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|  | **Medway Local Access Forum**  **Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 4 March 2021 at 4.00pm**  **Virtual Zoom meeting** |  |
| **Item** | **Main Meeting** | **Action** |
| 1 | Simon Curry Chair  Annmarie Behn (AB) Paths and Promotions Manager (MC)  Chris Morris (CM) Medway Towns Footpath Group  Ian Gray (IG) User representative (CCG)  Peter Garrett (PG) Greenspace and Access Manager(MC)  Sue Saunders (SS) Vice Chair ( BHS)  Adam Taylor(AT) Rivers & Paths Manager (MC)  David Palmer (DP) Public Health (MC)  Arthur Waters (AW) Disabilities representative  Graham Jenkinson(GJ) Ramblers  Darren Taylor (DT) Cycling representative  Martin Hall (MH) HIF  Karen Francis (KF) HIF |  |
|  | Welcome to guests, members and officers SC welcomed everyone to the March meeting, then explained the protocol of Zoom meetings. Introductions were made around the table. Arthur Waters from Medway Parkinson’s was warmly welcomed to the Forum as a representative for disabilities. Peter Garrett was welcomed as the new head of Greenspace Development and Access at Medway Council. |  |
| 2 | Apologies Karen Beer (NFU), Marion Phillips (Partnerships Officer MC) |  |
| 3 | Minutes of last meeting (3rd December 2020) The Minutes of the last meeting were agreed.  AT advised that the signs at Grain were in private land ownership and he has asked they be removed but this may take a while. |  |
| 4 | **HIF Presentation**  Martin Hall and Karen Francis gave a presentation on the Housing Infrastructure Fund – New Routes to Good Growth. £170 million has been granted by the government with all infrastructure to be in place by 2024. Consultation has been extended to 6th April and all members who have not yet commented are encouraged to do so. Links to the brochure and consultation are below:  [futurehoo@medway.gov.uk](mailto:futurehoo@medway.gov.uk)  <https://www.medway.gov.uk/futurehoo> | **ALL** |
| 5 | **Round the Table( RTT) Medway Ramblers - GJ**  There is a committee meeting next week with walks to restart next month  . |  |
|  | **(RTT) Cuxton countryside Group - IG**  CCG are undertaking clearance when needed and currently installing a memorial bench. They had an issue with horses which AT has resolved for them.  1200 saplings have been delivered but have not been planted yet.  IG explained they are working with MC on the RS206 project to secure a path from Cuxton Station to Medway Valley Leisure Park.  Asked about walking alpacas on a footpath. AB advised to speak to the landowner of the paths and seek permission as an alpaca is not strictly a normal accompaniment on a PROW. |  |
| 7 | **(RTT) Medway Towns Footpath Group - CM**  Like the Ramblers, the walking group are not yet operational but hope to start out again next month.  Only one working party is out at the moment due to Covid shielding so they are extreme busy clearing paths for MC. |  |
| 8 | **(RTT) British Horse Society**  SS queries the RS112 IN Hoo and AB advised it was now open.  SS queried the progress of a permissive bridleway around Cliffe Pools and was disappointed that they have not been able to secure this with RSPB due to infilling of one of the Pools as a part of the Lower Thames Crossing. SS will reinvestigate as the LTC has been delayed until 2028 and look at previous minutes. | **SS** |
| 9 | **Reports from Officers (RFO) – AB**  Reported the wide range of work that’s been achieved so far as part of the Action Plan 2020-2022 for the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.  Slides are attached as part of the minutes. |  |
| 10 | **RFO – AT**  AT reported on the wealth of work done so far on the England Coastal Path.  Slides are attached as part of the minutes. |  |
| 11 | **RFO – DP**  DP advised that Public Health Walks will be affiliated to the Ramblers, the details of which are yet to be determined.  They are also working with Phil Bungay on a unique walk and rebooting Health prescriptions  DP talked about current initiatives including the Mason Mile, BAME cycling club, Rochester Walkopoly and the Medway Trail idea where photos are used for orientation. |  |
| 12 | **RFO – DT**  DT reported that monies from the Active Travel Fund is being spent on new shared walking and cycling lanes at Four Elms Hill.  DT also reported that the work at Shipwrights Avenue is now completed. |  |
| 13 | **LAF Newsletter and Website**  SC reported that the last year’s newsletters (in lieu of meetings) had been received very well and raised the profile of the LAF.  He would like to produce another one and asked all members to submit some news or an interesting / informative article by the end of April.  SC and AB would also like information from the members to put on the LAF website, so it remains lively and interesting. | **ALL** |
| 14 | **Eco Hubs**  SC advised that Eco Hubs are an online platform where information is shared by environmental partners.  Rainham Eco Hub has been live for one year now and is worth a visit as it is full of interesting ideas of what you can do to help the environment. |  |

**Any other Business**

SC advised that where rubbish is an issue in their area, members should speak to their local councillors.

SC also advised that motorbikes has been highlighted as a problem recently and any members experiencing this should speak to the police in the first instance and also their local councillor.

IG asked if it were possible to have updated maps for the Cuxton area. AB will look at.

SC thanked AB and AT for the impressive amount of work they have undertaken over the past year.

**The next meeting is on Thursday 10th June 2021 and will be held via TEAMS**.

**All members who have not used TEAMS before need to download the app.**