

**MINUTES OF THE WORCESTERSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING – 1/22
7 JULY 2022**

HELD AT THE COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE, WORCESTER

Attendees

Lyndon Bracewell (LB)	Cycling interest
Gordon Bunker (GB)	Motorised use of minor highways and byways interest
John Cuthbertson (JC)	Social inclusion interest
Stephen Glazzard (SG)	Motorised use of minor highways and byways interest
Rowena Hayward (RH)	Representing Worcestershire County Council PRow
Peter Hughes (PH)	Business interest
Tony Kerbey (TK)	Secretary
Anthony Lovell (AL)	North Worcestershire District Councils interest
Bobbie Matulja (BM)	Chair
Linda Robinson (LR)	North Worcestershire District Council interest
Phoebe Woodhouse (PW)	Assistant Secretary

Guest Speakers

Tina McLaughlin (TM)	Transport and Commissioning Team Manager WCC
Philip Goddard (PG)	Transport and Commissioning Team WCC
Jonathon Bills (JB)	Conservation Manager Malvern Hills Trust

Notices – Procedure in the event of a fire and trip hazards in the meeting room.

ITEMS

1. Apologies

Julian Grubb (JG)	Waterways Interest
Sandra Starkey (SS)	Youth interest
Glyn Thomas (GT)	Walking Interest (post-meeting)
Lindsey Umfreville (LU)	Farming interest (post-meeting)
John Jeffrey (JJ)	Vice Chair

PH asked after Mike Everitt. Chair hoped his absence would be temporary.

2. Declaration of Interests

The Chair asked members to declare any personal or business interest in the listed agenda items – no declarations were made.

3. Confirmation of Minutes.

The Chair asked members to confirm the minutes of the previous meeting 17 February 2022 – carried.

4. Actions.

There were no outstanding actions. The Chair went on to provide a summary of the Sub-Group meeting held on 20 May 22 including the LAF's reaction to the proposed link between the ROWIP and Local Transport Plan for development and consultation.

5. Matters Arising

The Chair asked the meeting to record a vote of thanks to Alan Amos for his excellent support to the LAF over the last seven years – recorded unanimously.

6. External Speakers

Active Travel Funding – Presented by Tina McLaughlin

TM provided a detailed and interesting presentation on recent and future projects supported by Active Travel Funding (a pdf version of the associated slides are attached to these minutes). Questions were taken covering:

- The standards applied for bollards on shared routes and cargo bike access (LB). TM reassured the LAF that government guidance is being followed; namely [Gear Change](#) (Walking & Cycling Plan for England) and [LTN1/20](#) (Cycle Infrastructure Design).

- Provision of secure cycle parking at workplaces and commuter hubs (GB). PG explained that there were some legacy secure parking sites but most of the provision were simple bicycle stands etc.
- The County Councils view on the use of 'Rainbow Crossings' and their potential effect on road safety (JC). TM said, that as far as she was aware, there were no plans to create a Rainbow Crossing in Worcestershire.
- A concern was raised regarding the balance of priorities when ecology and public safety were potentially at odds (example discussed was reduced lighting on a canal towpath for the benefit of bats) (JC). PG explained that the team were currently bound by ecological restrictions on lighting in certain areas.
- What progress had been made in the establishment of green routes such as the Worcester to Malvern cycle link? TM said that the project is still active, and her team were always on the alert for funding initiatives.
- Relationships with adjacent authorities and bodies such as 'The Heart of England Forest' when considering cross-boundary cycling and walking links (AL). TM reassured the LAF that they were always on the lookout for such opportunities and had a good working relationship with neighbouring authorities.
- Earlier consultation on cycling/walking infrastructure projects was requested by LB. TM explained that some of the funding required a quick response but would look in to how it could be improved.
- BM asked how equestrian requirements were factored into the new walking and cycling plans. BHS representatives were available to give advice. **Action - Chair to pass BHS representatives' contact details to TM.**
- The Chair asked if the Transport Infrastructure Team were supporting the Worcester Bromyard Leominster Greenway Project Feasibility Study. TM pointed out that her funding was pre-allocated (prioritised by LTP 4) and she had little discretion about how it was spent but were looking at possible options. **Action - LB agreed to pass 'Crowd Funding' information to the Chair.**
- LR asked how Active Travel Corridors were pre-planned for large settlements like that proposed at Worcester Parkway. TM explained that active travel corridors are set out in the local transport plan, if an ATC runs past or close by a development, we will specifically ask the developer for a contribution towards the delivery of an ATC. However, if there is not an ATC proposed in the vicinity, we will ask for improved connectivity for non-motorised users such as, dropped kerbs, upgrades to PROWs and crossing facilities i.e. zebra, puffin, toucan crossings.

Tina McLaughlin's team can be contacted via: tmclaughlin2@worcestershire.gov.uk

Conservation Challenges posed by Higher Visitor Numbers to the Malvern Hills – Presented by Jonathon Bills, Conservation Manager, Malvern Hills Trust.

JB gave an engaging and in-depth presentation on the challenges posed by the huge increase in visitors to the Malvern Hills. (a PDF version of the slides are attached to these minutes). Questions were taken covering:

- GB asked what affect the positioning of carparks had on the usage heat map shown on slide 22. JB responded that whilst it had some effect it didn't account for local users or those using public transport.
- PH related the widening of paths through 'goat tracking' to the general countryside and was a common landowner experience. He also asked the SSSI status was an advantage or disadvantage. JB explained that whilst the SSSI status limited some activity the advantages outweighed the disadvantages.
- AL asked about cycling on the hills, particularly e-bikes. JB said e-bikes were treated the same as any other bicycle and that there had been some wear and tear on the hills caused by extreme riders.
- SG suggested more consultation with local Mountain Bike groups to create exciting routes which might limit damage elsewhere. JB said that a lot of work had been done with local groups, but they were bound by the rules of the Trust's governance.
- SG also asked about parking fees and if the board had considered their effect on the local streets/roads. JB said that is carefully considered at each board meetings.
- AL asked if there were any camping sites on the Malvern Hills. JB said there were not any on the Hills themselves but there were a few in the local area.

Jonathon Bills can be contacted via: Jonathan@malvern hills.org.uk

7. Public Rights of Way Team Report

RH provided an update on the activities of the WCC PRoW team. A PDF version of the report is attached for LAF members. Questions were taken covering:

- The number of orders and backlogs in their processing (PH).

- In response to question about the Deregulation Act, RH mentioned that whilst the 2026 deadline (for DMMO applications based on Historic Evidence) had been removed; the remaining aspects of the Act would be implemented. However, it was still unclear what their impact would be on PRoW work until guidance was finalised.
- JC asked if the LAF could gain access to IPROW's 'Waymark' magazine. **Action - RH will investigate discuss with IPROW.**

8. Items for Noting

Both agenda items were covered elsewhere in the meeting.

9. Topics for Future Meetings

- ROWIP Development.
- De-Regulation Act and impact on PRoW.
- Slow Ways Walking/Cycling Initiative (Lyndon Bracewell)
- Trail Riders' Fellowship Activities and Code of Conduct (Stephen Glazzard)
- Results of BHS Gates Trial
- New Birmingham Circular Path (Mayor of WMCA Initiative)

11. Any Other Business

None

12. Date of Next Meeting

First quarter of 2023 – Date TBC