



MINUTES
of a meeting held in Diocese offices, Chelmsford
Tuesday, 12th February 2019 at 2pm-4.45pm

Present members:

Louise Fuller (LF)	Katherine Evans (KE) -	Ed Dixon (ED)
Vernon Glashier (VG)	Chair	Sue Dobson (SD)
John Victory (JV)	Ray Booty (RB) – Vice	Martyn Towns (MT))
Sandra Reynolds (SR)	Chair	Len Banister (LB)
Gary McCarthy (GM)	Jan Arthur (JA)	

LA Officers present:

Garry White (GW), Shirley Anglin (SA), Jayne Reynolds (JR), Roy Read (RR)

Apologies:

Adam Scott

Minute Taker:

Roy Read

1	Chairman’s Welcome: apologies and appointments	Action
	Bob Drane has retired. The Chairman thanked Bob for his sterling service to ELAF. KE asked if SA can provide a list of the dates when each member will reach their 3 year service on ELAF. KE asked if Marlene Curtis can be sent hard copies of meeting agendas and minutes.	SA SA
2	Minutes of the previous meeting These were agreed. SA will add these approved minutes to the website. RB asked if he can have the minutes as PDF.	SA SA
	Matters Arising ELAF member profiles Still a couple to be completed: Martyn, Sandra and Len. Once SA has all profiles, she will update the webpages. Access and country parks/ECC owned land SD has no further news to report	MT, SR, LB, SA

	<p>PROW Inspectors</p> <p>LF thanked SA for the updated inspector patches map. KE – ELAF will write to Jo Heynes and Cllr Spence regarding the remaining vacancies.</p> <p>LB – the inspectors work impacts on several areas of ECC policy including health, well-being and tourism.</p> <p>ELAF website</p> <p>Issue with domain name to be progressed.</p>	<p>KE</p> <p>RB</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>PROW and Records Manager – Garry White ECC</p>	
	<p>GW gave a talk reflecting on his 35years in PROW and highways ahead of his retirement in April. He has had a varied and absorbing career and is passionate about protecting public access to the countryside.</p> <p>GW highlighted some of the most significant events affecting access during his career including the introduction of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, the reclassification of BOAT's and production of the Consolidated Definitive Map.</p> <p>GW thanked everyone for their support and wished ELAF all the best for the future.</p> <p>KE presented a card on behalf of ELAF and thanked GW for his passion in protecting the PROW network.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Green Infrastructure Strategy – Jayne Rogers ECC</p>	
	<p>JR shared a presentation about the Green Essex Strategy which she has been working on for the last few months.</p> <p>A map of Essex green infrastructure assets has been developed in partnership with the UEA, an internal steering group has been set up and external partners such as Natural England, Woodland Trust, RSPB, EA, Sustrans etc have been consulted.</p> <p>The presentation highlighted why the strategy is needed and how it fits in with other existing and developing ECC strategies and policy. JR also outlined some of the national and local drivers behind the strategy, the social and economic context and the visions and objectives.</p> <p>The strategy contains a list of proposals to deliver the objectives. These will be refined over the next few months. Public consultation is likely to be carried out in May/June and the finished strategy should be published in the autumn, along with an action plan.</p> <p>JR encouraged ELAF members to sign up to the Knowledge Hub Group and to comment on the draft strategy.</p>	

	<p>A number of comments were made regarding the need for the strategy to consider the needs of all green space users. JR replied that inclusivity is an important element of the strategy and will feedback the comments made.</p> <p>JR will send round a list and description of all the land use types identified in the strategy and will email the presentation to SA for circulation among ELAF members.</p>	SA
5	Network Rail: Update on TWAO Enquiry	
	KE said that the inquiry closes on the 13 th February but there are still a number of site visits which the ramblers will be attending.	
6	Update from the Regional LAF	
	<p>Hold over to next meeting.</p> <p>The Next Regional LAF meeting is in a couple of weeks time. KE will circulate the minutes when they come out.</p>	KE
7	Blackwater Rail Trail	
	<p>SR and SD shared a presentation about the Blackwater Rail Trail which follows the route of the former railway line between Maldon and Witham.</p> <p>Some parts of the route were sold off by British Rail before selling the rest to Essex County Council. ECC country parks and Friends of the Flitch Way manage the route.</p> <p>There are a number of major obstacles to establishing the whole trail as an “access for all” route but Maldon DC have included this project in their Green Infrastructure Strategy which has recently been consulted on. The project will be a very long running ambition and depends on many factors, including awaiting development opportunities in the area so that S106 funds and land agreements can be made. SR pointed out that she had been involved in the Flitch Way for 10 years and joined when people had already been working on it for 15years and it still wasn’t complete.</p> <p>It was proposed and agreed that the Blackwater Rail Trail would be a project that the LAF would support despite the anticipated length of time.</p> <p>SR to give presentation to SA for sharing with members</p>	SR/SA
8	ECC Report: Matters Arising	

	<p>Winter cutting list – SA asked members to let her know of any foot-paths that they think are missing from the list.</p> <p>KE asked everyone to report to her any bridges that are currently causing issues on the network as a result of being taken out of service.</p> <p>SA said that there is funding in the budget for repairing small foot-bridges up to 8mtrs long. We do not know how much of the PROW network is currently affected by closed bridges. Bridges tend to get replaced in August/September when access is better.</p> <p>The 2019/20 capital budget will focus on a number of large projects as highlighted in the report.</p> <p>VG asked how the TRO online trial is going. SA replied that it is very early stages and she will feedback to the August meeting</p> <p>Two reports of issues with byways were discussed – Ray Booty to reply to letter from Mr Simpson, both issues to be put on agenda of next meeting of the Byways Working Group in late February.</p>	SA
9	ROWIP – Project Group Formation	
	<p>KE proposed that there should be two project groups – one looking at the policy/strategy and another looking at specific improvement projects.</p> <p>SD is already looking at potential projects related to bridleways.</p> <p>KE said that the Ramblers will aim to do something similar for foot-paths.</p> <p>The Statement of Actions is due to be refreshed this autumn. SA asked members to let her know if there is anything missing from the plan.</p> <p>RB, JV, LB and KE to review the 2009 plan and comment on proposed changes/additions.</p>	RB, JV, LB, KE
10	Items for next agenda	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TRO on line mapping – project update - ROWIP - Update from regional LAF - Network Rail – the conclusion of the Inquiry <p>Please email any other items to KE & SA.</p>	

11	Any other business	
	SA passed around advice from the Animal Health Trust regarding the current outbreak of equine flu and asked members to share with others. KE asked if the information can be provided in an email so that it can be put on the Ramblers website	SA
	Date of next meeting	
	Tuesday 7 th May 2019 at 2pm To be held at the Chelmsford Diocese Offices.	

DRAFT