



# Cheshire Local Access Forum

## Annual General Meeting Agenda

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**Date:** Friday, 10th December, 2010  
**Time:** 10.00 am  
**Venue:** Castle Park, Frodham, Cheshire, WA6 6SE

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### Location Map for Castle Park, Frodsham on Page 1

1. **Apologies for Absence (10.00 - 10.05)**
2. **Minutes and Matters Arising (10.05 - 10.15)** (Pages 3 - 12)  
  
To confirm the minutes of the Cheshire Local Access Forum held on 17 September 2010 and to receive the draft Annual Report 2009-10
3. **Cheshire East Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) Implementation Plan Prioritisation System (10.15 - 10.35)** (Pages 13 - 16)  
  
Genni Butler to report on the Cheshire East ROWIP Implementation Plan Prioritisation System
4. **Cheshire West and Chester Local Transport Plan (10.35 - 10.50)**  
  
Jeannette Dodd to update the Forum with the progress on the Cheshire West and Chester Local Transport Plan
5. **Numbers of Public Path Orders, Definitive Map Modification Orders and Anomalies (10.50 - 11.00)**  
  
Angela Simpson and Amy Rushton to report on the numbers of PPOs, DMMOS and anomalies

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For requests for further information

**Contact:** Rachel Graves  
**Tel:** 01270 686473  
**E-Mail:** [rachel.graves@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.graves@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

6. **Local Service Delivery (11.00 - 11.10)**

To receive an update on Local Service Delivery

7. **Working Groups (11.10 - 11.25)**

Members to report on the Working Groups

8. **Cheshire West and Chester Dog Control Order (11.25 - 11.30)** (Pages 17 - 18)

Denise Snelson to report on the proposal by Cheshire West and Chester Council to establish a Borough wide Dog Control Order

9. **Cheshire West and Chester - Benefits of Delegated Decision Making (11.30 - 11.45)** (Pages 19 - 22)

Angela Simpson to report on the operation of the Delegated Decision Making in Cheshire West and Chester

10. **Rights of Way Improvement Plan Updates (11.45 - 11.55)** (Pages 23 - 28)

Denise Snelson (Cheshire West and Chester) and Genni Butler (Cheshire East) to report on the projects in the current Rights of Way Improvement Plan

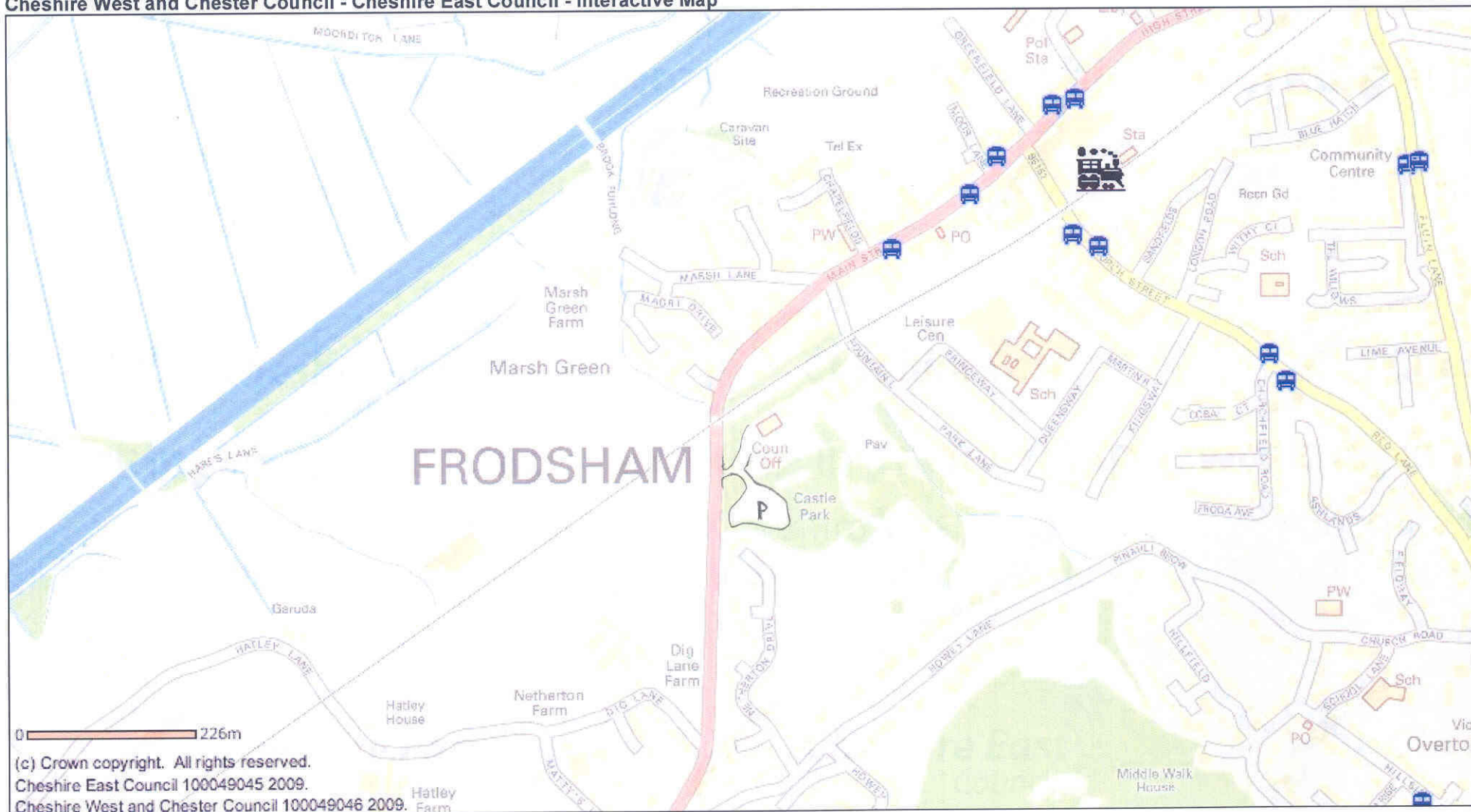
11. **Feedback from North West Regional Chairs' Meeting (11.55 - 12.05)**

John White to report on the items discussed at the meeting of the North West Regional Chairs' meeting

12. **Reports from Members (12.05 - 12.15)**

13. **Dates of Future Meeting**

## Cheshire West and Chester Council - Cheshire East Council - Interactive Map



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**MEETING : CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**  
**DATE : 10 DECEMBER 2010**

REPORT OF : DEMOCRATIC SERVICES OFFICER  
Contact : Rachel Graves  
Officer Tel: 01270 686473  
Email: [rachel.graves@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.graves@cheshireeast.gov.uk)

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### **MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

- 1 To confirm the minutes of the Cheshire Local Access Forum held on 17 September 2010 (copy attached).
- 2 To receive the draft Annual Report for 2009-10 for approval.

### **RECOMMENDED:**

**That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2010 be confirmed as a correct record and the Annual Report 2009-10 be approved.**

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM held on Friday 17 September 2010 at Holmes Chapel Library.**

**PRESENT:**

**Forum Members**

John White (in the Chair)  
Robert Anderson  
Neil Collie  
Helen Connolly  
Ken Edwards  
Andy Gildon  
Dale Langham  
Andrew Needham  
Keith Osborn  
Keith Pennyfather  
Kath Wurbacher

**Officers and others**

Genni Butler, Cheshire East Council  
Rachel Graves, Cheshire East Council  
Mike Taylor, Cheshire East Council  
Hazel Barber, Cheshire West and Chester Council  
Dee McCarthy, Cheshire West and Chester Council  
Adele Mayer, Cheshire West and Chester Council  
Denise Snelson, Cheshire West and Chester Council  
Graham Dutton, Warrington Borough Council

**Action**

**25 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Rhoda Bailey, Michael Scott and John Taylor.

**26 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

**Matters Arising**

**Minute 20 – Public Rights of Way Regulatory Decision Making**

Andrew Needham and Adele Mayer reported on the new procedures in Cheshire West and Chester for dealing with applications made under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Highways Act 1980 and the Town and Country Planning Act. Details of the application, consultation and investigation would be posted on the Council's website for 28 days before a decision was made. The decision for approval was delegated to the Head of Service except when a report was called in by a Councillor to be heard by the Public Rights of Way Committee.

As the Forum had a role on advising on policy matter it was suggested that Councillor Richard Short, Culture and Recreation Portfolio Holder be invited to attend a future meeting to report on the impact of the decision making changes in Cheshire West and

Chester.

As the next meeting was too late in the Budget Consultation process for the Forum to be consulted, it was suggested that the first meeting of the Greenspaces Forum be held in time for consultation to take place on the Greenspaces/Rights of Way Budget.

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2010 be agreed as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

Minute 17 – Working Groups

Under Represented Groups – ‘Bob Andrews’ be amended to read ‘Bob Anderson’.

**27 FEEDBACK FROM WORKING GROUPS AND BEST PRACTICE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PARISH COUNCILS**

Andy Gildon reported on the progress with the Best Practice Recommendations to Parish and Town Councils since the last meeting and asked for the Forum’s advice on the best way to get the Recommendations as an item on Parish Council agendas. It was suggested that a copy be sent to all Town and Parish Councils and that Forum Members follow this up by making contact with the Town and Parish Council. A method of contacting the Parish Clerks would be agreed with Andy.

**AG/GB/DS**

Members reported on the progress with the Working Groups established at the last meeting. The Groups were in the process of setting up their first meetings and agreeing the remit of their Group. Progress would be reported at the next meeting in December.

**28 PROPOSED CHANGES TO NATURAL ENGLAND**

The Chairman reported on the proposed changes by the Government to Natural England.

The Government had announced, in the light of the budget deficit, proposed changes to government departments and organisations including Natural England. Local Access Forum Chairs had met with representatives from Natural England to discuss the possible future scenarios and consequences for Forums.

The role of Natural England was likely to focus on evaluation, setting standards, evidence, research, monitoring and delivery with ‘policy’ development’ being owned or moved back to government departments. Natural England was to provide support and technical advice to policy makers. Between now and April 2011 it would be reorganised and redefined to become a smaller, more focussed organisation.

There was uncertainty about the future level of funding and resources for Local Access Forums. England Access Forum future could lie with Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) as opposed to Natural England as DEFRA would be the body setting policy in the future. The Natural Environment White Paper would be a key document for England Access Forum and Local Access Forums to consider.

It was suggested that a representative from Natural England be invited to the Forum once the changes have taken place.

**GB/DS**

## **29 LOCAL SERVICE DELIVERY – DEVOLUTION OF POWERS FROM BOROUGH COUNCILS TO PARISH COUNCILS**

Helen Connolly reported on the proposals for the devolution of powers from Borough Councils to Parish Councils.

Cheshire East Council's Cabinet had received a report on 19 July which outlined the Council's approach to the implementation of the transfer and devolution of functions and services to Town and Parish Councils. The report could be viewed on the Council's website – [www.cheshireeast.gov.uk](http://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk). The Council's ambition was to empower others to provide more relevant, responsive and value for money local public services, where appropriate, through local service delivery by working with Town and Parish Councils to promote and enhance their opportunities to deliver services for which they had powers and duties.

In October, the Council would be holding a number of meetings with Parish Councils to outline these proposals.

Denise Snelson agreed to find out what Cheshire West and Chester Council was doing in relation to the devolution of powers.

**DS**

## **30 CHESHIRE EAST DRAFT RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2011-2026**

Genni Butler reported on the Cheshire East Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2026

It was a statutory duty under section 60 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 for every local authority to prepare and publish a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP).

The draft Cheshire East ROWIP had been developed in line with the Local Transport Plan 3 into which it was required to be integrated.

The ROWIP consisted of five sections:

- Introduction
- Evaluation of current ROWIP
- Network Assessment
- Demand Assessment

- What needed to be done

The Forum was asked to comment on the draft ROWIP and Members discussed each of the sections. Issues discussed included access to public rights of way and that even though use of public transport was encouraged, walkers, riders and cyclists tended to use their own vehicles and lack of parking provision was a problem and could deter people using the rights of way.

Neil Collie suggested the following addition to the Initiatives - Walking, which was supported by the Forum:

**“Safety Improvements:** support the development, on safety grounds, of low cost measures, such as verge improvements and provision of footways on rural roads so as to encourage travel by foot, cycle and on horseback.”

The draft ROWIP would be presented to the Rights of Way Committee on 21 September 2010 to seek recommendation for the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing to approve the document to go out to public consultation during October and November.

Forum Members were asked to encourage their wider networks to comment on the draft ROWIP during the public consultation period.

**ALL**

### **31 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER DRAFT RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2011-2016**

Denise Snelson reported on the Cheshire West and Chester Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2016.

A consultation exercise had been carried out to collect information on how people felt about their countryside and Greenspace Access Network. Also an Open Space Audit and Assessment of Need Household survey had been carried out. The results of these had been use to produce a Statement of Action and Improvement Implementation Plan

The Statement of Action consisted of six sections:

- Assets and Maintenance
- Economic Growth
- Better safety, security and health
- Quality of Life
- Climate Change
- Greater Equality of Opportunity

Each section outlined the actions which would be taken to improve access to the Greenspaces Network.

The draft ROWIP would go out for formal consultation in October and copies would be sent to Forum Members.

**DS**

### **32 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATES**

Members were updated on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) for Cheshire. The report received outlined details of the current projects on the general infrastructure, access for equestrians and off road cyclists, accessibility and events and promotions. Progress on the following projects was reported:

Cheshire East:

- Bollington – bridge over canal at Clarence Mill
- Bollington – upgrade of footpath to bridleway
- Connect 2 Nantwich to Crewe Greenway
- Nantwich Riverside Loop
- Discovercheshire.co.uk
- Publicity for PROW and access matters

Cheshire West and Chester

- Flintshire to Neston Cycleway
- North West Coastal Trail
- Weaver Way and associated projects
- Bishop Barnet Way Road
- Dutton Horse Crossing, Weaver Way
- Walks for All, Cheshire West and Chester

### **33 FEEDBACK FROM NORTH WEST REGIONAL LAF CHAIRS' MEETING**

The Chairman report on the topics discussed at the North West Regional Chair's meeting and briefed the Forum on :

- Smaller local authorities combining to carry out improvements
- Merger of Cumbria and Lancashire Local Access Forums
- Review of Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
- Training Topics

### **34 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS**

Ken Edwards reminded Members about the Bollington Walking Festival which was taking place 15 - 31 October 2010 and handed out leaflets detailing the walks taking place.

Helen Connolly was concerned about cars parking in the designated horse box parking areas on Whitegate Way. Denise Snelson agreed to speak to the Ranger responsible for the Whitegate Way on this.

**DS**

Neil Collie asked if the agenda for the Forum meeting could be posted on the Forum's website before meeting took place.

**RG/DS**

### **35 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### Annual Report

A draft of the Annual Report would be brought to the December meeting and Members were asked to forward their individual

contributions by end of November to Genni Butler.

**ALL**

**36 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would take place on Friday 10 December 2010.

# Discover Cheshire with the help of new websites

Walkers, riders, cyclists and canoeists across Cheshire will be able to discover the hidden places of this beautiful county, following the launch of new and improved versions of the popular Discovercheshire websites.

Developed by Cheshire West and Chester Council in partnership with Cheshire East Council and The Mersey Forest, the sites are aimed at local residents, as well as visitors planning their trip to the county. They use interactive Ordnance Survey mapping to provide multimedia information on all of the area's promoted routes, as well as country and urban parks. Users can even print out maps and directions to take with them into the countryside.

The websites also provide information on places of interest and events – as well as details of visitor attractions, pubs, restaurants and accommodation, within easy travelling distance of a chosen route or destination.

A new Discover site focussing on the Gritstone Trail launched in November 2010. This not only provides interactive mapping, directions and tourism information for the trail, but also details of the history of the route, as well as of the geology, flora and fauna that can be seen along the way. Similar websites are to be launched next year focussing on the Sandstone Trail and Weaver Way.

Among many other potential uses, the Discovercheshire websites have also been chosen as the primary means of promoting routes devised as part of the new Delamere

Project, which is supported by the Cheshire West and Chester Council, the Forestry Commission and Visit Chester and Cheshire.

The Discover sites can be found at: -

[www.discovercheshire.co.uk](http://www.discovercheshire.co.uk) (information for all of Cheshire)

[www.discovercheshirepeakdistrict.co.uk](http://www.discovercheshirepeakdistrict.co.uk) (further information on Cheshire East and Cheshire's Peak District)

[www.discoverthemerseyforest.co.uk](http://www.discoverthemerseyforest.co.uk) (information on the Mersey Forest area).

[www.discoverthegritstonetrail.co.uk](http://www.discoverthegritstonetrail.co.uk) (comprehansive details of this popular route)

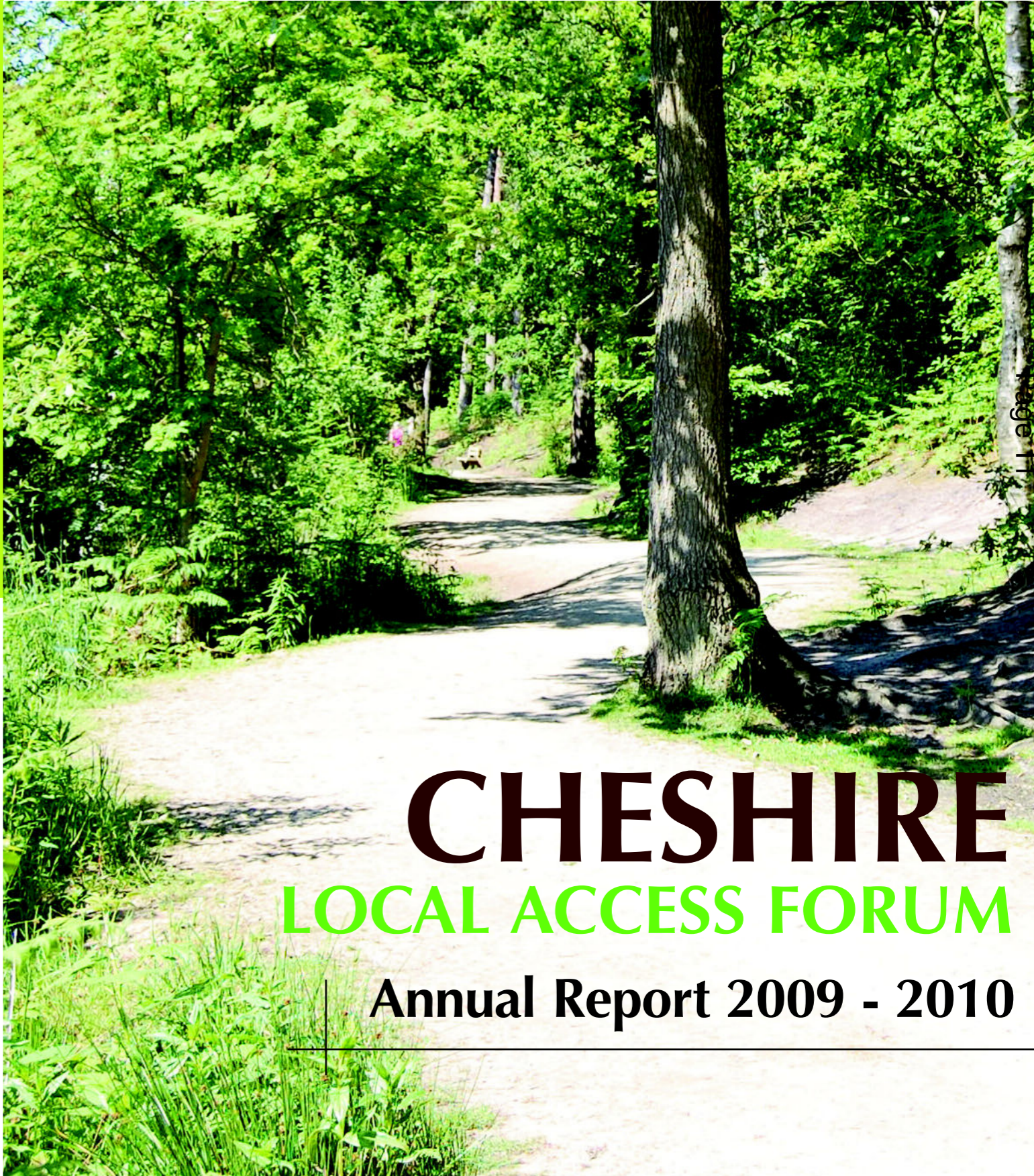


## Membership

Member	Area of interest
Robert Anderson	Accessibility
Rhoda Bailey	Councillor, Cheshire East Council
Neil Collie	Walking
Helen Connolly	Horse riding
Ken Edwards	Walking, local government
Andy Gildon	Community involvement
Dale Langham	Cycling and walking as sustainable transport
Andrew Needham	Councillor, Cheshire West and Chester Council
Keith Osborn	Land management
Keith Pennyfather	Walking and sustainable transport
Michael Scott	Land management
John Taylor, Vice Chair	Land management, accessibility
John White, Chairman	Walking
Kath Wurbacher	Horse riding



# Cheshire Local Access Forum





## Chairman's introduction

[requested by 30th November: first annual report of the Cheshire LAF, new recruits, working groups, LAF role in light of proposed future changes to Natural England etc.]

John White  
Chairman.

## Training

- New members to the Forum received induction training before the December 2009 AGM.
- Keith Osborn, Andrew Needham, John White and Michael Scott attended a training day for new members on 5th March 2010 arranged by the north west region LAF co-ordinator.
- John Taylor and Bob Anderson attended a training day on the Lancashire County Council Trampler Scheme in the Forest of Bowland on 25th March 2010.
- Andrew Needham accepted an invitation to visit Cumbria's LAF on 25th March 2010.

## Priorities for 2009-2010

- involvement in ROWIP2 and LTP3
- safety on rural roads
- urban rural access
- how does access better raise the health and wellbeing of the residents of the county

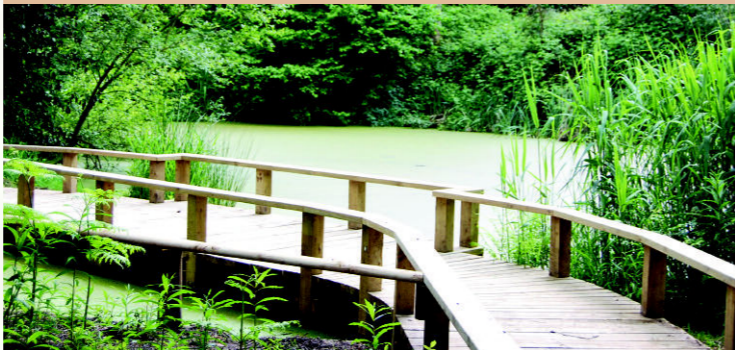
## Priorities for 2009-2010

Development of working groups with the following themes:-

- Health
- Under represented groups
- Funding
- Spreading best practice

## Items of interest

- Members reviewed the new Cheshire East policy on structures on public rights of way which uses the principle of least restrictive option to make paths more accessible for all, including those with disabilities
- The Forum responded to the Cheshire West and Chester Council following a presentation on the development of the Local Transport Plan 3
- Continued to monitor the delivery of Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) projects, the development of the ROWIPs for Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester Councils, and annual reports for each
- Members contributed to the development of Walks for All leaflets, giving information to users on accessible routes across the county
- The Forum made changes to the environmental impact surveying of public rights of way and users within the A556 Mere Highways Agency scheme following a presentation by contractors Jacobs Engineering
- Members assessed the differing roles and interest in public rights of way across the town and parish councils of Cheshire. A best practice guidance note was prepared
- The Forum learned about the number of long distance routes that span Cheshire
- The Forum heard about the Open Spaces Survey being conducted in Cheshire West and Chester Council
- The Forum heard about the relaunch of the Discover Cheshire website:  
[www.discovercheshire.co.uk](http://www.discovercheshire.co.uk)



## Members' articles

### Some Thoughts from a New Boy

I was a bit surprised to be accepted as a member of the Forum: I spend quite a lot of time in the Cheshire countryside, birding and/or walking my dog, but this didn't seem much of a qualification. Inevitably, the first year has been a matter of learning rather than contributing: I still have problems identifying the abbreviations, acronyms and technical terms, though I think I am improving.

First impressions? The Forum members all, like myself, bring "on the ground" experience to bear – and a varied experience at that, including (for example) horse-riding, cycling, running and estate management, and drawn fairly widely from across the county. That's quite impressive and re-assuring – even if we are (inevitably?) a typical white middle-class gathering. Equally impressive is the excellent back-up from officers – not just in servicing meetings, but in availability at other times to provide information and deal with queries. All this makes for informed, and informative, discussion.

A pleasant surprise was the regional dimension, and the opportunity to learn about what is going on elsewhere. Having missed a couple of training events, I feel a bit guilty about referring to visits to Beacon Fell in Lancashire for a demonstration of the impressive Trampler vehicles for disabled people, and to Thurstaston Country Park to learn about coastal path issues and to sit in on part of a Merseyside LAF meeting: each was a really good day out! That said, I came away from each with something to think about (the logistics of a Trampler hire scheme; the very different access problems in a major conurbation.). I do wonder, though, if we should have contact with LAFs in the West Midlands and North Wales – much closer than, say, Cumbria and maybe with similar experience to our own.

Another feature has been the scope for making connections between CLAF and other parts of my life. Plodding about doing bird surveys has at least given me some first-hand knowledge of footpath problems, and I've been able to introduce some access material, gleaned from contact with CLAF, into the county birding community. More important, perhaps, is the fact that the inclusion agenda has

meshed in fairly well with my interests, once professional and now voluntary, in working with older and less able people: there's a lot more to this access business than just blocked footpaths.

So it is probably all coming together: it is more complex, and more varied, than I anticipated; it seems very worthwhile; I'm beginning to feel that maybe I can be a useful part of the Forum (and I'm glad that I eventually acquired broadband just before joining! I'm not sure I could have coped otherwise). As far as the future goes, I'm very worried about what impact public-sector cuts will have on access work generally (aren't we all?), but whatever happens I can see plenty of scope for pursuing issues which are important to our well-being – even if, as I suspect, the full scope of the Forum's activities is not very widely recognised by the public at large. After all, until I joined I didn't recognise it.....

Bob Anderson

## New routes in the Peckforton Hills

I have now been a member of the Cheshire Local Access Forum for almost a year and during that time have seen a significant project spanning both the Cheshire East and Cheshire West areas come to fruition. With a particular interest in access for equestrians, the re-opening of the route over the Peckforton Hills is a real step forward in improving off-road riding possibilities. I have recently ridden this route with my own horse and found it took me a good 3 hours. There are pleasant surroundings and scenery from every aspect and the view of Beeston Castle from one part of the route is stunning. Where a horse can go, most other users also can and this route, either entirely or in fragments, because it is unencumbered by stiles and kissing gates, can be enjoyed by walkers (also those with the larger dog!), cyclists, those less able and parents with small children in pushchairs. The project is a true credit to the Hillforts and Habitats Landscape Partnership Team.

Helen Connolly

**MEETING : CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**  
**DATE : 10 DECEMBER 2010**

**REPORT OF : COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**  
**Contact : Genni Butler**  
**Officer : 01606 271817**

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**CHESHIRE EAST RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2011-2026:  
IMPLEMENTATION PLAN PRIORITISATION METHODOLOGY**

- 1 As Members will be aware, it is a statutory duty under section 60 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 for every local highway authority to prepare and publish a Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP).
- 2 The Draft ROWIP 2011-2026 was presented to the Forum in September 2010 ahead of public consultation. Comments received have been taken into consideration and the amended ROWIP 2011-2026 will be put before the Rights of Way Committee on 13 December 2010 with final sign off by the Portfolio Holder on 17 January 2011.
- 3 The ROWIP 2011-2026 document sets out the strategy by which the Council aims to improve the public rights of way over the next 15 years. Which improvements are to be made will be set out in 3-yearly implementation plans.
- 4 Suggestions for improvement projects have been submitted by members of the public. In order for these to be fairly assessed, a prioritisation methodology is required. Three options for this methodology, shown in Appendix 1, are put before the Forum in order for the most appropriate methodology to be selected and applied.
- 5 Each option contains the ROWIP policies and an assessment of the feasibility of the suggestion. Each option contains similar criteria, but each has a different emphasis, the first on resources, the second on need and the third on targets.
- 6 The selected prioritisation methodology will then be applied to the suggested projects in order to draw up the first of the Implementation Plans under the ROWIP 2011-2026. How many projects can be delivered will be a result of available funding sources.

**RECOMMENDED:**

**That Forum Members consider the appended prioritisation methodologies and select the most appropriate for use in drawing up the first Implementation Plan under the ROWIP 2011-2026.**

## Option 1: focus on resources

		Not met	Not met, but potential to meet	Partially met	Met	Met, with potential added value
	<b>Criteria</b>					
LTP/ROWIP Policies	H1 Promotion of active travel and healthy activities:work in partnership to promote walking, cycling and horse riding as active travel options and healthy activities	1	2	3	4	5
	H2 Green Infrastructure: protect and enhance our public rights of way and green infrastructure and endeavour to create new links where beneficial for health or access to green spaces	1	2	3	4	5
	S2 Walking: work with stakeholders to improve facilities for walking so that it is attractive for shorter journeys	1	2	3	4	5
	S1 Cycling: work with stakeholders to improve facilities for cycling so that it is attractive for shorter journeys	1	2	3	4	5
Staff Resources	Project could be delivered easily within current staffing levels	1	2	3	4	5
	Value for money: large improvement compared to staff resource	1	2	3	4	5
Financial resources	Project can be delivered within anticipated revenue and capital budgets	1	2	3	4	5
	Potential funding source already identified	1	2	3	4	5
	Value for money: large improvement compared to financial resource	1	2	3	4	5
Feasibility	Landowner agreement	1	2	3	4	5
	Community support (e.g. voluntary groups, local councils, councillors)	1	2	3	4	5
<b>SCORES</b>						
<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>						

## Option 2: focus on need

	Criteria	Not met	Not met, but potential to meet	Partially met	Met	Met, with potential added value
LTP/ROWIP Policies	H1 Promotion of active travel and healthy activities:work in partnership to promote walking, cycling and horse riding as active travel options and healthy activities	1	2	3	4	5
	H2 Green Infrastructure: protect and enhance our public rights of way and transport related green infrastructure and endeavour to create new links where beneficial for health or access to green spaces	1	2	3	4	5
	S2 Walking: work with stakeholders to improve facilities for walking so that it is attractive for shorter journeys	1	2	3	4	5
	S1 Cycling: work with stakeholders to improve facilities for cycling so that it is attractive for shorter journeys	1	2	3	4	5
Need	Route is in area of high level of deprivation	1	2	3	4	5
	Improving urban access to countryside	1	2	3	4	5
	Route is in area of with poor access provision or addresses gaps in the network	1	2	3	4	5
	Value for money: large number of potential beneficiaries compared to cost of project	1	2	3	4	5
	Improving disabled access	1	2	3	4	5
	Improving access for equestrians	1	2	3	4	5
	Improving access for cyclists	1	2	3	4	5
	Improving access to woodland, moorland or other landscape feature lacking in access, or area of interest	1	2	3	4	5
	Improving access in area of prospective development	1	2	3	4	5
	Obvious transport theme: link between communities and facilities to avoid road use	1	2	3	4	5
	Exisiting or new promoted route, providing more information for users	1	2	3	4	5
	Source of request - (e.g. 1 - single individual, 2 -multiple individuals, 3 - parish council, user group, 4 - multiple groups, 5 - multiple groups with support from other organisations e.g British Waterways)	1	2	3	4	5
By All Reasonable Means criteria	Tourism / visitor economy benefit	1	2	3	4	5
	Route / terrain - existing standard of route (e.g. 1 - remote and difficult so accessible only to a few individuals, 5 - flat and easy so accessible to most)	1	2	3	4	5
	Connectivity - route offers link between other routes or facilities like shops and schools	1	2	3	4	5
	Interest: route offers link to area of conservation or landscape value or other place of interest	1	2	3	4	5
	Demand - improvements will result in added demand from potential users	1	2	3	4	5
	Popularity - current route popularity	1	2	3	4	5
Feasibility	Landowner agreement	1	2	3	4	5
	Community support (e.g. voluntary groups, local councils, councillors)	1	2	3	4	5
	Funding source identified	1	2	3	4	5
	Staff resource demand: achievable with current staffing levels	1	2	3	4	5
SCORES						
TOTAL SCORE						

## Option 3: focus on targets

	Criteria	Not met	Not met, but potential to meet	Partially met	Met	Met, with potential added value
LTP/ROWIP Policies	H1 Promotion of active travel and healthy activities:work in partnership to promote walking, cycling and horse riding as active travel options and healthy activities	1	2	3	4	5
	H2 Green Infrastructure: protect and enhance our public rights of way and transport related green infrastructure and endeavour to create new links where beneficial for health or access to green spaces	1	2	3	4	5
	S2 Walking: work with stakeholders to improve facilities for walking so that it is attractive for shorter journeys	1	2	3	4	5
	S1 Cycling: work with stakeholders to improve facilities for cycling so that it is attractive for shorter journeys	1	2	3	4	5
National Local Transport Plan Goals	Reducing carbon emissions	1	2	3	4	5
	Supporting economic growth	1	2	3	4	5
	Promoting equality of opportunity	1	2	3	4	5
	Contributing to better safety, security & health	1	2	3	4	5
	Improving quality of life & healthy natural environment	1	2	3	4	5
LTP Objectives	1. Congestion: minimise congestion in our urban areas and on important routes and improve the overall efficiency of the highway network	1	2	3	4	5
	2. Accessibility: improve accessibility to key services (employment, education, health, shopping and leisure)	1	2	3	4	5
	3. Improve maintenance of the highway and transport network.	1	2	3	4	5
	4. Community: support community involvement and decision-making	1	2	3	4	5
	5. Health: support active and healthy lifestyles	1	2	3	4	5
	6. Safety: improve road safety for all users and increase personal and community safety	1	2	3	4	5
	7. Environment: protect and enhance our local and global environment	1	2	3	4	5
Ambition for All priorities for action	Nurture strong communities	1	2	3	4	5
	Create conditions for business growth	1	2	3	4	5
	Unlock the potential of our towns	1	2	3	4	5
	Support our childrens and young people	1	2	3	4	5
	Ensure a sustainable future	1	2	3	4	5
	Prepare for an increasingly older population	1	2	3	4	5
	Drive out the sources of poor health	1	2	3	4	5
Feasibility	Landowner agreement	1	2	3	4	5
	Community support (e.g. voluntary groups, local councils, councillors)	1	2	3	4	5
	Funding source identified	1	2	3	4	5
	Staff resource demand: achievable with current staffing levels	1	2	3	4	5
SCORES						
TOTAL SCORE						

**MEETING : CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**  
**DATE : 10 DECEMBER 2010**

REPORT OF : Greenspace Project Officer on behalf of Rupert Adams, Regulatory Services manager  
 Contact : Denise Snelson  
 Officer : 01606 271931

## **CHESTER WEST AND CHESTER BOROUGH WIDE DOG CONTROL ORDER PROPOSAL**

- 1 Cheshire West and Chester Council are looking to establish a Borough wide Dog Control Order (making it an offence to fail to remove dog faeces). This would be under the Dog Control Orders (Prescribed Offences and Penalties, etc.) Regulations 2006 and the Dog Control Orders (Procedures) Regulations 2006, which implement sections 55 and 56 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005.
- 2 This order, if adopted, would remove a level of public confusion that exists. Much of the Borough's area is already covered by the Dogs Fouling of Land Act 1996 (the preceding legislation addressing dog fouling), but there are also pockets of land where Dog Control Orders have been adopted.
- 3 The penalties are different in each instance. Dog Control Orders are seen as the most appropriate and proportionate mechanism through which dog fouling can be addressed. There is widespread public support for orders concerning the removal of dog faeces and an acceptance by dog owners that clearing up after their dog has fouled is their responsibility.
- 4 There are other Dog Control orders that could be adopted, including dog bans. Some sites in Chester are covered by such orders but we are not yet considering extending these.
- 5 If an authority is considering making a Dog Control Order, which would affect open access land (land subject to Part 1 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000), it must consult the appropriate access authority.
- 6 I am aware that there are already comprehensive dog control provisions which may be applied to access land, including if necessary the banning of dogs. When considering such orders and as a Primary Authority we must pay particular attention to the views of the Local Access Forum in deciding whether any proposed order affecting open access land is necessary.
- 7 At this stage it would assist the Regulatory Services Manager to receive your views on this proposal in respect of Open Access land in Cheshire West and, if you have different views for different locations. However, I am uncertain what

land might be included in this category and any help you can give me to identify such sites would be appreciated.

8 We will be writing separately to the Town and Parish Councils to establish their views.

9 The link below explains a little more about Dog Control Orders.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/quality/local/legislation/cnea/documents/dogcontrol-orders.pdf>

## **RECOMMENDED**

**That the report be noted and the Forum's view be sought on this proposal in respect of Open Access land in Cheshire West, including if there are different views for different locations.**

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**MEETING : CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**  
**DATE : 10 DECEMBER 2010**

REPORT OF : Greenspace Manager  
Contact : Angela Simpson  
Officer : 01244 977280

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### **CHESTER WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL - BENEFITS OF DELEGATED DECISION MAKING**

- 1 Members will recall that at the meeting of the Cheshire Local Access Forum on 18 June 2010 the views of the Forum were sought on a proposal to bring in a process of Officer Delegation for decisions on public rights of way matters such as Definitive Map Modification Orders, Public Path Orders and the determination of Village Green applications. The intention was that these be delegated to an officer with provision for certain decisions to be referred up by officers or 'called in' by Members for decision by Committee where appropriate.

### **THE DELEGATED PROCESS**

- 2 The delegated process is as follows:-

The Head of Culture and Recreation will prepare a report ("the Report") on the particular Definitive Map Modification Order, Public Path Order or Village Green application. The Report will contain a statement of the relevant facts, an outline of the consultation responses received and an analysis of the application of the relevant law. The Report shall conclude with a recommended decision, contain the Case Officer's contact details and shall be published on the Council's Website.

- 3 In addition, the following will be notified that the report has been published, by email Members of the Public rights of Way Committee ("The Committee"), Local Ward Members and any other Member of the Council who requests such a notification.
- 4 Any Member of the Council may, within 28 days of the date upon which a report is published, call the matter in to be determined by the Committee. A matter may be called in on grounds relating to statements of fact and/or interpretations of law set out in the Report and/or judgements exercised in the Report in respect of relevant assessments of matters such as convenience, amenity or expediency.
- 5 On 'calling in' a Member shall be expected to provide reasons for requesting a 'call in' which will be recorded on the case file.

- 6 In the event that the matter is not 'called in' within 28 days of the date upon which the Report is published or any request for 'call in' is withdrawn, then the Head of Culture and Recreation shall be entitled to confirm the recommendation contained in the Report as a decision of the Council.
- 7 In the event that a matter is 'called in' within 28 days of the date on which the Report is published then, unless the 'call in' is withdrawn or the Report is amended and republished, the matter shall fall to be determined by the Committee at the next convenient scheduled meeting or, in the case of demonstrable urgency, at a specially convened meeting of the Committee. There would be an expectation that the Member who 'called in' the matter will attend the Committee.
- 8 Where the Case officer is minded to make a significant amendment to the Report, the initial report will be withdrawn and an amended Report shall be published setting out the reasons for the amendment and a refreshed 28 day period for 'call in' shall commence.

## **THE BENEFITS**

- 9 Having looked closely at other decision-making processes and delegation arrangements in place across Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) and the efficiency benefits that flow from them, it was decided to apply similar principles to the public rights of way decision processes.
- 10 The benefits of these streamlined procedures are as follows:-
  - a) The new approach is based on existing planning delegated decision models, and is also consistent with suggested highways decision making model. The approach presents and reflects a clear, uniform model for all CWAC regulatory decision-making. It provides the public with clarity and consistency in how CWAC makes its decisions and how and at what stages of the process the public have an opportunity to engage.
  - b) The processing of legal orders can be achieved more efficiently. In operational practice and experience, few decisions are so sensitive or contentious that they warrant the additional time and delay involved in generating and preparing a committee report and justifying the subsequent attendance at the Public Rights of Way Committee by both officers and members.
  - c) Decisions are not held up waiting for a Committee to meet and provide a decision.

- d) The arrangements will facilitate the management of a rolling programme of decisions and more effective deployment of limited resources.
- e) As the Reports are readily accessible on the website there is an increased transparency of process and a wider readership and public awareness.
- f) There is a call in procedure which safeguards the process.

**RECOMMENDED:**

**That the report be noted**

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**MEETING : CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**  
**DATE : 10 DECEMBER 2010**

**REPORT OF : COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS**  
**Contact : Genni Butler & Denise Snelson**  
**Officer : 01606 271817 or 01606 271931**

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#### **RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN - CURRENT PROJECTS**

Updates on current projects are provided for both Cheshire East and Cheshire West and Chester overleaf.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

**That the report be noted.**

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

Project	Completion date	Partners	Detail	Update December 2010
Bollington – bridge over canal at Clarence Mill to link towpath (FP52 Bollington) with Clarence Road	ongoing	Bollington Civic Society, British Waterways, Friends of Bollington Recreation Ground, adjacent landowner	Project lead = Richard Doran & Civic Society. PROW involvement = helping with any shortfall and dealing with the dedication of a PROW across new structure and down British Waterways' track to park & adjacent circular loop. Opportunities identified and approach made to BW.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial BW response received: suggesting permissive path</li> </ul>
Bollington upgrade of FP17 to bridleway status	Ongoing	Landowners, KRIV, Bollington Town Council Footpaths Committee	<p>Landowners have agreed to upgrade a footpath to bridleway status. This will link a cul-de-sac bridleway in Rainow parish. Local support and opposition.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CE PROW Committee approval gained 10th June 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creation agreements awaiting signing and sealing</li> <li>Works ready to proceed</li> <li>Improvements to gates and surfacing done on Rainow Br43</li> </ul>
LTP Area Programme Crewe and Nantwich – Crewe to Nantwich greenway	Ongoing	SUSTRANS, Highways, Weaver Valley Regional Park	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applications for funding secured. Design and landowner negotiations continue. Public consultation exercise to follow.</li> <li>Stakeholder group established</li> <li>CE PROW Committee approval gained 10th June 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning permission submitted</li> <li>Approvals also needed for Village Green and Registered Common Land</li> <li>Negotiations with landowners continuing</li> <li>Public open day held.</li> <li>Phase 1 opened 1<sup>st</sup> December</li> </ul>
Nantwich Riverside Loop	ongoing	British Waterways, Nantwich Town Council, Shropshire Union Canal Society, Nantwich Civic Society, Acton, Henhull and Edleston Parish Council, Riverside Concern, Nantwich in Bloom	<p>Continuing contributions to overall package of projects. Part of Weaver Valley Regional Park.</p> <p>Nov 08 – working on circular 'Nantwich Riverside Loop' route linking riverside and canal. Path improvements and new bridge. WREN bid successful October 2009 for upgrading towpath as part of Riverside Loop project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Towpath improvement works scheduled for April 2010. Sign posting and waymarking being installed. Leaflet to be published.</li> <li>Signage completed</li> <li>Works delayed by BW until summer 2010</li> <li>Leaflet being drafted up</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BW works delayed</li> <li>Leaflet printed</li> <li>Launch planned early new year</li> </ul>

discovercheshire.co.uk	ongoing	ICT, Tourism colleagues	<p>Redevelopment of <a href="http://www.discovercheshire.co.uk">www.discovercheshire.co.uk</a> and re-launch due summer 2010</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Walks for All leaflet routes uploaded ready for launch</li> <li>• New DiscoverCheshire website launched July 2010</li> <li>• Horse riding routes from North Cheshire Riders added: Teggs Nose</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Further Horse riding routes from North Cheshire Riders being added</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.discoverthegritstonetrail.co.uk">www.discoverthegritstonetrail.co.uk</a> launched</li> </ul>
Cheshire East News / other publications	ongoing	Communications teams	<p>Providing news material for Council newsletters and promoting work of PROW/CMS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 2009 – Middlewich FP14 improvements feature in Middlewich Guardian</li> <li>• May 2010 – Walks for All leaflet launch featured on CE website, CE News, CE internal staff newsletter and Congleton Chronicle, Housing Association newsletters, PCT staff newsletters, Disabled Holiday Information website, local third sector organisations, Ableworld etc.</li> <li>• May/June 2010 - Presentations on the potential of PROW for leisure, health and transport given to Local Area Partnerships and bulletin circulated to Members'</li> <li>• Autumn in Cheshire East' feature on home page of website listed Walks for All, Ranger events and cycling routes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft ROWIP press release and consultation publicity</li> <li>• Bulletin sent to all Council Members regarding ROWIP</li> <li>• Walks for All information shared on Peak and Northern Footpaths Society website</li> <li>• Walk4Life website</li> </ul>

## CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL UPDATE ON RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROJECTS

Project	Completion date	Partners	Detail	Update Decmber 2010
Cuddington new footpath to link bowling green to FP21 Cuddington upgrade to surface and installation of new bridge	2011/12	Cuddington PC,	Not within priority funding list for Highway for 2010/11. Capital bid potential for 2011/12 or possibility for external funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital bid for 2011/12</li> <li>Pursue external funding</li> </ul>
Flintshire to Neston Cycleway	Long term	SUSTRANS, CCC Regeneration, Flintshire CC, Engineering Service etc.	<p>Securing cycling/walking link between Deeside and Neston. Approach to RSPB has been made by SUSTRANS. RSPB have agreed to permissive footpath, but not to cycling yet. Definitive Map Team dealing with Old Quay and Snab Lane claims – both to be DMMO'd as footpaths. Part of North West Coastal Trail (NWCT) – will be taken forward as part of this project.</p> <p>Council has sent letter of support to Network Rail to compliment SUSTRANS application for this stretch. I meeting is taking place with landowners on site (RSPB, MoD &amp; Network rail) on 2 December 2010 to progress route</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DMMO priority document has been produced June 2010</li> <li>Investigate link to Wirral Way 2010</li> </ul>
North West Coastal Trail	Long term	NWDA, surrounding authorities, North West Coastal Forum	<p>Merseyside &amp; Cheshire Coastal Access Group meet quarterly. NW Coastal trail proposed route through Frodsham Marsh &amp; Flintshire to Neston cycleway</p> <p>Marine &amp; Coastal Access Act gives Natural England a duty to implement a walking route around the coast by 2020. Working closely to secure both objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possible source of funding to secure footbridge across Weaver navigation 2010/11</li> </ul>
Weaver Way and associated projects	2010	Regeneration, British Waterways, Weaver Valley Regional Park partners	<p>Riversdale Bridge to be completed Autumn 2010. Additional footpath improvements along River Dane through Vickers parkway should be completed June 2010.</p> <p>Future improvements to tow path from Hartford Blue Bridge to Winsford are due to start in January 2011 (£250K CW&amp;C capital funding)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riversdale Bridge completion Autumn 2010</li> <li>Footpath improvements June 2010</li> <li>Weaver parkway leaflet due in partnership with Weaver Valley</li> <li>New Weaver Way leaflet available from Jo Comerie at the Weaver Valley project team</li> </ul>

Project	Completion date	Partners	Detail	Update December 2010
Bishop Bennet Way Road	2011	Road Safety Team	Wetreins Green stretch on the 2010/11 capital bid list, other improvements will be assessed. Road crossing surveyed for improvement possibilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Capital programme 2010/11</li> </ul>
Weaver Valley	On going	Weaver Valley Partnership Board	Dutton horse crossing over £1 million project will be delivered over the next few months, a temporary pontoon crossing will be put in place while the work is undertaken	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project completion December 2010</li> </ul>
'Walks for All' Cheshire West and Chester	2010	Volunteer group	No steps no stile, walks for all booklet to be launched at the Cheshire Show stand 2010. Will be available on the web pages and will be uploaded to Discover Cheshire website. Copies sent out to members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch Cheshire Show June 2010</li> <li>Webpage in June 2010</li> <li>Discover Cheshire upload scheduled for the beginning of December 2010</li> </ul>
Accessibility	2010	ICT WEB	Entire Network Survey information has now been received, reports are being run and issues/anomalies will be assessed for future work programmes and priorities. Fault reporting system will come on line with the new mapping pages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Information delivery July 2010</li> <li>Web package development programme December. Feature to be available April 2011</li> </ul>
Discover Cheshire	2010	Tourism	New version is now on the web. Additional of walks for all routes and other greenspace sites will be completed over the next few months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional info regarding parks will be added by the end of December 2010</li> </ul>
Cheshire West and Chester publications & events	2010	Communications	New sister web site for Northwich and Rural North will be a magazine type community based website with blogs and updates etc. Contact magazine, Talking Together Magazine (public services magazine) Walks for All booklet was promoted in both.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Launch September 2010</li> <li>New launch pages of the corporate website are being developed by the Marketing Team</li> </ul>

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