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| **Medway Local Access Forum**  **Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 6 June 2019 at 4.00pm**  **Civic Room, Gun Wharf, Chatham, Kent** | | |
| **Item** | **Main Meeting** | **Action** |
|  | Simon Curry Chair  Annmarie Behn (AB) Paths and Promotions Manager MC  Ian Gray (IG) User representative (CCG)  David Palmer (DP) Public Health  Karen Beer(KB) NFU  Sue Saunders (SS) British Horse Society (Vice Chair)  Chris Morris (CM) Medway Towns Footpath Group  Cllr Iles Medway Councillor  Michael Dale (MD) Coastal Park  Marion Phillips (MP) Partnerships Officer MC  Graham Jenkinson Ramblers | |
| 1 | **Welcome to guests, members and officers**  SC welcomed everyone to the June meeting and his first as chair.  SC gave the forum some background information as to his work in the field of access and introductions were made around the table. |  |
| 2 | **Apologies**  Darren Taylor, Martin Hall, Adam Taylor, Maggie Coleman |  |
| 3 | **Minutes of last meeting (7th March 2019)**    SS said she would reschedule the equestrian meeting with SB for the ROWIP.  MC had sent apologies for the meeting and so no update was available for the proposed permissive path at Whittings Farm.  AB confirmed that an email had been sent to MD with contacts for the Alzheimer’s Society  AB circulated a GDPR consent form for members to sign to enable sharing of email addresses amongst members.  AB advised that the RR13 near Digger land has reopened.  GJ advised that no-one in the Ramblers group had seemed to have received the official consultation on the ROWIP. AB advised that she would let the consultant know and the address / email would be checked.  The Minutes of the last meeting were then signed off. | **SS**  **AB** |
| 4 | **Presentation on the canine code and responsible dog ownership**  The Safer Communities Team gave a talk on the theme of dogs.  Jacky Donaghy (JD)explained the process for stray/ lost dogs and how their Facebook page can help both to identify the dogs and where necessary, find them new homes  Ian Garcia (IG) explained how they work with organisations like the PDSA and the RSPCA and how their core focus is to raise awareness and educate people on how to look after their dog and help their dog to behave well around others. This has been found to be the most effective tool.  GJ explained an issue he had with dogs bothering a family member with limited sight near Crow Lane. IG and JD advised they would be happy to attend the location and educate the dog owners there.  KB brought up the problems and legality of dogs fouling on farmers’ fields and running across the crops. IG explained that the biggest barrier was catching them in the act.  KB advised that the NFU were making some signs to point out to dog owners that they would be eating these crops that they were letting their dog loose in.  SS and KB agreed to give the Safer Communities Team literature about dogs from their own organisations (BHS and NFU respectively).  SC offered that the LAF could pass on information of any trouble hotspots to the Safer Communities Team. The SCT agreed this would be a good idea.  Cllr Iles asked whether video / photographic evidence of misdemeanours would be acceptable and IG said it would be.  IG agreed to look into the issue of obstruction by cars parking on the grass verges at Watling Street, Strood. | **JD/IG/GJ**  **SS/KB**  **IG /CLLR I** |
| 5 | **Public Health’s Active Travel Project**  David Palmer gave a presentation on his work in Active Travel (attached as an appendix to the minutes).  DP explained he worked within Public Health and co-ordinated initiatives such as Nordic Walking, health walking and cycling under the branding of ‘A Better Medway’.  DP related the benefits of walking and explained how their walks were led by volunteers and were formed of both open walks (to anyone) and closed walks (only available to certain groups).  DP explained how they link in with community facilities like hubs and libraries and start their walks from these points. They actively seek to ensure their walks are near public transport stops and are trying to expand their volunteer base. He explained that training for the volunteers is free.  Public health achieved a notable footfall of 19,970 on their walks last year.  DP then explained about the cycle groups, how they commenced in 2012, are graded in a similar manner to the walks and are all on cycle routes or shared paths rather than roads.  Nordic walking is a new project and has attracted a large waiting list already.  DP has been nominated as the Public Health representative and is eager to be involved with the LAF, exchanging news and feedback on access issues and forging close links with the groups the LAF represent, i.e. the Ramblers and his own groups. |  |
| 6 | **Matters Arising**  Lodge Hill – No update  Gibraltar Farm – No update but it was agreed that access in the area must be protected. SC urged members to approach their local councillors with any concerns about local development and to push for the Local Plan to be completed to give further protection to sites.  Strood Riverside –AB advised that an order has been placed for repairs to signage.  RS206 – IG reported that the access issue is progressing. It was agreed that a meeting should take place to discuss possible funding streams once an outcome is secured.  Cliffe Pools – SS advised that the bridleway is not going to happen in the near future due to plans for spoil from the future TLC to be imported into the wading pools. SS is disappointed but suggested that maybe a permissive bridleway could be provide a temporary solution until the spoil import has happened. She will work further on a solution.  Deangate – no update.  RR12 – Part of the path has been resurfaced. The section over the railway bridge is subject to negotiations with Network Rail, which are ongoing.  OCND Walking Festival – starts at the weekend. OCND are promoting and Public Health and Cuxton Countryside Group are running walks in the festival. |  |
| 7 | **Rochester Community Trail**  AB gave an overview of the proposal for a community trail in Rochester. SC, MP and AB had completed a desktop study and circulated the proposed routes around the table.  GJ suggested that the routes should be signposted from the railway station and that the routes run in a clockwise direction to give a gentler incline. |  |
| 8 | **England Coastal Path**  AB reported that the Woolwich to Grain stretch is out for consultation at the moment  MD circulated his face book comment regarding the siting of the path at Grain. MD had a query concerning a possible PROW between Grain and All Hallows and was to speak to AB after the meeting to clarify.  SC suggested a celebration of the ECP once the path was opened. | **AB /MD** |
| 9 | **AOB**  SS asked if Horse wash Lane was still being monitored. AB confirmed that it was.  SC confirmed that Temple Waterfront did have plans for a park as well as a nature reserve. Access to the nature reserve and the open space will be public.  CM reported that he and CCG had cleared footpaths that were on the contract for Norse to undertake. AB explained that the contract specifics were still being discussed by AT and Norse and that there might be some overlap until date parameters had been confirmed for the cuts on the contracted PROW.  CM reported on data that he had obtained concerning finances for KCC prow and was concerned at how they budgeted far more money on the maintenance of PROW than Medway.  SS reported of the BHS activity taking place on Thursday to highlight the problems that riders face on PROW.  IG reported on quad bike problems across farmers land in Cuxton.  SS urged IG to contact the police and copy in the Police Commissioner as this seems to work well.  MP advised that there was a MUGS Forum event on the 10th August and that they would like to invite the LAF members to come along and join in. MP would forward more details as they became available.  AB asked for approval for the content of the flyer to encourage more membership. The LAF assented approval. | **IG**  **MP** |
|  | The Forum’s next main meeting will be held on Thursday 5 September 2019 at 4 pm with a pre-meeting for members at 3:30 pm in Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham. Room 12 |  |