

Nottingham City Council

Nottingham Local Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting held at remotely via Zoom -
<https://www.youtube.com/user/NottCityCouncil> on 14 October 2020 from 6.32 pm - 8.14 pm

Membership

Present

Helen Hemstock (Chair)
Ian Bussey
Liz Cordle (Vice Chair)
Laura Dominguez
Edmund Hopkins (Vice Chair)
Margaret Knowles
Brendan McCabe
Dave Mackrory
Hugh McClintock (Vice Chair)
Nigel Sarsfield
Giselle Sterry
Chris Thompson
Ruth Thurgood
Councillor Linda Woodings

Absent

Nick Hynes

Colleagues, partners and others in attendance:

John Bann - Cycling and Road Space Transformation Manager
John Lee - Senior Rights of Way Officer
Councillor Sally Longford - Portfolio Holder for Energy, Environment and Democratic Services
Kate Morris - Governance Officer

9 Apologies

Nick Hynes (due to technical / Zoom issues)
John Rhodes

10 Minutes

With the addition of Helen Hemstock to the attendance list the minutes were confirmed as a true record.

11 Carbon Neutral Plans

Councillor Sally Longford gave a verbal update to the Forum on the Council's Carbon Neutral plan that was announced in 2019. The Council is working hard towards becoming carbon neutral by 2028, a challenging yet realistic target. She highlighted the following points:

- (a) Prior to this commitment being made there were many positive steps already being taken by Nottingham City to work towards becoming carbon neutral.

Nottingham City Council has a history of investing in biogas busses, solar PV panels, and the district heating system powered by the Eastcroft Incinerator;

- (b) The draft action plan was initially launched in January 2020 for a period of consultation. Over 1000 responses from citizens, businesses, partners and stakeholders were received and resulted in a significant redraft of the plan to take into account the responses;
- (c) The final plan consists of a number of chapters addressing different areas for action. The plan can be found here:
<https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/2619917/2028-carbon-neutral-action-plan-v2-160620.pdf>
It will be reviewed annually to amend it as different technologies develop and different funding schemes become available;
- (d) Within the first section of the plan there are various chapters with different focuses for action
- Transport – focus on increasing walking and cycling opportunities, cutting emissions, improving public transport options, ensuring Council fleet vehicles are low emission. Funding for these low emission vehicles is challenging as is having suitable vehicles available
 - Built Environment – improving the energy efficiency of the built environment, using retrofitting schemes to increase energy efficiency
 - Energy Consumption – increasing reliance on renewable energy, introducing pilots using cutting edge technologies. The two Universities in Nottingham have made similar pledges and are working with the Council on developing technologies.
 - Waste and Water – improving waste and water management to reduce emissions.
 - Consumption – Looking at changes of how and what we consume and how it is produced
- (e) The second section of the plan focuses on Carbon removal and how the Council can promote schemes that uses the land and planted environment around us to remove carbon from the atmosphere, these schemes need to be sustainable and the target it to plant 50,000 more trees in the City in three years.
- (f) The third section addresses Resilience and Adaptation, looking at mitigating against climate change, and in particular in protecting homes against the increased threat of flooding, and building buildings less susceptible to over heating in heat waves;
- (g) The final section was added following responses from the consultation period - Ecology and Biodiversity. This section addresses the ecological crisis that is faced and aims to tackle the issue of extinction and the plight of the pollinators. During the national lockdown the inability to mow grasses etc was beneficial and helped pollinators. Bee friendly planting will be introduced across the city;

- (h) The plan is a living document and will be changed and assessed regularly. Its in depth nature reflects the support from a wide range of organisations, from the open spaces forum, the green partnership, this Local Access Forum and many more;

Following questions and comments further information as highlighted:

- (i) Where possible for planting schemes there will be a focus on native species. The biodiversity officer is working hard to ensure that there is a mix of species to support pollinators;
- (j) There has been an increase of rogue traders miss-selling green schemes to house holders. It is recommended that home owners wanting to invest in green projects for their own homes look to the Green Homes grant, launched recently, who have a list of registered and approved fitters/installers. However there are limited numbers of specialist fitters and installers as the specialist skills take time to learn;
- (k) There are environmental conditions that dictate when works can take place, particularly around retrofitting where air temperature has to remain about 5°c for products to be used correctly;
- (l) Further government support is needed for funding for private home owners to be able to access these technologies;
- (m)As a result of Covid and the national lockdown air quality improved and emissions dropped significantly. These are now on the increase again and people are naturally anxious about using public transport again. This is a concerning trend and Public transport providers are working hard to ensure that their services are user friendly and Covid safe;
- (n) The main challenge now is to spread the word and the work to organisations and citizens who have yet to engage with the plan. Engaging the public in conversations about small changes they can make, making them aware that the plan exists are all things the LAF can do within its business as usual;
- (o) Following on from the national lockdown people are looking at their local environment differently, valuing it more. Next year the plan can come back to the LAF for input and update;
- (p) The Big Conversation consultation around the Broadmarsh site is due to commence shortly and the aim is to ensure that Carbon Neutrality is a major factor in whatever development takes place. It would be good to restore the original footprint and street pattern of the area. The LAF are encouraged to participate in the consultation, both as forum and as individuals;
- (q) The Planning White paper has been put together by the Government following consultation and about green and sustainable planning issues. However it also appears to reduce the areas where Local Authorities can intervene. The protected areas retain existing planning rights, but the creation of the growth zone and the area for regeneration gives local authorities less say in the

planning process. What is needed from government is more funding for the construction of carbon neutral buildings and funding for retrofitting cold properties;

- (r) Another thing the Planning White Paper does not do is allow Local Authorities to set their own locally sustainable planning guidelines. The Government have not set out clear and stringent guidelines for future buildings;
- (s) The Council is planning to respond to the consultation on the White paper and once submitted will happily share that feedback with groups such as the LAF;
- (t) Nottingham City has been chosen to be a pilot area for E-scooters. There has been bad press about them in other pilot areas. This subject will be addressed further in the next item, the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan;
- (u) Nottingham City Council is working closely with the Borough Councils on reducing carbon emissions across the County. The Energy Team is a regional leader in innovation and has been providing advice to councils across the region;
- (v) Nottingham City Council and LAF partners have approached Nottinghamshire County Council asking them to consider decarbonising their pension fund. Extinction Rebellion have also made similar requests to the County Council. This is a matter for ongoing discussion;

The members of the Local Access Forum thanks Councillor Sally Longford for her attendance and for the in depth information discussed at the meeting. They indicated that they looked forward to welcoming her back next year to discuss progress towards the 2028 target and updates in the Plan.

12 Local Cycling And Walking Infrastructure Plan

John Bann, Cycling and Road Space Transformation Manager, gave a verbal update on the LCWIP and active travel funding bids. The forum had previously discussed this matter at their 8 July 2020 meeting (minute 5c). John provided a broad update on the work that has been taking place:

- (a) The LCWIP has been developed with Nottinghamshire County and Derbyshire County councils and Derby City Council, with the first draft being submitted in November 2019. The final draft of the plan was submitted in support of the Emergency Active Travel Fund bid (EATF) - having the draft LCWIP was an important part of preparing the bid;
- (b) The final draft of the LCWIP is still being refined and is not yet a public document. This was made clear in the EATF bid;
- (c) A programme of works is being developed with D2N2 Partners with short, medium and long term projects that are linked to the Transforming Cities programme also currently running and will enhance the work being done through that programme;

- (d) The plan is evolving and will continue to do so as the long term impacts of the Covid 19 pandemic continue to become apparent. At present there is a high level of interest in walking and cycling and investment through the LCWIP will be beneficial for many years to come;
- (e) At present political approval from the 4 authorities is being sought by officers. The document will then have to be approved by the LEP. Following this there will be a period of public consultation. This will not be the first public consultation process for this plan, previous consultations have helped to shape the proposals up to this point. The Plan should be available for consultation before the end of 2020;
- (f) There have been a number of consultation events involving local access forums, stakeholders and partnership organisations. The feedback from these events has gone on to help shape the involving various interested groups, and Local Access Forums in the development of the plan. District councils have also been engaged, some more than others, but all have been consulted;
- (g) E-Scooter pilots will be starting in Nottingham City through an approved operator. The Scooters will be limited access, so the pilot will work with certain employers in the City and the scooters will be available for employees to use. They cannot be ridden on pavements and the geo-fencing technology within them ensures that speed restrictions in pedestrianised areas automatically limit the speed the scooter can travel;

The Forum thanks John Bann for his attendance and for the information presented to them as part of the verbal update.

13 SUBGROUP UPDATES

a Update From The Walking Sub Group

Members of the Walking sub group provided an update on progress being made in the development of self guided walks.

- (a) The Bestwood walk and the Bulwell walk are now complete in draft form and are on the website as drafts.
- (b) Work continues on the following walks
 - Broxtowe
 - Forest, Arboretum and Mapperley
 - St Ann's and Mapperley – struggling with an accessible route for all abilities because of the steep terrain
 - Basford
 - WollatonThese are all at different levels of progress from initial thoughts to close to publishable as draft.
- (c) There various ideas for walks to be developed, interest in developing a walk from the source of the Lean to where it meets the Trent. There is a route along

the Gedling Mineral railways track, proposed cycle and walking routes and a proposed Gedling Heritage trails including the tunnels;

- (d) The Walking Subgroup took part in the Carbon Neutral 28 day challenge, thanks to Nigel for creating the film promoting walking and cycling in the city;
- (e) There are currently volunteer opportunities in parks should people be interested in helping those.
<https://www.parksfornottingham.co.uk/areasofwork/volunteering>
- (f) The parks team are also keen to work in collaboration with the Local Access Forum. There has recently been a Parks consultation workshop that LAF members attended, and a member of the Parks team will be attending future meetings to ensure closer links;
- (g) The Nottingham Wildlife Trust and the Local Access Forum would like to work together particularly around the accessibility to their sites. A conversation will be taking place around how the LAF can contribute and support that;
- (h) Hugh indicated that the Walk Leicester news emails have come out, these are circulated to members;
- (i) The forum asked whether the maps for walks could be made available in both PDF and MS Word format as Word is more print-friendly. John Lee will pick this up with the web team;

b Update From The Planning Sub Group

Margaret Knowles gave an update on behalf of the Planning Sub Group. She highlighted the following points:

- (a) Two large issues need a LAF response putting together, the first being the Planning White Paper consultation, which ends on 29 October 2020, the second is the Broadmarsh Big Conversation which is being launched soon;
- (b) Over the last 3 months there have been 550 planning applications to sift through. Comments have been submitted on a number of applications including:
 - Burrows Court, Windmill Lane – lack of cycle parking, no transport assessment and concern re details of ramped access, landscaping and lighting.
 - Activity centre for the Sea Cadets – no cycle parking
 - Unity Square – Concerned about the proposals which have already been approved.
 - Island Quarter development – A site visit was arranged, planning permission was granted by committee following much discussion. Still feel that ramped access for cycle access should be retained.
 - Radmarsh Road – revisions were made but not significantly enough to change the comment previously submitted by the group.

- (c) Comments were made on the original application for the pathway at Midlands station. Additional information was to be added by the applicants;
- (d) Councillor Linda Woodings confirms that she would send through the Council's response to the White Paper consultation once it has been submitted;

c Update From The Definitive Map Sub Group

Chris Thompson informed the group that the sub group work has stalled as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic.

John Lee confirmed that he would facilitate a virtual meeting of the sub group to enable a catch up and create a plan to start to move forward again.

14 Update On The Foot/Cycle Bridge, Trent Basin To Lady Bay

Hugh McClintock gave a brief update on the foot bridge project, which seems to be progressing through the formal channels for procurement and tender processes. Further updates on progress around formal planning approval will be brought to the forum as they occur.

He pointed out that there will be expanded opportunities for additional active travel options as well as walking and cycling routes for leisure.

15 Suggestions For Future Agenda Items

The following items were suggested for future agenda items:

Living Streets – Katie France
Work of Ridewise

16 A.O.B

Helen Hemstock informed the meeting that the region Local Access Forums Chairs meeting was postponed until later in the year. Papers have not yet been circulated for the meeting, and so Helen has not yet seen the updates from other LAF Chairs.

There have been reports of problems with rights of way through the Covid Pandemic with landowners restricting access. John Lee confirmed that there had been no such problems reported in Nottingham City.

The Enclosure Walk will be launched as soon as possible. Funding is in place and designs for the information boards have been confirmed.

The Basford walk that previously ran from the Wilkinson Street Tram Depot then along the river has now been altered to make it circular and more accessible.

17 Date Of Next Meeting

The Forum noted the date of the next meeting 13 January 2021