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| **Medway Local Access Forum****Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 5 March 2020 at 4.00pm****Room 12, Gun Wharf, Chatham, Kent** |
| **Main Meeting** |  |
| Simon Curry ChairTyler Cook(TC) MinutesAnnmarie Behn (AB) Paths and Promotions ManagerIan Gray (IG) User representative (Cuxton Countryside Group)Bob Donkin (BD) Member of the publicAdam Taylor(AT) Rivers & Paths ManagerDavid Palmer (DP) Public HealthMartin Hall (MH) Greenspaces Access and Bidding ManagerSue Saunders (SS) British Horse SocietyGraham Jenkinson (GJ) The Ramblers AssociationCatherine Smith (CS) Planning Manager Policy |  |
| **Welcome to guests, members and officers** |  |
| **Apologies**Marion Phillips, Chris Morris |  |
| **Minutes of the previous meeting (5/12/2019)**The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted.DP announced the walking festival is not going ahead but the monthly walks have started. GP surgeries are also now working with the walks.AB announced we may soon get a member to represent disabled users.RS206 – paperwork is ready to be signed but there are some funding issues. |  |
| **ROWIP update – Annmarie Behn**The deadline for comments is the 3rd May.GJ raised that there is no executive summary of the document, AB asked GJ to submit this as a survey comment.It was raised that the document uses the word “will” many times where members felt the word “should” would be more appropriate.AB asked all members to submit their comments and responses online. |  |
| **Local plan update – Catherine Smith**CS gave a presentation on the local plan with a focus on being prepared for change and is asking for comments on the document which is coming out 6/3/2020.SS raised concerns that the local plan seems to be very optimistic, “rose tinted”, happy images when in reality it will affect a lot of Hoo residents and destroy Hoo’s open and public spaces.CS responded that most land is not publicly accessible farmland and publicly accessible land on the peninsula will be retained.Members asked if there is a definition of affordable housing. CS responded these definitions are in statutes. MH added that there will be a wide variety of housing to support a wide variety of housing needs.GJ raised the need to preserve the character of places, that people don’t want “pathways between fences”. MH responded bringing up SEMS, which will be making sure green and blue infrastructure is put in place first.GJ asked about the health infrastructure that will be put in place, currently Medway hospital is filled. MH and CS responded that health hubs are being looked at as a way of bringing some services out of the hospital to reduce demand at the hospital.IG asked if there have been any discussions about a supplier for green energy, CS responded that things such as district heating and Uniper are being looked at. |  |
| **MUGS forum – brief update – Simon Curry/Marion Phillips**SC informed the forum that the Friends of the Esplanade group has been set up along with friends of Vinalls park and friends of Horsted Valley.The next MUGS forum will be in April and summer events are planned. |  |
| **England coastal path update – Adam Taylor**Natural England are hoping to begin the Cliffe Fort to Grain section at the beginning of June 2020, the delay is due to 7 landowners.They are hoping to start the Grain to Otterham Creek section in August 2020. We are confident it will be done by 2021 at the latest. |  |
| **Hoo bridleways – Sue saunders**SS raised that bridleways on the Peninsula have been ruined, along the Ratcliffe highway. Near the Amazon warehouse is a lot of antisocial behaviour and a lack of toilet facilities for lorry drivers. The RS112 manhole covers are protruding again.Some new developers have ruined a field with some drainage issues and the farmer is suing.AT is happy for SS to come to Gun Wharf or to meet up with equestrian users to look at what MC can do. |   |
| **Local matters arising from LAF members**BD advised that walk magazine is now featuring an article on “finding our paths”GJ advised that much of the work has already been carried out by the Ramblers. GJ advised BD to liaise with the Ramblers first to ensure work is not duplicated. |  |
| **Any other business (AOB)**IG would like to meet with MH to discuss hedgerows.There is now a herbicide campaign to stop MC spraying on greenspaces.AB mentioned that the LAF is an open forum and will send details to BD on how to become a LAF member. |  |
| Next meeting, room 12, 4th June, LAF members pre meet 3:45-4:00 |