



**Minutes – Meeting 47
Arreton Community Hall
Thursday 5 March 2015**

Present at the meeting:

Forum Members:

Mark Earp (Chairman)
David Farnham
John Heather
Cllr Paul Fuller
Cllr John Medland
Cllr John Hobart
Tricia Merrifield
Alec Lawson
Penny Edwards
Helen Wood
Lee Matthews - IWC Recreation & Public Spaces Manager

Others:

Adrian Beane
Tony Marvin

Forum Secretary:

Jennine Gardiner -Rights of Way Assistant, IWC Public Rights of Way Section (PROW)

1. Apologies:

Apologies were received from:

Heather Whetter – Natural England
John Gurney-Champion
Stephen Darch
Will Ainslie - LSTF Project Manager, Isle of Wight Council
Darrel Clarke - IWC Public Rights of Way Manager (PROW)

2. Minutes of previous meeting and matters arising + Decelerations of Interest :

Matters arising from last minutes:

Brading Station – letters to Brading Town Council and Network Rail to inform them that the LAF would support the cattle creep scheme, when the project was ready to proceed– Mark confirmed he had sent letters. He had received a letter of thanks from Brading Town Council but had no reply or even an acknowledgment from Network Rail.

Carriage driving – Penny has only had time to look at bridleways near her home but will try to put together an Island wide list of Bridleways / Footpaths she feels are wide enough for carriage driving and this list can then be circulated to LAF members so they have time to look at the sites prior to the next meeting in June. At this time a consensus can be made on how the LAF will proceed.

ACTION – Penny to create a list of Rights of Way which have potential width to be restricted byways

Mark advised that he had visited the **Shanklin / Wroxall** bridleway with a mainland equestrian expert who thought that there was an unacceptable incline which would not be suitable for carriages as horses would slip. Penny disagrees with this and a time and date will be arranged in the future for Darrel and Mark to accompany Penny in the carriage in order that they can understand what is needed for carriage access.

Island Sustainability Forum – a meeting was held on 20 January 2015 and some LAF members attended. The minutes of this meeting were circulated to the group (copy will be attached to these minutes for information). There will be a further meeting on Tuesday 10 March 2015 to discuss Sustainable Transport following the feedback from the first meeting. LAF members are once again invited to attend.

Section 106 – Cllr Fuller had raised this matter with planning. There are to be changes in the future on what we currently call S106 money (which is the contribution a developer makes for projects to benefit the local community in the vicinity of developments over 8 houses). In the future the funds (to be called Community Infrastructure Levy) may be capable of being transferred to individual Town and Parish Councils to allocate to projects as part of the Localism Act, but this is not going to be happening soon as the Local Authority (via Planning) want to keep the process as it is for the time being. However, when the time comes there will be in house training which Cllr Fuller is keen for all Town & Parish Council planning committee members to attend so they have the knowledge for greater involvement. It was mentioned S106 funds are time limited so if they are not spent on there designated schemes by the deadline (about 5 years) then the funds get returned to the developer.

Cllr Hobart made members aware that when the Whitecroft redevelopment was approved by planning, S106 money was earmarked for Sandy Lane improvements and yet nothing has been done, what happened to this S106 money? **ACTION – Jennine to enquire to planning to find out what happened to Sandy Lane S106 funds.**

Island Roads – Island Roads were invited to attend a LAF meeting but declined as they said they could not resource outside meetings, but LAF could attend their offices and ask any questions. However, it did not go unnoticed that Island Roads sent a representative to the recent cycle forum meeting which contradicts this statement.

ACTION – if members have Island Road questions (where the answer is **not** already on the Island Roads website) and wish the LAF to put these questions forward on their behalf please send these to the LAF secretary (Jennine Gardiner).

Island Roads contact information

Tel: 01983 822440 - 24 / 7 telephone number

Office: St Christopher House, 42 Daish Way, Newport, IW, PO30 5XJ open for personal callers between 10am and 4pm

Email: info@islandroads.com

Report it online using the interactive map on their website which will give you a reference number and allow you to track the report.

Island Roads and recycled plainings – after the last meeting someone had asked whether road plainings are still available for use? A reply was received from the PFI contract monitoring team that plainings are classed as hazardous waste due to the tar content and as such they cannot be reused without going through a recycling process which encapsulates the materials before being re-laid as a foam base blacktop (i.e. not loose plainings which can be carcinogenic). This means that Island Roads are re using the carriageway surface they are taking up and putting them back into their own schemes, but road plainings are not available to the general public or for Rights of Way for works.

Declarations of Interest: None

3. Vote in new Vice Chairman

No volunteers. It was decided to leave this until the next meeting in June at which time it was hoped we will have a volunteer.

4. LSTF Update 1 & 2

Will could not attend this meeting and will be leaving the Council at the end of this month as the LSTF 1 project manager role ceases.

Wendy Perera (planning) has produced an update for LSTF 2 (attached). Points LAF members raised from this update:

Hydrogen vehicles – Lee Matthews advised that the Local Authority and the Chamber of Commerce are reconsidering this and it may be replaced with a similar project.

5. Cllr Medland - Off-Road Sustainable Transport

Cllr Medland referred to the meeting held on the 20 January 2015 and advised the forum that there will be a second meeting on Tuesday 10 March 2015 (LAF members invited) to follow up on the ideas so far gathered and to see how a funding bid can be developed to progress these. Cllr Medland will also be speaking to the Association of Town and Parish Councils on the 19 March 2015.

6. IW Bridleway Group Update – Tricia Merrifield

Tricia informed members that work was on going.

7. IW Rights of Way update – Darrel Clarke

Darrel could not make this meeting but produced an update for members (attached)
Helen mentioned the Totland sea wall and advised the group that the project to design and build a bypass path had now gone out to tender.

8. IW Coastal Path – Mark Earp

Mark informed the group that the special coastal path meeting with Jenny Bowen from Natural England (NE) had gone very well and we are just waiting for NE to release the timetable so we can see when the scheme will commence for the Island. As soon as NE has the timetable the LAF will be informed and in turn members will be made aware.

9. Chairman's Update

Raising the profile of the LAF

How can we raise the profile of the LAF in order that the public is made aware of it, what it does, how they can get in contact and get involved? It was felt that a presence at some of the Island's shows might bring it in contact with the sections of the community who value outside recreation. Potential shows are:

- Riverfest – Saturday 16 May 2015 11am to 3pm
- County Show – Saturday 27 June 2015 9.30am to 5pm

- *Wolverton Garden Fair – Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 September 10am to 5pm (see notes below)*

If we do these it will need LAF members to offer their time to set up the stall, staff it and take it down again afterwards. Volunteers should contact the Chairman with offers of the dates and times they can do. If we cannot get member involvement then this idea will not be able to proceed as it needs commitment so planning time and fees are not wasted.

ACTION LAF members to contact Mark Earp, in the next few weeks, and advise what time they can volunteer for the Riverfest & County Show.

POST MEETING – it has been decided that the Wolverton Fair will be too much of a commitment this year (as it is over two days). Therefore, volunteers are required for Riverfest & County Show.

Permissive Access

Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) Permissive Access schemes are schemes in which landowners received funding from Natural England to allow public access over their land, either general open access over a block of land or a permissive path or bridleway. Details of the routes or locations can be found on the Natural England website (and from the IWC Rights of Way website) but traditionally they are not well promoted and not many people know of their existence. Natural England has now ended the grant funding so as the deadlines are reached at each location the permissive access will no longer exist.

On the Isle of Wight there are 22 such sites:

Name	End date	Location	Status
Westover Farm - A	31 July 2016	Calbourne	Bridleway – creates a north / south bridleway linking Clay Lane to Bridleway CB16B
Rowridge Farm	31 July 2016	Brighstone Forest	Open Access
Cridmore Farm	31 October 2016	Bleak Down	Footpath – creates an alternative to walking on the Niton Road links Footpath GL10 to Bridleway GL15
Harry Ferguson Farm	30 April 2017	Wilmington	Bridleway – creates a west / east bridleway links the Yarmouth / Freshwater multi use track to Wilmington Lane
Westover Farm - B	31 May 2017	Brighstone Forest:	Bridleway – creates an alternative to road use. parallel to Lynch Lane links bridleway CB20 to car park
RSPB Brading Marshes	31 July 2017	Brading Marshes	Footpath – creates a southwest / northeast link across the marshes to Great Sluice
Fleetlands Farm	31 October 2017	Nr Newtown	Footpath – creates an alternative to road

			walking, runs parallel to Corf Road – also part of the coastal path
Hawthorne Manor Farm	31 October 2017	Brookgreen	Footpath – creates a coastal footpath over land which has been lost to erosion plus two links to Military Road
Compton Farm	31 January 2018	Compton	Footpath – creates a pedestrian link via farm yard (adjacent to Byway F55) to reach open access land
Newclose Farm	31 January 2018	Blackwater	Footpath – creates a link from the Blackwater Road and footpath A38 opposite to the Newport / Sandown cycletack
Ningwood Common	31 July 2018	Cranmore / Ningwood	Footpath – circular footpath round Nature Reserve accessed off unadopted Solent Road
Cheverton Farm	30 June 2019	Cheverton Down	Bridleway – creates north / south links between existing bridleway network
Garlic Farm - A	30 June 2019	Knighton / Mersley	Footpath – creates a circular walk and allows off road access to Garlic Farm from footpath network
Garlic Farm - B	30 June 2019	Newchurch / Alverstone	Footpath – parallel route between existing footpaths
Bachelors Farm - A	30 September 2019	Apse Heath / Borthwood	Footpath – from existing footpaths at Bigbury Farm to footpath & bridleway to the northeast
Bachelors Farm - B	30 September 2019	Chale Green	Footpath – north / south route from existing footpath to Corve Lane
Hermitage Dairy Farm	31 January 2020	St Catherin's Down / Hermitage	Open Access
Westcourt Farm	31 March 2020	Shorwell	Open Access
Dean Farm	31 March 2020	St Lawrence	Open Access
Limerstone Farm	31 May 2020	Limerstone Down	Open Access
Niton Manor Farm	30 September 2020	Niton Down	Footpaths X 2 north / south links - coastal path to footpath at St

			Catherin's Hill & bridleway running west / east
Lee Farm	30 September 2020	Ningwood / Wellow	Bridleway – using dismantled railway line to create a east / west route plus links to the Main Road Wellow to the south and Main Road Ningwood to the north

Natural England website for permissive access:

<http://cwr.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?County=ISLE+OF+WIGHT>

ACTION – All LAF members to look at the list of permissive locations via the NE website maps and familiarise yourselves with them. The sites will be discussed at the next LAF meeting to decide what action the LAF wishes to take.

Definitive Map

The whereabouts of the Public Rights of Way network can be located using the Definitive Map (DM) The DM is constantly monitored by the IWC Rights of Way team and changes made as and when necessary or resources allow (any change to the DM is an extremely long and time consuming procedure). The IWC DM can be viewed on the Council's website, under the Rights of Way page, and it is a scan of a paper map created in 2000. This map is split into individual PDF's and any changes since 2000 kept as a separate list (as the DM scanned book pages cannot be updated). The Rights of Way team know this is not very user friendly but do not currently have resources available to undertake a project to get this updated and into a digital format.

Mark Earp has been approached by a company called Island Eye who has said they would be willing to create a map of the Island's Rights of Way which can be accessed digitally, for no payment or fees. This could never be referred to as the Definitive Map but it might be a helpful tool for people to navigate the network.

It was agreed that Island Eye should come along to the next LAF meeting and give a talk on what they can offer.

ACTION – Mark to invite Island Eye to next meeting

IWC Definitive Map can be viewed from this website:

<http://www.iwight.com/rightsofwaymaps/>

Island Eye website:

<http://www.islandeye.co.uk/history/>

Deregulation Bill

Mark had recently attended the neighbouring New Forest LAF meeting and they had discussed the Deregulation Bill (see attachment). It was asked that at the next meeting the Rights of Way Manager gives an update about this and any impact of open access / rights of way.

ACTION – Darrel to provide an update of Deregulation Bill

Landowner Responsibilities

It was considered appropriate that a simple fact sheet was produced which reminded landowners of their responsibilities; this then could be available at any events that the LAF or affiliated groups attended. This is due to there being a noticeable increase in landowners who are not from farming or countryside backgrounds. These landowners move into properties with land and in some cases have Public Rights of Way through their land. These new landowners will require time to understand their duties and a fact sheet might assist them.

Therefore, the Rights of Way Manager has created a fact sheet (attached) and this has been slightly amended after feedback from John Heather about spraying responsibilities.

South East LAF co-ordinator role

Natural England has withdrawn funding to support the roles of the LAF Regional co-ordinator (see attached letter); this may well mean a lack of communication between Natural England and local LAF's. However, all LAF members and regular guests can now access HUDDLE once agreeing to the terms and conditions of use. HUDDLE is Natural England's website which allows the connection of members, sharing of information and the debating and answering of questions

ACTION – Jennine will contact members & guests who have email / website access to see who wishes to be set up with access

Forestry Commission

The Chairman feels that the LAF needs a face to face update with the member of staff from the Forestry Commission responsible for the Island. We already know that Thursdays are not possible as he has other commitments. Accordingly, contact will be made to see if a future LAF meeting can be on a different day to accommodate his needs.

Action – Jennine will contact Forestry Commission

10. Any Other Business

- Cllr Hobart - the LAF needs to be kept up to date with the **Countryside Outsourcing** – **ACTION** Jennine has emailed Lee Matthews and Matthew Chatfield and asked that they keep LAF informed.
- Cllr Hobart has asked who is responsible for the eradication of ragwort spotted on verges. Answer - If the ragwort is growing on a highway verge then Island Roads are responsible and this should be reported to them. See the following taken from their website: <http://www.islandroads.com/index.php?p=112>

Weed control

We carry out weed spraying in urban areas three times a year; we spray during May and July and again later in the year in September. The spray we use poses no risk for domestic animals. Our staff responsible for carrying this spraying are very careful to ensure they only spray it where it is needed, to avoid where possible this going into residential gardens.

We also treat the areas within our responsibility against noxious plants such as Japanese Knot Weed and **Ragwort**

- Penny Edwards (this was discussed when we talked about Island Roads in matters from the last minutes but has been moved to this section for easy reference) **Mud on Roads** from Tractors. Penny has reported to Island Roads on many occasions that the local

farming operation has left her local road in an unacceptable condition to a point it is no longer accessible (Roud Road). Penny has been disappointed with the lack of action from Island Roads. John Heather advised the duty of care is with the tractor driver who should sweep the roads should the highway be left in a dangerous condition – there are sections in the Highways Act 1980 which would allow the Police to take action against the tractor driver and the Highway Authority (via Island Roads) has power under the Highways Act (as it is a duty to protect the rights of road users) to clean the road and recover its expenses. Therefore, Island Roads is the first point of contact for this matter and they should be taking action. **ACTION Jennine has emailed the PFI contract monitoring team raising concerns for lack of action regarding Roud Road and asking them to investigate past reports regarding this matter.**

- Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) - it has been asked that this is placed as an item on the next agenda.
- John Heather had received an email from the organiser of the Action Challenge 2015 charity fundraising event. This event will take place between Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 May 2015 and involved a 64 mile walk and marathon and the organisers hope to attract 900 participants. Website <http://www.isleofwightchallenge.com/>

Attachments:

1. [Island Sustainability Forum Minutes 20 January 2015](#)
2. [LSTF2 Update](#)
3. [Rights of Way update](#)
4. [Deregulation bill attachment](#)
5. [Landowner Responsibilities](#)
6. [Natural England South East LAF coordinator role](#)

11. Next LAF meeting:

Next LAF meeting will be at 4pm on **Thursday 4 June 2015**

at Arreton Community Hall

Future Dates

Thursday 3 September 2015

Thursday 3 December 2015

End of Meeting