|  |
| --- |
| **Medway Local Access Forum****Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 6 September 2019 at 4.00pm****Gun Wharf, Chatham, Kent** |
| **Item** | **Main Meeting** | **Action** |
|  | Annmarie Behn (AB) Paths and Promotions Manager (MC)Ian Gray (IG) User representative (CCG)David Palmer (DP) Public Health (MC)Sue Saunders (SS) British Horse Society (Vice Chair)Chris Morris (CM) Medway Towns Footpath GroupAdam Taylor (AT) Paths and Rivers Manager (MC)Graham Jenkinson (GJ) RamblersDarren Taylor (DT) Cycle representative (MC)Martin Hall (MH) Green Space Development Manager (MC)Belinda Lamb (BL) Guardians of the Deep Project Officer (MC)Councillor Simon Curry Chair |
| 1 | **Welcome to guests, members and officers**SC welcomed everyone. |  |
| 2 | **Apologies - none** |  |
| 3 | **Minutes of last meeting (6th September 2018)**SC discussed action points from previous meeting.SS to arrange equestrian meeting with AB & Sharon Bayne on equestrian access to be included with ROWIP.Ramblers consultation on ROWIP, no response, GJ said it has been commented on, possible issue with initial consultation sent to head office for comment.The Minutes of the last meeting were then signed off. |  |
| 4 | **ROWIP Update**AB advised ROWIP workshops complete, info analysed, draft plan will be ready for December DMT (senior management scrutiny).Final plan to be complete Summer 2020.Four themes Well Maintained Network, Serving Medway’s needs, An evolving Network and an Efficient Service.CM asked when it can be seen, AB advised January 2020.MH stated process has been challenging owing to available resources.SC asked impact on Local Plan, MH said no impact but ROWIP will complement Local Plan. |  |
| 5 | **England Coastal Path Update**AT stated ECP section Woolwich to Grain is on target to open Spring 2020.Culvert to be installed on section at Dagnam Marshes, St Mary Hoo. Section from Grain to Iwade to be completed after footway construction on A228 Grain Road, construction to begin late 2019. |  |
|  | **Guardians of the Deep Presentation**BL gave a powerpoint presentation on work by GOTD, six week programme called ‘Wild Beach’ teaching children dangers of tides and mud, ‘Teach on the Beach’ a forest school way of teaching children safe use of beaches and learning about flora and forna, refugee children taught English names, sign up for Pledges for the Sea – designed to make children and adults to be aware of the coastal eco systems. Coastal Guardian intuitive to enlist volunteers to report issues in tandem with existing hobbies eg birdwatching, hiking etc.Beach clean initiatives have included tidal creeks such as Jaynes Creek at Strood. Training available to volunteers to survey invasive species control e.g. Pacific Oysters. Facebook group to report issues such as illegal Bass fishing and share photos of the coast, all GOTD programmes open to all.LAF thanked BL for informative presentation |  |
| 6 | **Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy presentation** – MHMaximising cycling opportunities being worked on for Hoo peninsula, new routes identified in Housing Infrastructure Bid (HIF). Ebbsfleet has 40% modal shift to cycling, Medway has 10%. Sustrans have traffic free routes being designed, concept can be used as overall cycling strategy for HIF bid.SS highlighted traffic issues at Peters Pit and how hard it is to convince people to leave their cars at home for short journeysMH highlighted Local Plan aims for air quality, new cycle routes for schools and modal shift from cars to bikes.GJ Expressed how bad traffic is at Peters Pit and this must not be repeated within Medway.MH announced £850k assigned for Chatham station to develop cycling opportunitiesGJ voiced the need for bike storage to be at Chatham Bus station and availability for cycle hire.DT stated Sustrans recommend against cycle hireDP stated R&R rental bike dumped in river, company owner not interested in retrieval, this could be an issue in future.MH agreed bike security needs to be included with potential cycle storageGJ highlighted Kent University are a good example of cycle storage and use.SC highlighted Country Parks are great for visiting but all need better cycle and walking routes as opposed to car parking, new parks need to include alternative journey options.DT said being stuck in traffic is a good incentive.SC new generation using cars less, new cycling opportunities should take this into accountDP highlighted cycle encouragement initiatives have mixed success.SC Joined up working programmes needed, LAF can be a driver for this, work out mind-sets and approach Members.SS stated new schools were too far from residential areas for cycling making car use inevitableSC voiced new school design incorporates a driving loop, this doesn’t address issues, problem compounded by local schools not having local children.GJ suggested parking controls at schools needs to be considered. |  |
| 7 | **Safe routes to school** – conversation starterHorstead Valley project partly aimed at safer, traffic free routes to school.AB walking leaflet being produced for secondary and primary schools promoting safe walking routes.SC routes need to be well lit with all-weather surfacing, there is a need to think differently about safer routes.SS suggested parking should be outside of school groundsAll agreed cultural changes have changed since they were youngSC suggested cultural change can be an item for the next meetingDP already organising walks to school and a need for more walk leader volunteers. |  |
| 8 | **Urban walks and greenspace links** – Simon Curry ChairSC highlighted areas outside of green spaces are important to them e.g. neighbouring properties can be wildlife havens or have a negative impact to adjacent green spaces. How green spaces are accessed? A change of thinking needed, how can we link green spaces with existing walking routes? |  |
| 9 | **MUGS Forum**SC Next meeting November 6, website being upgraded and linked to LAF website, some content updates needed. Open to anyone wishing to add content or relevant links.AB suggested BHS and Rambler links added with text contribution for LAF & MUGS websites. |  |
|  | **Nuisance motorbikes** – conversation starterSC Highlighted Pump Lane area being subject to proposed housing development, landowner stating reason owing to orchards no longer viable. Public anger against the proposal is considerable, application not submitted yet.CM/SS doubted motives of the landownerSC lots of complaints about motorbikes accessing the orchards and bridlewaySS spoke with local dog walker who said there had not been any motorbikesAT attended meeting with Police, Medway Council ASB team and Councillor Potter, there was considerable supporting evidence of motorbike use on bridleway and orchards, received considerable complaints. Equestrian Gate installed to address issue at Police request. Issues stopped.AT stated many people complained about the gates and access problems but did not complain about the vegetation on the bridleway. AT explained, a minority of people may believe complaining about the gates may have an impact of future planning decisions – this would not be the case and would be dealt with completely separately to any planning application.SS stated if development happened equestrian use must be preserved.GJ asked if a PROW calim had been submittedAT explained application form and guidance had been sent with Rambler guidance link, PROW team expecting a path claim possible within the orchards.GJ stated existing PROWs must be preservedSS PROWS could be enhanced within potential developmentAB S106 funding could be availableSS Stated any furniture should be adequate for horses |  |
|  | **Local matters arising from LAF members**PP milestone markers have been removed on some Sustrans promoted routes.GJ asked about Rochester trail updateAB funding bid planned, ongoingSC £5K funding could be available |  |
|  | **AOB**CM asked about progress on BerengraveMH Management plan on course, funding secured owing to development, new boardwalk planned possibly further £50k for site management plan. Marion Phillips leading project. Boardwalk replacement will be better than previous efforts.SC Thanked LAF members for their time, meeting closed |  |
|  | The Forum’s next main meeting will be held on Thursday 5 December 2019 at 4 pm with a pre-meeting for members at 3:30 pm in Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham. Civic Room |  |