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| **Medway Local Access Forum****Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 6 December 2018 at 4.00pm****Meeting Room 7, Gun Wharf, Chatham, Kent** |
| **Item** | **Main Meeting** | **Action** |
|  | Rita Hunt (RH) ChairAnnmarie Behn (AB) Paths and Promotions Manager MCIan Gray (IG) User representative (CCG)Darren Taylor Cyclist representativeKaren Beer (KB) NFUSue Saunders (SS) British Horse Society (Vice Chair)Martin Hall (MH) Greenspace development & Bidding Manager MCAdam Taylor (AT) Paths and Rivers Manager MCMichael Dale (MD) Grain Coastal ParkSu Ormes Health representativeCllr Stamp Medway CouncillorPaul Ramsey IOG Parish CouncilMaggie Coleman OSS representativeSimon Curry MUGS representativeGraham Jenkinson Ramblers |
| 1 | **Welcome to guests, members and officers**SS welcomed everyone to the meeting. |  |
| 2 | **Apologies**Cllr Iles, Chris Morris, |  |
| 3 | **Minutes of last meeting (6th September 2018)**The Minutes of the last meeting were signed off. |  |
| 4 | **Members of the LAF**SS expressed the need for new members to represent disabilities and dog walking. The LAF also desired an independent secretary. Being that they are a statutory body they felt that an officer taking the minutes might put too much of a local authority perspective on the proceedings.SO offered space within the Public Health section of Medway Matters to seek new membersAB to email Terms of Reference with the minutes, for members to look at and evaluate. | **AB** |
| 5 | **Matters arising**Lodge Hill –  No update.MH then advised of the Housing Infrastructure bid that was also being submitted for the Hoo area looking at 8200 new homes, a freight line, social infrastructure, 4 Elms Hill traffic and new country parks.MD asked if the regeneration would include Deangate and MH advised that this was so. MH explained that the number of homes Medway needed to build had come from Central Government.GJ asked how this tied in with the Local Plan. MH explained that the Local Plan will set out where the houses will go. MH will ask Catherine to present an update on the Local Plan for the next meeting.Gibraltar Farm – SS said that the planning has been resubmitted as 3 smaller developments  and that the LAF must keep an eye on it..Strood Riverside – MH reported that work was progressing and he knew of no delays. He will check with Janet Elliott and will share visuals with the LAF when they become available.AT explained signage was still an issue there for the Strood Community Trail and that he would get the signage corrected on the ground and also on the website.RS206 – IG reported that Kelly Tolhurst has chased the matter as there has been no progress.Cliffe Pools – AT advised that the biggest problem there was illegal access. He is talking with the RSPB about installing horse stiles and pressing for more bridleways.Air Pollution – AB advised to look at the links on the email circulated earlier that day and to send any questions on to Lucy or SO, who would answer them.Social Prescribing – SO reported that they had been successful on their bid.Record Keeping – SS is completing a form every three months to make the Annual Report submission an easier process. | **MH / AB****AT****LAF** |
| 6 | **England Coastal Path**AT advised that a report is being compiled over the next few months, to be submitted to the Secretary of State for transport. A decision confirming the route will be made by September 2019.Natural England have suffered staff losses recently which is slowing down the process.There is still a lot of environmental work to be completed for the AA28 path near Grain. |  |
| 7 | **Temple Marsh development**MH advised nearly 200 homes have been completed out of the 630 total envisaged. There is some nice public realm down by the river and all parts of the development show a riverside path. The landfill part of the site is being looked at as it is a complicated matter to build houses on this type of land.MH looking at generating income by infilling areas with inert materials, to raise the levels and create new habitats. |  |
| 8 | **ROWIP**SS advised that the equestrian meeting with Sharon will take place in January.MH presented the results from the Citizen Panel, which are attached. MH advised that the CP is a 1000 person representation of the Medway demographics.SS suggested replacing signs when they need to be, with more details on the new ones.RH suggested compostable toilets similar to those in use at Ranscombe Farm.GJ suggested putting all paths in an area on local noticeboards, local car parks etc like they do in Cuxton, Halling and Grain.MH advised that the evidence gathering is almost complete and that then the ROWIP will be looking at the processes used in managing the service.The ROWIP consultant will attend the next meeting with the March meeting have a strong focus on the ROWIP. | **AB** |
| 9 | **Union Place car park, Chatham**AB reported that the final agreement documents are with the landowner. |  |
| 10 | **Rede Common, Chattenden Woods, Capstone Road**Rede Common -RH advised that they had not yet received the £5000 promised to them for the community clean up that took place, nor a meeting arranged with Norse. RH reported that the last grass cutting that took place on Rede Common was awful.MH will chase up the above items and report back to RHChattenden Woods narrow gate issue – SS will forward the email to AT to look into.Capstone Road - The barriers are now gone but walkers are now complaining about horses using the path. AT to produce some laminated signs advising that horses are permitted to use the path | **MH****SS/AT****AT** |
| 11 | **Thames Crossing Air Quality**Closing date for the consultation is 20th December. |  |
| 12 | **AOB**MD reported that the EA have reduced the cuts on the river from 3 to 2 which is causing a problem.Kevin Seymour contacted SS about bridleways and equestrian organisations near the Medway tunnel. SS advised there were none in that area but appreciated that the Bhs had been consulted.DT reported on the various cycling improvements that had been made in Medway. In November new cycle racks were installed at Sun Pier and Rochester Pier, also new cycle/pedestrian signage throughout The Great Lines.The Cycling Action Plan LGF works had delivered, over the last two years, the following improvements to Medway’s cycle network;Gillingham Business Park 1.06 milesCopperhouse Lane & Riverside Country Park 2.17 milesA289 Owens Way to The Strand 791 metresBeechings Way 1.3 milesRochester Maidstone Road 2 milesLordswood Lane 1.07 milesCity Way 1.8 milesGJ suggested better signage for differentiation for walkers and cyclists.SC advised that new Friends of groups are being set up and that perhaps these volunteers could help cut paths. SC also suggested the idea of naming paths to raise awareness of them, encourage local pride, and request community involvement, like schools naming the paths. Pat Wilson Way and Grain Coastal Park were examples of where this initiative had been successful. SC mentioned the ‘Black Path’ at Horsted as a path that could possibly be named.IG advised the forum of the recent aggression and attack by a horse in Cuxton.AT announced that there were more cuts on the way to the service.AB explained the proposed leaflet for the Horsted Valley.MC queried a path number on a map in Halling. She will send details to AT who will look into it.MC queried the status of Whitings Farm permissive path. AB to send  a copy of the last email circulated on the matter. |  |
|  | The Forum’s next main meeting will be held on Thursday 7 March 2019 at 4 pm with a pre-meeting for members at 3:30 pm in Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham. Civic Room |  |