final report on the Review of Local Access Forums was presented and it was decided that it would be dealt with at the next meeting.

2. Countryside Agency consultation – it should be noted that there was no 3 month consultation period given for this document.

Action: Any questions replied to can be sent to MM for collating and forwarding to Countryside Agency.

3. Ways and Means – LAF received a letter regarding the progress of WAM and after discussion there was some concern about making it available to all. LAF will wait and see the product and report back later.

11. Public Questions -

Mr John Dowding brought to the attention of the Forum that the Agenda was not up on the website 5 days before the meeting.

11. Next meeting

the next meeting will be on 22nd November 2005 and the Central Baptist Church, Victoria Road South, Chelmsford.

Meetings were set for the coming year.

All meetings will be on a Tuesday afternoon from 2 – 5pm:

January	17 th
March	14 th
May	23 rd
September	12 th
November	21 st

The meeting closed at 4.35pm.

Background Papers

Defra Consultation on the diversion of rights of way

Briefing paper on this consultation by Garry White

Defra Consultation on confirmation of Bylaws relating to Countryside Recreation.