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Nottingham City Council

Nottingham Local Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting held at Remote - To be held remotely via Zoom - <https://www.youtube.com/user/NottCityCouncil> on 14 July 2021 from 6.36 pm - 7.43 pm

Membership

Present

Helen Hemstock (Chair)
Liz Cordle (Vice Chair)
Edmund Hopkins (Vice Chair)
Dave Mackrory
Nigel Sarsfield
Giselle Sterry

Absent

Ian Bussey
Laura Dominguez
Hugh McClintock
Nick Hynes
Margaret Knowles
Mike Mewse
John Rhodes
Steve Rhodes
Chris Thompson
Ken Weise
Matt Wilson
Councillor Adele Williams
Councillor Linda Woodings
Hilary Yates

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

John Lee - Senior Public Rights of Way Officer
Emma Powley – Interim Governance Officer

1 Apologies

Hugh McClintock (Vice Chair)
Laura Dominguez
John Rhodes
Steve Rhodes
Margaret Knowles
Nick Hynes
Chris Thompson

The Chair welcomed Councillor Rosemary Healy to the meeting as the Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport and Cleansing Services.

2 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on the 14 April 2021 were confirmed as a true record.

3 Position Statements

The Chair gave an update on position statements following conversations with various people and groups outside of the LAF. The following points were highlighted:

- a) There were key issues where the LAF has had a firm stance and view point- and questioned if members considered it effective of necessary for the LAF to put together a position statement as a forum to represent its collective views.
- b) The LAF could combine their expertise to explain their views which could be circulated to interested parties to stimulate conversations and engagement with others.
- c) Forum members considered if it would be beneficial for there to be a small collection of Position Statements for members to agree upon. It was suggested that similarly to that of Natural England (who are statutory consultees for Planning Applications) who issued standing advice, this could be replicated in order to refine the Forums' responses to Planning applications.
- d) It was noted that Position Statements could be more generalised, for example in reference to cycle parking in built developments to submit as part of our contributions to planning applications.
- e) Work could be undertaken with the Planning sub group – to streamline the process with the possibility of compiling a check list when looking at potential new developments.

ACTION: Discuss with the planning sub-group and decide on next steps on what the Position Statement would cover and to help streamline processes.

4 Slow ways

The Chair explained that 'Slow Ways' was a walking network across English Towns and Cities. The following information was highlighted:

- a) The walking network was between English Towns and Cities and questioned whether the forum would wish to be more involved in Slow Ways.
- b) At present, 800 groups signed up to contribute to Slow Ways who were looking to recruit volunteers as contributors who would be required to do the following:
 - i) Explore and organise groups to 'swarm' certain routes (heavily promoting a route, asking walkers to speak and write of their experience and to rate it)
 - ii) Verify walking routes
 - iii) Volunteer to submit surveys
 - iv) To submit exemplar routes.
- c) The Walking Sub Group representative noted that it may require a lot of voluntary effort but could be looked at with regards to active travel.

ACTION: More information be gathered and reported back to the Forum to allow for a more informed decision.

The Public Rights of Way Officer commented that the Nottinghamshire LAF had been contacted and more engagement with them was perceived to be a positive step forwards. A

number of interpretation boards for the Inclosure Walk were set to be delivered and he had received an invite to the Inclosure Walk in September, appended to the minutes.

5 Sub Group Updates

6 Update from the walking sub group

Liz Cordle gave a brief update on the activities of the Walking sub group. The following information was shared:

- a) The map of the walk between Mapperley and St Ann's Walk had been published and was available on the website.
- a) The team had been working on (as well as leading) a number of walks including Basford, Wollaton and Forest Fields and Arboretum.
- b) The 'Best foot forward' walks had resumed although people needed to book in advance; not all of the walks had been re-instated due to Covid.
- c) Promoting walks was discussed at a previous forum and since then, the communication about the walks had been improved by the promotions team.
- d) It was explained that whilst there had been previous funding for some of the design work of leaflets, there was no budget specifically allocated for this. The Right of Way Officer would explore other avenues and contact the promotion and communications team to try and highlight the work of the walking sub group.

7 Update from the Planning sub group

Edmund Hopkins on behalf of Margaret Knowles updated the forum. The following was noted:

Strategic matters

- a) The Greater Nottingham Strategic Partnership is consulting stakeholders on the Draft Greater Nottingham Blue-Green Infrastructure Strategy. This will inform both the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan and the development of policies and allocations within it. The strategy will also inform the preparation of subsequent Local Plans, and Blue-Green Infrastructure provision priorities through the determination of planning applications across the Greater Nottingham Area.
- b) strategy provides evidence on existing strategic Blue Green Infrastructure which should be protected, their functions and connectivity, and opportunities to improve them or create more. It focusses on the strategic network that provides the foundations of the Blue-Green Infrastructure network across Greater Nottingham. It considers coherent ecological networks alongside more multi-functional Blue-Green Infrastructure networks.
- c) The consultation closes on Friday 13 August 2021. Margaret had volunteered to coordinate a response, but would welcome input from others, both in the planning group and those with an expertise/interest in biodiversity issues. A copy of the report has been sent to planning group members.

Comments on Planning Applications

- d) The logistics of making comments has become more difficult as it is taking several weeks before some validated applications are entered on the system. This has been raised with City Council officers but with no satisfactory outcome.
- e) **21/01032 Phase 2 of the Island Site Development** - Construction and operation of Purpose-Built Student Accommodation and associated hard and soft landscaping, foul and surface water drainage infrastructure, and local highway improvement works
- f) Overall Nottingham LAF welcomes the opportunities that the planning application presents to improve and enable cycle and pedestrian activity within this area and support wider cycle/ pedestrian connectivity within our city. However, we asked for the following:
- i) Assurance that the improvements to cycle and pedestrian provision on City Link will take full account of the revised Cycling Infrastructure Design Guidance standards with improved connections at both ends.
 - ii) Pedestrian and cycle routes segregated on Manvers Street. The Framework Travel Plan refers to a combined foot/ cycle way.
 - iii) Cycle parking provision meeting NCC standards. The Framework Travel Plan states that 270 secured covered cycle parking spaces will be provided for students but this is less than the 310 required by NCC standards.
 - iv) That full account is taken of cycle and pedestrian movements in redesigning the junction of this site with Manvers Street and Sneinton Hermitage and that these also meet the revised DfT guidance.
- g) **21/00968/PFUL3** Bendigo Building, Brook St Demolition of existing building and development of purpose-built student accommodation (up to 13 storeys), also with ground floor commercial units, car and cycle parking
- h) NLAf welcomes the fact that cycle parking spaces for the student accommodation is in line with local plan guidance on quantum. A planning condition to see that these spaces are delivered should be applied.
- i) That significant numbers of car parking spaces for students are also proposed is disappointing and will encourage private car use. Some basement car parking spaces could be devoted to cycle parking for the commercial units and as an alternative to the two-tier facility for students, particularly for heavier cycles such as e-bikes.

Charging facilities for e-bikes should be included.

- Additional on street parking adjacent to the site is proposed, contrary to local plan policy number. A number of these would come at the cost of lost footway width and NLAf objects to this.
- NLAf welcomes the additional footway width proposed to be provided on Cowan Street. The City Council may wish to consider adoption of this area as highway so as to secure public access in perpetuity.

Ongoing applications

- j) **20/02228/PVAR3 Student Accommodation on Triumph Road** - LAF objected to the reduction in cycle parking from the original approval. Approved 21 June 2021 with a condition that secure cycle parking shall be provided for a minimum of 122 cycles in accordance with details that shall first have been submitted to and agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority. This should help encourage an alternative mode of transport to accord with Policy 14 of the ACS and Policy TR1 of the LAPP.
- k) **Sherwood Library. 20/02688/PFUL3**. This went to planning committee on 21 April A and approved with a pre-commencement condition requiring a cycle parking scheme for the library, retail and residential at suitable locations which is well lit, covered and secure to be approved before commencement, with no occupation before spaces provided.
- l) **Position Statement re Unity Square development and the N1 Southern Cycle Corridor**, a critically important strategic cycle route serving the city. (**Dave took initiative in drafting**). This may be taken under Position Statements on the agenda.
- m) With regards to the Island Quarter application, it was explained that the Planning sub group were in support of the development.
- n) The current evidence for the cycle parking facilities and barely adequate. Difficulty that all the presumptions, assumption and modelling on the new households and development are based on pre pandemic information. Transport assessment refers to data collected in 2011 which needs to be update and revised.
- o) Efforts were being made by the Police's Design-Out Team who are working with developers to achieve a design standard for cycle parking that also reduces crime and anti-social behaviour.

8 Update from the Definitive map group

There were no updates from the Definitive Map group.

9 Any other business

The Chair commented that Laura Dominguez had resigned from the Local Access Forum and thanked her for her work and contributions.

The Forum were informed of the following:

Changes to Sneinton Greenway – there is a sum of money to for the site allocated to include the Sneinton Greenway as part of one of the phase of Island Quarter. The outline consent had a S106 agreement of £4 million to cover two principal highway improvements either side of the Island Quarter. Outline consent was now not being implemented and the developer was currently negotiating different S106 agreements for each phase. The City Council may potentially receive a sizeable amount of money from this.

10 Items for future agenda

The Forum discussed items for future agenda and the topics below were agreed to be considered at future forum meetings;

Living Streets – a representative be invited to engage and input into a future meeting

A representative from the Transportation team to update the Forum, specifically on e-mobility.

Transport Planning – request attendance from someone in the team to update and deliver a round-up on the significant issues that are due before the end of year.

Designed Quality Framework (DQF www.co-place.org), – presentation to elaborate on how to get involved and influence design policy.

11 Date of next meeting

13 October 2021

The Itinerary.

The pieces of land are more or less linked up already, except for Queens Walk, which is separated from most of the remainder which are on a northern semicircle of the old town. Queens Walk has been eroded by, first, the rebuilding of the Meadows which involved cutting off about a quarter of its length at the station end, and then the extension of the tram taking the centre of the walk for its tracks. So the fine view from the station to the riverside as the first glimpse for travellers to Nottingham was removed, and the view back to the church of St. Mary's made more difficult.

After Queens Walk Park, which is next to the Walk, the old town must be crossed to reach the next A.R.G. This one is Victoria Park, which had started life as Meadow Platt Cricket Ground, but later in the century it was refashioned as Victoria Park with attractions for the numerous children roundabout, trees and a drinking fountain. It is next door to an old cemetery, known as the cholera cemetery, where Bendigo's monument can be seen. This last, however is not part of the A.R.G.s but the wall between has now been opened, the tombstones removed to create additional green space.

After following St. Anns Well Road to the bottom of Robin Hood Chase, the route is almost continuous. From The Chase to Corporation Oaks, St. Ann's Hill, Elm Avenue, the Arboretum, The General Cemetery, Waterloo Promenade and the Forest the only break is from the top of the cemetery at Canning Circus to Forest Road West, and the backstreets between these have their own historic and visual interest.

We decided to finish the Inclosure Walk at the Inclosure Oak, which commemorates the final Award of the Act, partly because it seems an appropriate place to do so and partly because the Rock Cemetery, just beyond, is one step too far for most walkers. In 2015 a second Inclosure Oak was planted ceremoniously by the secretary of the Open Spaces Society, to celebrate the passing of 150 years since the planting of the first oak, with a visit from the "Sheffield Giants" and a Morris Team.

Both cemeteries are part of the A.R.G.s because each had an extra 4 acres added from the 130 acres, and both are laid out as park cemeteries with the Victorian idea that they would be used for pleasurable walks, much as the Parks themselves are.

The two cemeteries have many interesting interments and their own histories to tell, so that a couple of hours is not too long for a visit. There are specific visits with historical talks arranged over the summer by other organisations for each cemetery, so we can recommend these to those whose appetites are whetted by our quick visit.

Those who would like to do this walk by themselves will find an informative and picturesque guide on sale at the Five Leaves Bookshop, north of the Council House.

THE GREAT NOTTINGHAM INCLOSURE WALK

Its Origins.

When the 'Friends of the Forest' was first set up in 2001 we were naturally concerned with our own park, but as we cast around for facts to support our hopes for the future appreciation of this great, and at that time much neglected and derided, open space the 1845 Inclosure Act, Nottingham, St. Mary's Parish, began to have greater significance.

Like most people in Nottingham, we had vaguely heard of it but did not yet appreciate its current legality in controlling what happened on not just our park, the Forest, but on 130 acres of open space around the city centre, allotted recreation grounds, ARGs.

It turned out that these had been planned by the city fathers of those days to provide room to move and fresh air to breathe in the newly developing but still smoke-ridden and crowded town. The old town had been very small for its population and extremely densely inhabited, so that land taken from round the edge of the town was still within easy reach on foot.

At first it was planned to make effectively a circular Walk around the old town, with a few recreation grounds where most required. Plans changed as new ideas appeared and an Arboretum to match, or surpass, Derby's new arboretum was soon a key requirement.

The Walks were reduced to a length of three miles, still passing by, or through, the other parks. With two gaps caused by crossing the old town and along St. Anns Well Road, it is still possible to walk mostly on grass and under trees for five miles from by the river Trent near Wilford Bridge to the Inclosure Oak on the Forest.

As the Act was signed by Queen Victoria at the end of June 1845, we hold the Walk on a Sunday near that date, avoiding major competing events as far as possible.

Our Intention

Having discovered what an amazing heritage Nottingham has, and that most people, including ourselves, most councillors and council officials, were quite ignorant of it, we decided that we should try to link up with the other A.R.G.s in the city and do something about it. Those other parts of the country who were allotted recreation ground in their Inclosure acts were lucky if they received one or two acres. Many got none, and it was quoted at an enquiry later on that Eastwood, which was famed for its 15-acre cricket ground lost it all. Why? Because all those who might have complained were employed by the landowner or his friends and lived in their houses.

We worked out an itinerary and tried it out one Sunday morning, and set about organising a free public event to show and explain this land to our fellow citizens. And we have been doing it annually ever since.