

Cheshire Local Access Forum



Agenda

Date: Friday 22nd June 2012
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: Room 2, Wyvern House, The Drummer, Winsford,
CW7 1AH

Location Map for the Wyvern House on Page 1

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies (10.00-10.05)**
2. **Minutes and Matters Arising (10.05-10.20) (Pages 3 - 8)**

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2012
3. **Defra Public Consultation on a Proposed Package of Changes to the Processes for Recording, Diverting and Extinguishing Public Rights of Way (10.20-11.00) (Pages 9 - 10)**

John Taylor and Mike Taylor
4. **Cheshire West and Chester Council Cycling Strategy Consultation (11.00-11.10) (Pages 11 - 12)**

Hazel Barber
5. **Update Reports from Working Groups (11.10-11.25) (Pages 13 - 16)**
 - Funding
 - Under-represented Groups
 - Health
6. **Rights of Way Improvement Plan Updates and Annual Report (11.25-11.45) (Pages 17 – 40)**

Hazel Barber and Genni Butler

For requests for further information

Contact: Rachel Graves
Tel: 01270 686473
E-Mail: rachel.graves@cheshireeast.gov.uk

7. **Feedback from North-West Regional LAF Chairs' Meeting (11.45-12.00)**

John White

8. **Outline of Recruitment/Re-selection Process for LAF Members (12.00-12.10)**
(Pages 41 - 42)

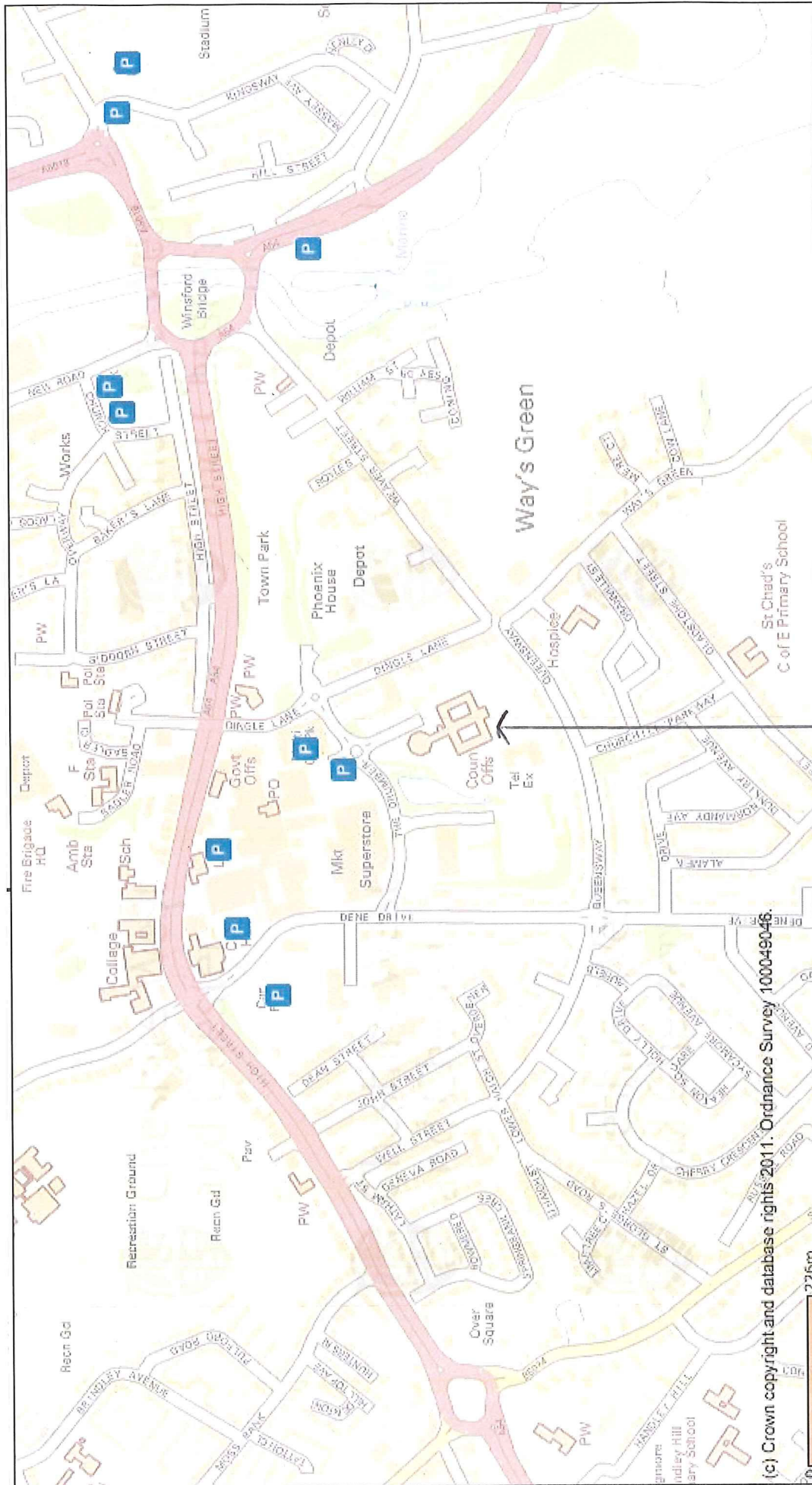
Hazel Barber and Genni Butler

9. **Reports from Members (12.10-12.30)**

All

10. **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is at 10.00 am on Friday 21 September 2012 at the Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe, CW1 2BJ



Cheshire West and Chester Council
 Wyvern House
 The Drummer
 Winsford
 CW7 1AH

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Minutes of a meeting of the **Cheshire Local Access Forum**
held on Friday, 23rd March, 2012 at Executive Meeting Room 2 - Town Hall,
Macclesfield SK10 1EA

PRESENT

Forum Members

John White (in the Chair)
Robert Anderson
Rhoda Bailey
Neil Collie
Helen Connolly
Andy Gildon
Dale Langham
Andrew Needham
Kay Loch
Keith Osborn
Keith Pennyfather
John White
Kath Wurcbacher

Officers and Others

Genni Butler, Cheshire East Council
Rachel Graves, Cheshire East Council
Hazel Barber, Cheshire West and Chester Council
John Thorp, Warrington Borough Council
Mr Colin Miller, Peak and Northern Footpath Society
Mr Peter Williams, CTC Chester and North Wales

Action

1 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ian Hesketh and Adele Mayer from Cheshire West and Chester Council and Mike Taylor, Cheshire East Council.

2 IN MEMORIAM OF JOHN TAYLOR

Members paid tribute to John Taylor, who had been a founding member of the Cheshire Local Access Forum, and stood in a minute's silence in his memory.

3 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2011 be agreed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

38 Cheshire Local Access Forum Website
The final paragraph be amended to read

“Following discussion, Members agreed Option 2 as the way forward so that the website showed the latest agenda and minutes, and those from the previous 12 months”

4 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Nominations to the post of Vice Chairman were requested. Neil Collie was nominated and it was agreed that he would be appointed Vice Chairman.

RESOLVED:

That Neil Collie be appointed Vice-Chairman.

5 UPDATE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

Members of the Working Groups gave an update on their work since the last meetings:

Finance

Neil Collie reported that the Annual Funding Spreadsheet would be updated for the June meeting.

Under Represented Groups

The Group had not met since the last meeting.

Health

The Group had nothing to report at present.

In relation to the Best Practice Leaflet for Town and Parish Councils,

Andy Gildon reported that the leaflet had been forwarded to the Cheshire Association of Local Councils for distribution and to the Local Area Partnerships. He was not sure if the Leaflet had actually been received by the town and parish councils as no feedback had been received.

The Chairman noted that the topics for the Working Groups had been decided over two years ago and asked if there were any other activities which the Forum could look into.

Suggestions put forward included the changes to the planning system by the Local Government Bill and Paths for Communities Fund and that the Cheshire Association of Local Councils be invited to attend the Forum to discuss the former of these issues.

6 COUNTRY LAND AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION PUBLICATION "THE RIGHT WAY FORWARD: THE CLA'S COMMON SENSE APPROACH TO ACCESS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE"

The County Land and Business Association (CLA) had published a report entitled 'The Right Way Forward: The CLA's Common Sense Approach to Access in the Countryside'. The report made a series of recommendations to enhance the public rights of way system, improve efficiency and obtain better value for money.

It was suggested that these recommendations should be read in conjunction with the Stepping Forward report from the Stakeholder Group on Unrecorded Rights of Way. The Stakeholder Group had made 32 recommendations and it was expected that consultation on these recommendations would be held later in the year.

It was agreed that a link to the Stepping Forward report would be sent to members and suggested that a representative from the CLA be invited to a future meeting.

KL

7 THE DELAMERE PROJECT - CONSULTATION ON MASTERPLAN

The Forestry Commission was carrying out pre planning application consultation on proposals to improve and develop visitor facilities in Delamere Forest.

A draft forest-wide Masterplan had been produced and the consultation process would lead to two planning applications being submitted – one for the creation of a new Visitors' Centre at Linmere and one by Forest Holidays for a development of forest cabins in the Kingswood area.

The Forum was concerned that the Forestry Commission had not consulted them directly on the proposals as the land affected by the proposed developments was classified as Access Land under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Discussions on the proposals included consideration of the advantages and disadvantage of the location of the forest cabins, access to the forest by public transport, vehicle access to the cabins, the affect of the proposals on the forest paths, light pollution, disruption to wildlife and creation of employment in the area.

8 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATES

Members were updated on the Rights of Way Improvement Plans for Cheshire East and Cheshire West & Chester. The report

outlined details of the current projects on the general infrastructure, access for equestrian and off road cyclists, accessibility and events and promotions.

Progress on the following projects was reported:

Cheshire East

- Crewe to Nantwich Greenway
- Long Distance Horse Ride
- Population of www.discovercheshire.co.uk website

Cheshire West

- Neston to Deeside Cycleway
- Accessibility – Interactive Mapping

It was reported that the Cheshire West and Chester Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2026 had now been adopted and copies of the document would be available shortly.

9 FEEDBACK FROM NORTH-WEST REGIONAL LAF CHAIRS' MEETING

The Chairman reported on the issues discussed at the latest meeting of the North West Regional LAF Chairs. The main topics were:

- Disabled access
- Temporary fencing on Access Land
- British Waterways Trust status
- Role of Natural England
- Creation of LAFs for urban areas
- Emergency services in remote areas
- Paths for Communities funding
- Demonstration of 'Huddle' Forum

Keith Pennyfather asked if there had been any further information on the review of the maps of Open Country and Registered Common Land, as required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The statutory review had been deferred for two years in 2010 and it was understood that this decision would be reviewed in August or September 2012.

10 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Neil Collie gave a short presentation on the A556 consultation. The Highways Agency was consulting on junction layout and the detrunking of the existing road and details were available on the Highways Agency website. He had drafted a response on behalf of the Forum, which had been circulated to members, in which Option 3 was supported as the best location for a junction to link the new

A556 with the detrunked A556 and local roads, and supported options A or B for the location of the overbridge for the local road. The detrunking plans for the A556 were to reduce the four lanes to two lanes and replace the surface of the disused lanes with a grass verge and soft earth mounds. It was suggested that the detrunking would provide the opportunity to create an all user path on the fourth lane and that the response be amended to include this suggestion.

Helen Connolly reported that the horse box parking signage had been erected for the Whitegate Way but had noted that two bays had no signage at all, indicating incorrectly that horse box parking was allowed only on the bay with signage.

Dale Langham reported that he had been in contact with Cheshire East Council in relation to overgrown footways and cycleways as he was concerned that the contractor appointed to clear the growth was not doing the job properly.

Hazel Barber highlighted that the Department of Transport was consulting on simplifying the process for Traffic Orders. Details of the consultation could be found on their website and the closing date for responses was 23 April 2012.

Genni Butler reported that the Neil Collie, on behalf of the Forum, would be attending a meeting the Non-Motorised Forum in relation to SEMMMS.

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Cheshire Local Access Forum would take place on Friday 22 June 2012.

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MEETING : CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
DATE : 22 JUNE 2012

REPORT OF : COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS
Contact : Genni Butler & Hazel Barber
Officer 01270 686059 or 01606 288539

DEFRA CONSULTATION ON PACKAGE OF CHANGES FOR PROCESSES FOR RECORDING, DIVERTING AND EXTINGUISHING PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

1. On 14 May 2012) Defra launched a public consultation on a proposed package of changes to the processes for recording, diverting and extinguishing public rights of way.
2. This consultation arises as a result of the Stakeholder Working Group's paper which was submitted to Government and which was discussed at the last meeting of the Forum.
3. A copy of the consultation paper, supporting documents and a response pro-forma can be viewed and downloaded at:
www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2012/05/14/improve-rights-of-way/. The consultation runs until 6 August 2012 and is likely to be of relevance to all people who have an interest in public rights of way in England.
4. Defra is welcoming views on their proposals as feedback will be used to inform Government decisions on whether and how to implement the various proposals for improvement.
5. A paper was presented to the Rights of Way Committee of Cheshire East Council on 11 June 2012 outlining the proposed response of the Council to the consultation. The content of this paper can be viewed on the website at www.cheshireeast.gov.uk by following: Council and Democracy > Council Meetings and selecting the meeting from the calendar.

RECOMMENDED:

That Members consider the submission of a response from the Forum to the public consultation.

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MEETING : CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
DATE : 22 JUNE 2012

REPORT OF : GREENSPACE POLICY OFFICER
Contact : HAZEL BARBER/JAMIE MATTHEWS
Officer : 01606 288539

CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER CYCLING STRATEGY CONSULTATION

1. Cheshire West and Chester Council would like your views on cycling as it prepares a new Cycling Strategy for the Borough. This is your chance to let us know your thoughts about how we make improvements to cycling in the borough to make it easier, cheaper and more convenient
2. There has been considerable investment in our local cycling network over the last ten years. Chester was successful in gaining Cycle Demonstration Town status between 2008 and 2011. This led to an increase in the number of people cycling in the borough
3. The challenge for the future is to improve local links to the cycle network and consider how to extend the success and lessons learnt from the Cycle Demonstration Town to the rest of the Borough
4. We are keen to encourage more people to cycle to work, to school or simply for the fun of it and we hope to be able to promote cycling as part of our tourism agenda.
5. We are also keen to develop awareness campaigns to highlight the health benefits of cycling and encourage more people to take advantage of cycle training scheme
6. The consultation exercise runs until Friday 13 July 2012 with a questionnaire to be completed by individuals or representatives of organisations. This is available on the Council website at the following link
<http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=15410>
or by calling the Council's Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 7036 for paper copies (which can also be found in Libraries and Information Centres)
7. A series of dates have been set up to meet with various interest groups and potential partners so that the consultation group can receive information from a wide spectrum of people and organisations. Jamie Matthews, Transport Strategy Officer, has been invited to speak to you today and answer any questions you might have.

RECOMMENDED:

That Members consider the submission of a response from the Forum to the public consultation

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| <u>Cheshire East</u> | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 |
|--|---|--|--|--|
| No of Kms. of PROW | c.1900 | c.1900 | 1928 | 1929 |
| % Easy Access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No stiles or steps • Gaps wider than 1m • Firm surface • Gradient no greater than 1:10 • Open corridor (no vegetation issues) | unknown | unknown | Unknown – assume to be same % as CWAC | Unknown – improvement on previous year due to gates installed to replace stiles |
| ‘Ease of Use’ Random 5% survey (BVPI) | 78% Spring survey 90% autumn survey | 86% Spring survey 84% autumn survey | 86% Spring survey 83% autumn survey | Spring survey to be undertaken |
| No of Officers(Total) | 7.8 FTE | 8.8 FTE | 7.8 FTE, of which: 3.8 x legal 3x maintenance 1xROWIP | 7.8 FTE, of which: 3.8 x legal 3x network 1xROWIP |
| Budget Total (‘000) | £511 | £460 | £440.6 | £396.0 |
| PROW Maintenance (‘000) | £129 | £132 | £139 (revised budget) =£0.07 / m PROW =£72.3 / km PROW | £133 =£0.07 / m PROW =£69.3 / km PROW |
| Other funding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ROWIP capital allowance £24k • LTP additional revenue £25.7k • WREN grant £50k won with British Waterways | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ROWIP capital allowance £25k | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ROWIP capital allowance £30k • £35k from LTP Cycling projects for Stapeley FP1 • £4.6k of external contributions for | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LTP ROWIP and Cycling capital budget £150k • £10k s106 for Congleton FP10 • Local Sustainable Transport Fund if successful bid |

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|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|---|---|
| | | | ROWIP projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £6.9k grant from British Equestrian Federation • Poynton village improvements | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DfT Communities Fund for Crewe £400k cycling improvements |
| ROWIP suggestions total cost | n/a | n/a | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • estimated £6.76m | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • estimated. £6.53m |

| <u>Cheshire West and Chester</u> | 2009/10 | 2010/11 | 2011/12 | 2012/13 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| No of Kms. of PROW | c1270km | c1270km | c1270km | c1270km |
| % Accessible paths (criteria- >1m width, gradient no steeper than 1:10 firm surface, no steps or stiles) | 15 | 15 | 15 + 2.5% scheduled improvements | 17.5 +2.5% scheduled improvements |
| ‘Ease of use’ Local Performance Indicator (criteria- no obstructions, signed off metalled roads can be found off o/s maps) | 65 (one annual summer figure) | 97 (one annual summer figure) | | |
| No of Officers(Total) | 3 Maintenance Officers, 2.3 Legal Team Officers , 0.5 Improvements Projects Officer | 3 Maintenance Officers, 2.3 Legal Team Officers, 0.5 Improvements Projects Officer | 3 Maintenance Officers, 2.3 Legal Team Officers, 0.3 Improvements Projects Officer | 3 Maintenance Officers, 2.3 Legal Officers. 0.1 Dev Officer |
| Budget Total (‘000) | Salaries for the above approx £200k | Salaries for the above approx £200k | Salaries for the above approx £200k | Salaries for the above c £190K |
| Footpath Maintenance (‘000) | N/A emergency spend only - actual spend £97k | N/A emergency spend only – actual spend £137k | N/A emergency spend only – actual spend £114K | N/A emergency spend only |
| Other funding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LTP ROWIP capital £24k. SUSTRANS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LTP ROWIP capital N/A SUSTRANS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital- £1.25k blue bridge Hartford to | Capital from SUSTRANS 250K for Burton - Welsh |

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|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------|--------|
| | £500k Millenium Greenway | £600k Riversdale Bridge and associated path improvements | Winsford | border |
| ROWIP suggestions total cost | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

MEETING : CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
DATE : 22 JUNE 2012

REPORT OF : COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS
Contact : Genni Butler & Hazel Barber
Officer : 01270 686059 or 01606 288539

RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN - CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Updates on current projects are provided for both Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester in Appendix 1
2. The annual report for Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan is shown in Appendix 2.
3. The annual report for Cheshire West and Chester Rights of Way Improvement Plan is shown in Appendix 3.

RECOMMENDED:

That the reports be noted.

APPENDIX 1- PROGRESS ON THE RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN – CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

| Project | Completion date | Partners | Detail and work completed | Update June 2012 |
|--|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| LTP Area Programme Crewe and Nantwich – Crewe to Nantwich Greenway | Spring 2013 | SUSTRANS, Highways, Weaver Valley Regional Park | Creation of new bridleway link between Crewe (Queen's Park) and Nantwich Riverside over land owned by the Beam Heath Trust. Part of the Sustrans 'Connect 2' project using the People's Millions Lottery Money ROW Committee approval of new route obtained December 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning permission secured May 2012 • Common land consent re-application submitted |
| Seven Sisters Lane, Ollerton (ROWIP Ref. H20) | March 2015 | North Cheshire Riders, Highways, Landowners | Safety issue for riders on busy lane, used to access bridleway network. Surface improvements delivered on connecting bridleway No. 6 also. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigating headland permissive path with adjacent landowner |
| Gritstone Trail crossing of A54, | March 2015 | Landowners | Seeking to improve crossing of A54 in Wincle. Road safety officer report received. Two landowners approached. Landowners approached, but unwilling to offer permissive route. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highways tasked to install signage |
| Long distance horse ride (ROWIP ref. X15) | March 2012 And Summer 2012 | North Cheshire Riders, Hoof Cheshire, local businesses | Development of long distance horse ride. Route would be first in Cheshire East and would be promoted for cyclists as well as horseriders. Route developed by North Cheshire Riders Application for funding submitted August 2011. Funding bid successful October 2011. Project delivery underway: signage, gate improvements, landowners informed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cheshire Cheese Loop signposted, available and promoted • Heritage Loop under development |
| discovercheshire.co.uk | ongoing | ICT, Tourism colleagues | Population of www.discovercheshire.co.uk and its sister websites Discover Cheshire's Peak District and Discover the Gritstone Trail with promoted walks, cycles and horse rides. Knutsford Rail Walks leaflet routes added June 2011 Willaston Old Oak Circular walk added October 2011, Haslington walk added October 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd 'Getting to know Willaston' leaflet added May 2012 • Cheshire Cheese Loop added April 2012 |
| Cheshire East News / other publications | ongoing | Communications teams | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knutsford Rail Trail leaflet nominated for Best Marketing Event award in the Community Rail Awards 2011 • Nantwich Riverside Loop featured in Cheshire East News • Walks for All route at Astbury Mere is the 6th most visited page out of all of those listed from around the country on the Walk4Life website • Walk4Life Day press release and Radio Stoke interview • Evaluation of Nantwich Riverside Loop press release • Ollerton bridleway surface improvements press coverage • Haslington walk feature in Cheshire East News prepared but publication cancelled due to spending freeze • Stapeley Footpath No. 1 cycling to school publicity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd 'Getting to know Willaston' leaflet May 2012 • Cheshire Cheese Loop of Laureen's Ride April 2012 • Bollin Valley Cycle Route for Bike Week June 2012 |

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| 2012-2013 ROWIP and LTP cycling projects | March 2013 | Highways and local user groups | <p>Delivery of identified schemes for ROWIP and LTP Cycling:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandbach FP33: surfacing a footpath which leads to facilities • Solly Crescent, Congleton: creation of a cycle track on desire line • Congleton FP10 : supplementing s106 funds to surface path • Goostrey Path North: creation of a new strategic footpath • Macclesfield Canal towpath, Bollington: grant support for surface • Alderley Edge bypass to Astra Zeneca cycle route: creation of link • Sutton BR28: installation of bridge where there was only a ford • Chelford FP1: grant support for improved & new path to facilities • Peak Forest Towpath, Disley: grant support for surface • Nantwich FP26/Stapeley FP1: improved connection to town centre • Road Safety Schemes: warning signage and safety measures | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreement of schemes • Scheme initiation |
|--|------------|--------------------------------|--|---|

Progress on the Cheshire West and Chester Rights of Way Improvement Plan

http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/transport_and_roads/public_rights_of_way1/cheshire_west_chester_rowip.aspx

| Project description | Policy reference delivered | Staff/project cost | Year 1 2011/12 | Update | Year2 2012/13 | Update |
|--|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| Random survey of 5% of the ROW network annually | AM | £* | 5% random survey | Complete -2011 Results of Random Survey 95% pass for Ease of Use. This was completed electronically from the results of the full survey. It was felt that the Greenspace team would probably have a stricter view of what constituted a pass or fail which is why the pass rate this year was high adhering strictly to the methodology. It will be interesting to compare next years results when the survey will be done by internal staff again. | 5% random survey | 2012 survey in progress May results were 86% pass for Ease of Use, all failures were on signage. |
| Increase paths 'ease of use' by 5 % over 5 years | AM EO | £-££* | Improve by target 1% | N/A | Improve by target 1% | N/A |
| Develop a maintenance priority system | AM | £* | Develop a maintenance priority system | Delayed -This is still in development and will be deferred to 2012/13 | review | |

| | | | | | | |
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| | | | and include on the corporate website | | | |
| Provide additional information on Rights of Way Network available | AM EO QL CC BS EG | ££** | Redevelop online mapping to show furniture items and surface. | Delayed – this is 90% complete but may run into 2012/13 | Additional routes on Discover Cheshire | Complete (deferred from 2011/12) – the online 'Interactive Mapping' now holds all the furniture information collected during the Network Survey. This can be found on the following link http://maps.cheshire.gov.uk/CWA/C/interactivemapping/ The Sandstone Trail website is still under construction. |
| Fault reporting system | AM BS | £** | Fault reporting via corporate web site | Delayed – this is awaiting corporate changes in the website and will be added as soon as these have been implemented. | Redevelop to incorporate fault reporting via online mapping | Complete – Fault reporting is now available via the online Interactive Mapping. The reports go straight to the Greenspace email for logging and allocating. This system will be reviewed periodically |
| Develop easily identifiable branding | AM EG QL EO | £-££*** | Produce design and consult with CLAF and user groups | Part complete – this has been incorporated into leaflets and publications this year but there is no 'insignia' or logo' at the moment | Incorporate design onto electronic info | Part complete – a Greenspaces style is still being incorporated into publications this year. |
| DMMO priority system | AM | ££* | Develop a priority DMMO, and | Part complete – priority criteria developed. Not on website yet. See Annual Report for application investigations. | Investigate 3 applications | In progress |

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|---|----------------|-------|--|--|-------------------------------|--|
| | | | include on the corporate website. Investigate 2 applications | | | |
| Develop a PPO priority system | AM | ££* | Develop a priority PPO system and include on the corporate website. Investigate 2 applications | Part complete – priority criteria in place. Not on website yet. | Investigate 3 applications | In progress |
| Unrecorded paths | AM CC QL | £-££* | Project set up, investigation of 1 path | Delayed to 2012/13 | Investigation of 2 paths | Initial meeting held with user groups. |
| Additional Greenspace info on Discover Cheshire website | | £** | Add walks for all routes onto Discover Cheshire and 10 additional Greenspaces | Complete – a number of priority Greenspace sites have been added to the Discover Cheshire website | 5 Additional Greenspace sites | Delayed – due to the manager of the site Joe Wainwright leaving the authority, this may not be achievable this year |

| | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|----------|---|---------------------------|---|-------------|
| | | | e sites | | | |
| Work with parish/town councils community groups to adopt local paths | QL EO EG BS | £** | Contact parish and town councils to assess take up | Delayed to 2012/13 | Facilitate interested parish and town councils to adopt local paths | In progress |
| Develop priority system for improvements | AM EG BS QL CC EO | £* | Finalise priority system for improvement projects and review current list | Delayed to 2012/13 | Review | In Progress |
| Select 5 priority safety projects to investigate | BS | £-£££*** | Select 1st project to investigate | Delayed to 2012/13 | Select 2nd project to investigate | In Progress |
| Select 5 priority economic growth projects to investigate | EG | £-£££*** | Select 1st project to investigate | Delayed to 2012/13 | Select 2nd project to investigate | In Progress |
| Select 5 accessibility projects to investigate | EO | £-£££*** | Select 1st project to investigate | Delayed to 2012/13 | Select 2nd project to investigate | In Progress |
| Select 5 links to fragmented paths to | CC | £-£££*** | Select 1st project to investigate | Delayed to 2012/13 | Select 2nd project to investigate | In Progress |

| | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|----------|---|--|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| investigate | | | | | | |
| Select 5 quality of life projects to investigate | QL | £-£££*** | Select 1st project to investigate | Delayed to 2012/13 | Select 2nd project to investigate | In Progress |
| Investigate how S106 funding can deliver ROWIP policy | AM EG BS QL CC EO | £** | Liaise with colleagues in planning service to include Greenspace objectives in all S106 options. Target 1 major development | Complete – eg. Wincham Urban village – route to school. | Target major developments | In progress |

*internal staff resources

**with colleagues in other services

*** with external partners

£ up to £5k

££ 5-20k

£££- >20k

Policy references

AM- Assets and Maintenance

BS- Better safety


CC- Climate Change

QL- Quality of Life



EO- Greater Equality of Opportunity

EG- Economic Growth

RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

| Policy | ROWIP Ref. | Achievements 2011-2012 | Ongoing targets 2012-2013 |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---|--|
| H2 H3 S7 S8 | T84 | <p>Stapeley Footpath No. 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A safe links to school project funded through the Local Transport Plan's cycling projects with match funding from Sustrans. • The path runs through a park area in a housing estate and connects to the local primary school, shops and other facilities. • Previously muddy and rough surfaced, the path is now wider and tarmaced for all-year use. • Cycle shelters were installed at the school and publicity raised to encourage their use. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> Before After </p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project completed. • Linking paths may be improved through landowner and developer contributions, if available. |
| H2 H3 S8 | T82/95 T99 T43 | <p>LTP Cycling Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Cycle Network routes 55 & 73 signage in Congleton. • Cycle route link from the new Alderley Edge bypass to Astra Zeneca employment site. • Leighton Greenway in Crewe. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project completed. • Completion of works. • Promotion of active travel options in Crewe through Local Sustainable Transport Fund (if bid is successful). |



RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

| Policy | ROWIP Ref. | Achievements 2011-2012 | Ongoing targets 2012-2013 |
|----------------|------------|--|--|
| H2 H3 S7 | T24 | <p>Pickmere Footpath No. 7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A safe links to school project in partnership with Pickmere Parish Plan and part funded by Cheshire West and Chester Council. • The path runs from Pickmere village to the local primary school in Wincham and avoids a busy road. • Previously un-surfaced, the path now has a compacted stone surface for all-year use. <div>   </div> <p>Before After</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project completed. |
| H2 H3 | W73 | <p>Wilmslow Footpath Nos. 89 and 134</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A path linking housing with the countryside and also used by an annual sponsored run. • A compacted stone surface and steps were installed to resolve the muddy surface and slope problems. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project completed. |



RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

| Policy | ROWIP Ref. | Achievements 2011-2012 | Ongoing targets 2012-2013 |
|----------------------|------------|--|---|
| H2 H3 S7 | W69 | Wistaston Joey-the Swan access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An inaccessible restriction to park land along the Wistaston Brook. Access was improved through liaison between the Connect2 Crewe to Nantwich Greenway Stakeholder Group and Parks team. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project completed. |
| H2 H3 S7 S8 | T100 | Connect2 Crewe to Nantwich Greenway <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development of a traffic-free cycle route between the two towns, funded by Sustrans and developer contributions. Led by our Highways Department and monitored by a Stakeholder Group, the project has already delivered cycle routes within Crewe and Nantwich towns. The remaining link will be established as a public bridleway for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to use. Planning, Commons Land and Village Green applications submitted. Preparation of a creation agreement for a new public bridleway section to link the Crewe and Nantwich sections of the route. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signing of creation agreement. Construction works. Promotion of route with third sector groups organising events. |
| H2 H3 | C2 | Congleton Bridleway No. 34 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolved drainage issues on public bridleway which leads from Buglawton estate onto the Macclesfield Canal towpath. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project completed. |
| H2 H3 S7 | W74 | Alderley Edge Bypass <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A stone surfaced path was installed to connect the rural footpath network and pedestrian overbridge with the roadside cycle track, as suggested by consultees. Delivered by Highways project. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project completed. |


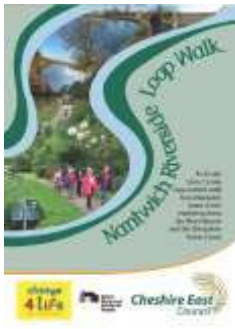
RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

| Policy | ROWIP Ref. | Achievements 2011-2012 | Ongoing targets 2012-2013 |
|----------------------|---|--|--|
| H2 H3 S7 S8 | T56 | <p>Poynton Footpath No. 30 and Adlington No. 76</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A safe links to school project funded by Sustrans and delivered by Economic Development in partnership with Poynton High School and Poynton Village Improvement Scheme. Routes have been widened, surfaced and drainage issues resolved. Destination signage and interpretation boards to encourage active travel have been installed. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Before</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>After</p> </div> </div> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project completed. |
| H3 | W15 W16 W18 W20 W22 H16 H17 | <p>Road Safety Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultees have raised a number of locations of road safety concern, including those on promoted routes. Road Safety Officers in Highways consulted to assess risk and possible mitigation measures. Requests to adjacent landowners for permissive paths so as to remove road walking or improve crossing locations have been made. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work ongoing. |

RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

| Policy | ROWIP Ref. | Achievements 2011-2012 | Ongoing targets 2012-2013 |
|----------|------------|--|---|
| H2 H3 | X15 | <p>Long Distance Horse and Cycle Ride</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initiated by Laureen Roberts of North Cheshire Riders, this project sees the development of Cheshire East's first long distance horse ride. Designed to offer a long distance ride bringing benefits to the local economy. The route, also being promoted to cyclists, consists of 2 loops: the Cheshire Cheese Loop and the Heritage Loop. Funded through a grants from the British Equestrian Federation , the British Horse Society, Hoof! Cheshire and contributions from local riding groups. <div>   </div> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch event for Cheshire Cheese Loop. Ongoing work for Heritage Loop. |
| H2 H3 | W75 | <p>Poynton Footpath No. 7 – Princes Incline</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A popular wooded and relatively long route leading from Poynton village centre towards the Middlewood Way and Macclesfield Canal towpath. The only stile on the route was replaced by a medium mobility kissing gate in agreement with the landowner. A further section of the surface of the route was improved to resolve drainage issues and a muddy surface. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing access improvements as agreement and funding permit. |



RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

| Policy | ROWIP Ref. | Achievements 2011-2012 | Ongoing targets 2012-2013 |
|----------|------------|---|--|
| H2 H3 | W67 X14 | <p>Nantwich Riverside Loop</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A promoted, circular walking route linking the riverside and canal and encouraging people to explore that little bit further. • Delivered with partners including Nantwich Riverside Stakeholders, British Waterways and multiple local organisations. • Part funded by WREN grant. • The project improved the route, installed signage and also improved disabled access to the lakeside path. • A launch event was held in May 2011 with associated publicity and an evaluation has been conducted on the value of the route and leaflet. • A revised leaflet was published in the summer of 2011. • Additional signage as suggested was installed to draw attention to the Loop from the northern riverside area. • Planting of saplings to strengthen the towpath hedge completed the project. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-end;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Launch Event</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Reprinted leaflet</p> </div> </div> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project completed. |



RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

| Policy | ROWIP Ref. | Achievements 2011-2012 | Ongoing targets 2012-2013 |
|----------|------------|--|---|
| H2 H3 | H20 | <p>Ollerton Bridleway No. 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A long route in a popular livery stable area, suffering from poor surface conditions in winter rendering it unusable. Surface improvements made to create a year-round route. 75% funded by contributions from local riders and riders' groups. <div>   </div> <p>Before After</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project completed. Connecting highways to be improved if possible. This bridleway forms part of a long distance horse and cycle ride developed. |
| | X15 | <p>Discover Cheshire</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Website promoting routes, sites and visitor economy facilities in the countryside. Partners include Visitor Economy, CWAC, Mersey Forest. Many new walking and horse riding routes added including Knutsford Rail Walks and Wistaston Community Opportunities Group's walk.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued adding of new walking, cycling and horse riding routes. |

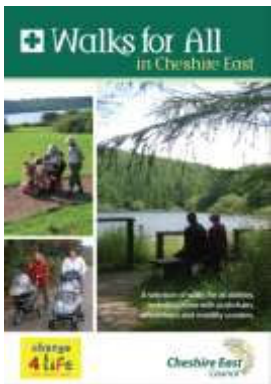
RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

| Policy | ROWIP Ref. | Achievements 2011-2012 | Ongoing targets 2012-2013 |
|----------------------|------------------|---|---|
| H2 H3 | X7 X15 W75 | <p>Accessibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Various stiles across Cheshire East have been replaced with gates with landowners' permission. This has included some promoted routes which has some routes stile-free, for example Chelford village walk and Ashley Rail Trail. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <p>Before</p> <p>After</p> </div> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing improvements where suggested and landowners permission granted. |
| H2 H3 S7 S8 | n/a | <p>Planning Applications, Pre-Applications and Local Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning applications are commented upon from the perspective of active travel and leisure walking, cycling and horseriding. Aspirations for active travel and leisure routes are compiled for large developments at the pre-application stage and thereafter. Developer contributions through S106 agreements and unilateral undertakings are sought and delivered. Input from Public Rights of Way and Countryside perspective into Local Plan. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing, as arising. |

RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

| Policy | ROWIP Ref. | Achievements 2011-2012 | Ongoing targets 2012-2013 |
|----------|------------|---|---|
| | X15 | <p>Publicity to promote walking, cycling and horse riding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Press releases achieved for various projects and events including National Walking Month and National Bike Week. Feature article appeared in Cheshire East News on the Nantwich Riverside Loop. Astbury Mere Walk4Life route ranked as the 6th most visited route on national website. <div>   </div> <p>Open Air Map Reading Event Walk4Life waymark</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work ongoing to coincide with national and local events and projects. |
| S7 S8 | n/a | <p>Local Sustainable Transport Fund</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A bid has been prepared by Highways to this national government fund, focusing on smarter travel within Crewe. ROWIP suggestions and active travel included in bid. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awaiting bid results. |
| S7 S8 | n/a | <p>A556 and SEMMMS road schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input of aspirations and comments on designs given from the perspective of active travel and leisure walking, cycling and horseriding. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work ongoing. |

RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

| Policy | ROWIP Ref. | Achievements 2011-2012 | Ongoing targets 2012-2013 |
|----------------------|------------|---|--|
| H2 H3 | X15 | Walks for All Leaflet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A popular leaflet describing accessible walks across Cheshire East. Revised and republished in the summer of 2011.  <p>Revised leaflet</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .Project completed. |
| H2 H3 S7 S8 | n/a | Mapping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistance with mapping provided to Cheshire East departments, for example for countryside grant applications, and third sector groups producing walks leaflets. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing, as requested. |
| H2 H3 S7 S8 | n/a | Rights of Way Consultative Group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation of reports and meetings. Establishment of register of volunteers and issuance of Letters of Authority. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work ongoing. |

RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN ANNUAL REPORT 2011-2012

| Policy | ROWIP Ref. | Achievements 2011-2012 | Ongoing targets 2012-2013 |
|----------------------|------------|---|---|
| H2 H3 S7 S8 | n/a | <p>Cheshire Local Access Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretariat duties for Forum, a voluntary body which advises the Council on matters relating to countryside access.   <p>CLAF Members on site visit to footbridge over Alderley Edge bypass</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work ongoing. |

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Position Statement and Statement of Priorities 2012 - 2013

DMMO PRIORITIES Updated May 2012

Prioritisation Criteria:-

Route may be affected by development
 Route delivers one or more policies from the Rights of Way Improvement plan
 Route delivers one or more priorities from the Greenspace/Corporate strategy
 Route connects a community to local services eg doctors, post office etc.
 Route completes a safe off road circular route for health, recreation purposes for local community
 Route improves Access to a Greenspace site
 Route improves links to a promoted route
 Route runs through working environment which could be health and safety hazard

| Priority | Ref. | Application Date | Parish | Number | Type | Responsible Officer(s) | Status |
|--------------------|------|------------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| File open | 6.31 | 2006 | Bradley/Tushingham | fp2 | Upgrade | AM/RA | Report expected 8.06.12 |
| 1 | 6.26 | 10.04.2007 | Caldecott | fp 9 | Upgrade | | Report expected 8.06.12 |
| 2 | 4.56 | 1999/2004 | Frodsham & Kingsley | fp 8 frodsham | Upgrade | | Report expected 15.08.12 |
| 3 | 4.57 | 2004 | Antrobus | fp 35 | Upgrade | | Report expected 22.10.12 |
| 4 | 4.64 | 2008 | Delamere | | Re-alignment | | Report expected 22.10.12 |
| 5 | 6.3 | 2005 | Tilston | fp 5 | Deletion | | Withdrawn 05/2012 |
| File closed | 3.13 | 2007 | Burton | | Addition | AM | File closed no order |
| File Open | 3.15 | 02.08.11 | Little Stanney | | Addition | AM/MB | File open:decision due 05/2012 |
| File Open | 6.36 | 2008 | Larkton | | Addition | AM/RA | File closed |
| File Open | 4.66 | 20.10.2009 | Allostock | | Addition | AM/SH | Order made |
| File Open | 5.11 | 2002 | Neston | | Addition | HB/AM/Consultant | Inquiry scheduled 04/09/12 |
| File Closed | | | Shotwick | | Addition | HB/AM/Consultant | confirmed |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|----------|----------------|-------|---------------------|--|---------------------------|
| * | 6.27 | 2002 | Barrow | fp 24 | Upgrade | | report expected 22.12.12 |
| * | 3.12 | 2004 | Ellesmere port | | Addition | | report expected 22.01.13 |
| * | 4.58 | 2004 | Winsford | | Addition | | report expected 22.03.13. |
| * | 4.6 | 2006 | Hartford | | Addition | | report expected 22.05.13 |
| * | 6.32 | 2007 | Elton | | Addition | | report expected 22.07.13 |
| * | 6.33 | 2007 | Elton | | Addition | | report expected 22.09.13 |
| * | 3.14 | 2008 | Neston | | Addition | | report expected 22.11.13 |
| * | 4.67 | 14.10.11 | Whatcroft | | Addition | | report expected 22.01.14 |
| * | 6.38 | 12.08.11 | Caldecott | fp 3 | Varying particulars | | Withdrawn 05/2012 |
| * | 6.37 | 12.08.11 | Caldecott | fp 7 | Varying particulars | | Withdrawn 05/2012 |
| * | 6.39 | 12.08.11 | Caldecott | fp 8 | Varying particulars | | Withdrawn 05/2012 |
| * | 4.68 | 13.11.11 | Winsford | Byway | Addition | | report expected 22.09.14 |
| * | 4.69 | 14.01.12 | Tarvin | | Addition | | report expected 22.11.14 |
| * | 4.7 | 13.05.12 | Tarvin | fp | Addition | | report expected 22.01.15 |

**not ascribed a priority as an assumption has been made that applications that will be received in the future will move these applications depending on which criteria are met by the new application*

PPO PRIORITIES - (Live Applications)

| Application Date | Parish | Number | Type | Responsible Officer(s) | Status |
|------------------|------------|----------|----------------|------------------------|-------------|
| 2010 | Cuddington | bw 26 | Creation Order | AM/SH | PINS |
| 2011 | Caldecott | fp 3,7&8 | Diversion | AM/RA | enforcement |
| 2011 | Tarporley | fp 21 | Diversion | AM/MB | enforcement |
| 2011 | Carden | fp 6 | Diversion | AM/MB | file open |
| 2011 | Beeston | fp 4&5 | Diversion | DC/RA | enforcement |
| 2010 | Marston | fp 5 | Diversion | DC/SH | File open |

TCPA ORDERS (Current orders as a result of Planning Applications)

| Parish | Number | Type | Responsible Officer | Status |
|----------------|--------|-----------|---------------------|-----------|
| Tarporley | fp 10 | Diversion | AM/MB | File open |
| Golborne David | fp 2 | Diversion | AM/RA | File open |
| Oakmere | fp5 | Diversion | AM/MB | File open |
| | | | | |

Internal applications will need to be taken forward with external application to reduce costs or business case submitted to justify expenditure.

Public Rights of Way

Definitive Map & Legal Orders – Performance & Backlog

| Area of work | 2008-09* | 2009-10 | 2010-11 | 2011-12 (to date) | Current Backlog |
|--|-----------|--|---|--|--|
| 1.Major planning application consultations | 85 | 69 | 47 | 42 | 0 |
| 2. Rights of Way Searches | 35 | 76 (no LLC) | 459 12 = external 447 = internal | 253 7 = external 246 = internal | 0 |
| 3. Highways Act s31 deposits | 5 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 0 |
| 4. Temporary & Emergency Closures | 11 | 5 | 11 | 6 | 1 1 = RTRA (Saughall BOAT) |
| 5. Public Path Orders confirmed / in progress | 14 | 3 Fp9 Sutton Weaver FP2 Whatcroft FP22 Tarporley | 6 confirmed 1 not FP13 Barrow FP4 Rushton FP13 Weaverham Fp9 Winsford FP2,3,4 Horton cum Peel FP2 Cotton Edmunds (not confirmed) | 7 confirmed 1 not Fp10 Huxley Fp38 Winsford RB 26 Marton Fp10 Tarporley Fp3 Mickle Trafford (not confirmed) FP5 Tilston confirmed FP3 Mickle Trafford Fp20 Marton 5 in progress Fp6 Carden BW 38 Cuddington (obj) Fp 2 Golborne David FP5 Marston FP10 Tarporley | Fp21 Tarporley in progress Fp 3,8 Caldecott in progress Fp2 Golborne David order tbc FP5 Marston in progress Fp10 Tarporley (tbcertified) 14 10 = HA80 requests FP15 Weaverham Fp19 Oldcastle FP9, 14, 15 Shocklach FP 7, 8, 9 Norley FP 1 Mouldsworth FP20 Davenham FP22 Barrow FP 1 Aldford FP13 Cuddington Fp3 Beeston FP? Hockenhull FP17 Rushton |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | FP8 Barrow 5 = Public Interest FP 11 Marston FP4 Woodbank FP 1 Harthil FP5 Aldford FP 1 Aldford |
| 6. Contested Orders Referred to PINS | 1 | 0 | 2 2 = HA80 (Cotton Edmunds and Horton) | 1 1 = WCA81 (Shotwick) | 2 1 = WCA81 (snab lane) 1 = HA80 (Cuddington bw) |
| 7. Definitive Map Modification Orders confirmed / in progress | 3 | 1 | 0 | 3 confirmed 1 refused 3 in progress 4 = WCA81 see attached 3-13 Burton complete (no order) 3-15 stanney in progress 6-13 bradley in progress 3-36 larkton confirmed 4-66 allostock in progress Shotwick confirmed Waverton confirmed | 160 15 = WCA s53 applications 97 = WCA81 anomalies 50 = HA80 anomalies |
| 8. Consolidation | 2008 Legal Event Order (LEMO) Digital mapping project | 2009 LEMO All maps sheets checked for digital mapping 0 update on statement | 2010 LEMO 1 parish complete on update on statement | 2011 LEMO 0 parish statements | 2012 LEMO in progress 167 parish statements need updating on CAMs |

** note that figures for 2008-09 relate to the previous Cheshire County Council*

MEETING : CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
DATE : 22 JUNE 2012

REPORT OF : COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS
Contact : Genni Butler & Hazel Barber
Officer 01270 686059 or 01606 288539

CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – MEMBERS’ TERM OF OFFICE

1. In 2009 Members were appointed to the Local Access Forum to serve for a period of 3 years. That term expires in December 2012.
2. Existing Members will be invited to re-apply for a further 3 year period and will be asked to indicate their intentions at the time of the September meeting.
3. The result of this exercise will indicate the number of positions to be recruited to in order to comply with The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007 which require the Forum to have between 10 and 22 Members.
4. The positions of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Forum will also be up for election at the Annual General Meeting in December. The Regulations require that the holders of these positions should reflect a balance of interests with regards to countryside access, i.e. one from a user group and one from a land management perspective.

RECOMMENDED: That

- (1) Forum Members consider whether they would like to be considered for a further term of office; and,**
- (2) Forum Members consider nominees for the position of Chair and Vice-Chair and whether they would wish to stand for either position.**

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