

Minutes

Meeting: Dorset Local Access Forum

Time: 10:00 – 12:30

Date: Thursday 22nd July 2021

Venue: Teams Meeting

PRESENT**DLAF MEMBERS**

Paul Tomlinson (PT) (Chair)

Jan Wardell (JW) (Vice Chair)

Janet Davis (JD)

Chris Slade (CS)

Lee Hardy (LH)

Jim de Bertrand (JdB)

Nicola Harper (NH)

Fiona Bowles (FB)

LOCAL AUTHORITY OFFICERS

Tara Hansford DC (TH) (DLAF Officer)

Bridget Betts DC (BB)

Luke Horton DC (LNH) (Business Support)

Phillip Elias (PE)

APOLOGIES

Don Nutt (DN)

Amanda Wallwork (AW)

Councillor Carole Jones (CJ)

Carol Shoopman (CJS)

COUNCILLORS**1. Welcome and introductions**

Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Declaration of interest (DoI)

No DoI

3. Apologies, Minutes of last meeting, Actions/ Matters arising

All members agreed that the minutes from the meeting were accurate.

Actions/Matter Arising

- Pathwatch - The Ramblers are still in the process of upgrading the system, which has been delayed due to their website.
- Portland Path Network Improvements – TH confirmed that the Portland Path Protectors were on the RoWIP consultation list. PT to circulate email/document from AW regarding this matter and will ask for comments back on what AW is suggesting.
- Poundbury – DLAF to hand this back to the Ramblers and move on from it. Take this off the agenda for next time.
- Definitive Map – This is an agenda item – no discussion
- English Coast Path – TH advised things are starting to move more towards the east of the county, but DC haven't received official information from Natural England. It is expected that in the east this can be funded by Rural Development Agency funding, but the west this will have to be funded by government money. TH advised when she receives a formal report on this matter, she will circulate with the DLAF.
- Publicity for the LAF – LH advised the web page on the Dorset Council site is now up to date. DC has protocols on making the website accessible. The link to the BCP webpages still not implemented – PE to address this.
- LH has not completed the communications plan but will complete this soon.

**DORSET, BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND
POOLE JOINT ACCESS FORUM - MINUTES**

- BCP ROWIP – A proposal to invite Sarah Buck to the next meeting to discuss the 2026 cut off issue was dismissed as it was not felt this would add any additional information.
- BCP Definitive Map – to be discussed with PE report, PT's understanding is that this has been resolved.
- Local Enterprise Partnership – FB & PT to liaise to progress links between DLAF & LEP. FB & LH to liaise to discuss the links between LEP & LNP. JD (on the LNP mailing list) to circulate information to members about Health & Nature Dorset (HAND) a joint initiative between the Dorset AONB, Dorset LNP, Active Dorset & Public Health Dorset.
- BUS Infrastructure Funding – PT stated he wrote to Sue McGowan after the previous meeting but has had no response yet. TH explained that she was on leave.
- PRoW Management/Maintenance – CS advised he gave TH some cases to look and TH stated she would follow this up with Chris after the meeting.
- Countryside Stewardship Scheme/ELMs – JD had spoken with Ramblers HQ – they are lobbying hard but not much has changed and conversations are ongoing re ELMs. PT advised he sent a letter to DEFRA on 12th April after the consultation and had a reply on 22nd June which Paul circulated within DLAF. FB advised she has been involved with an ELMs test and trial on access for Kent AONB and she had a response from some of their answers on Access feedback. FB advised she will send this to TH.

ACTIONS:

- **Path Network Improvements – PT to circulate email/document from AW regarding this matter and will ask if anyone within the group is against supporting what AW is suggesting.**
- **PAUL**
- **England Coast Path - TH advised when she received a formal report on this matter, she will circulate with the DLAF ongoing TSH will update**
- **PE to ensure BCP webpages link with DLAF webpages Philip Elias**
- **LH to complete DLAF communications plan and send to members. Paul**
- **FB to send PT the LEP contact. Paul**
- **LH and FB will contact each other to talk about the LNP. Fiona**
- **JD to send round the information on HAND. JD**
- **PT to follow up the email for Sue McGowan on bus infrastructure. Paul**
- **FB will share Access Feedback from test and trials in relation to Countryside Stewardship Schemes with TH. FB/TH**
- **FB, NH, JD, JW and PT to work together and draft a response to Secretary of State's letter (Countryside Stewardship Schemes) and ask if there is anything to follow up on it. Paul**

4. DLAF Standing Orders/ToRs

Key discussion points:

- PT and LH agreed on updating the existing Standing Orders instead of starting from scratch.
- Recruitment – Due to limited resources Dorset Council suggested changing the recruitment process. However members felt that the current method ie a third of the members retiring each year is better than a more severe change every 3 years. TH proposed that a full recruitment will be carried out and the demand on Dorset Council resources assessed for discussion on how best to proceed at a future meeting.
- The Local Access Forum title, LH advised we are all working together as one body, which covers one geographical area, Dorset. A quick term for this body is DLAF. Members agreed to keep it as DLAF.

**DORSET, BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND
POOLE JOINT ACCESS FORUM - MINUTES**

- DLAF numbers & role of elected councillors– A discussion on whether all 18 DLAF members were needed and if elected councillors should sit on the forum and play an active role . A vote on DLAF membership took place with 6 people voting for 18 members to remain. And 1 voting against there being 18 members and that number being reduced. TH proposed a written paper regarding the councillors membership and involvement so there is clarity.
- The number of meetings each year – Currently there is 3 meetings per year but JD & FB expressed views in support of 4 meetings a year to get more work done and be in more contact regularly, potentially 2 face to face meetings and 2 online meetings.
- BB explained that 4 meetings would be more difficult to administer due to Dorset Council resources. BB suggested that the DLAF could look on the efficiency of meetings instead of the quantity of meetings. e.g. using emails and shared documents to cover various topics that can be looked at that way instead of spending time discussing in the meeting.
- PT suggested we use zoom for the next meeting as it is easier to use and he can access subtitles. Also, zoom can be used for smaller working group meetings to discuss different topics in preparation to summarise in larger DLAF meetings. BB said that Dorset Council are not permitted to organise meetings using zoom but can attend them.

ACTIONS:

- **TH and BB to get recruitment ready for end of summer and feedback to LAF. Done**
- **LH and TH will work together to develop a paper regarding the councillors' involvement in LAF. LH gone TH updated Forum re Cllrs roles at Nov DLAF induction.**

5. Dorset ROWIP

- TH presented on the ROWIP review and advised that the review had started, and she will be working closely with the DLAF as it progresses. It was agreed that TH would respond to comments made by the DLAF regarding the RoWIP via email

Actions:

- **TH to circulate DC response to DLAF RoWIP comments RoWIP in progress**

6. BCP ROWIP

- PE asked DLAF members to look through the draft BCP RoWIP – comment on any necessary changes, propose any ideas, particularly in Christchurch, that have been missed as well as give any general feedback on the whole document.
- JW asked if the document could also be shared within members user groups.
- TH asked if this draft, once the DLAF had commented, would be going out for the required statutory 12 week public consultation prior to being finalised.
- PE confirmed no

Action:

- **PE to send out the ROWIP document to DLAF members and members to provide comments back to PE within an agreed deadline. Paul**

7. Definitive Map Team Update

- Vanessa was not at the meeting but there was a discussion around DLAF being unhappy with resource issues with applications coming in and added on the definitive map. TH advised that Vanessa has explained the resource implications and that the Def Map team have increased staff.
- TH explained that in regard to applications coming in DLAF could write to the Council and highlight their concerns.

Actions:

- PT, JD and JW to write to the portfolio holder as well as Vanessa and her line manager regarding their concerns on this matter. **Paul**

8. Ministerial Statement in response to Glover Report

- A point of clarity included paragraph 5 on the report - JD mentioned that Tom Munro hadn't meant for his words to sound just about access but to include climate change, nature and monument enhancement etc.

9. DLAF Work Programme

- Due to time this was not discussed however members had been sent TH report alongside the agenda. **PRIORITY at March Meeting – to agree/finalise**

10. Members update from associated groups

- Open Access Islands – JDB explained he has had phone calls with Nikki who has given him useful information in terms of prioritising some of the sites and Natural England review. JDB explained he will be more active on this matter in the near future.
- Disabled Access – NH explained that nothing major has been done to move forward on disabled access although there were a few smaller moves including PT has written to local Parish's to remind them of their duty under the equality act to improve access. NH stated that they are also writing to National Trust. A summary report clarifying this work and any feedback will be provided for members

Actions:

- **NH & PT to provide an update report for members.**

11. Date of next meeting

- The proposed date is 25th November 2021 (tbc)