



Cheshire Local Access Forum

Agenda

Date:	Friday, 23rd September, 2011
Time:	10.00 am
Venue:	Nether Alderley Parish Hall, St Mary's Church Nether Alderley, SK10 4TW

Directions and Location Map on Pages 1 - 2

10.00 am - Meet at Nether Alderley Parish Hall and Explanation of Site Visit

10.15 am - Walk to Alderley Edge Bypass Bridge

11.15 am - Return to Parish Hall for Meeting

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies (11.30 - 11.35)**

2. **Minutes and Matters Arising (11.35 - 11.40)** (Pages 3 - 10)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Cheshire Local Access Forum held on 24 June 2011

3. **Update Reports from Working Groups (11.40 - 12.10)**

- Funding
- Under-represented Groups
- Health

4. **Evaluation of the Nantwich Riverside Loop Project (12.10 - 12.20)** (Pages 11 - 12)

Genni Butler

For requests for further information

Contact: Rachel Graves

Tel: 01270 686473

E-Mail: rachel.graves@cheshireeast.gov.uk

5. **Rights of Way Improvement Plan Updates (12.20 - 12.30)** (Pages 13 - 18)

Denise Snelson and Genni Butler

6. **Feedback from North-West Regional LAF Chairs' Meeting (12.30 - 12.40)**

John White

7. **Reports from Members (12.40 - 12.45)**

8. **Proposed Dates of Meetings for the Year Ahead**

Friday 16 December 2011

Friday 23 March 2012

Friday 22 June 2012

Friday 21 September 2012

Friday 14 December 2012

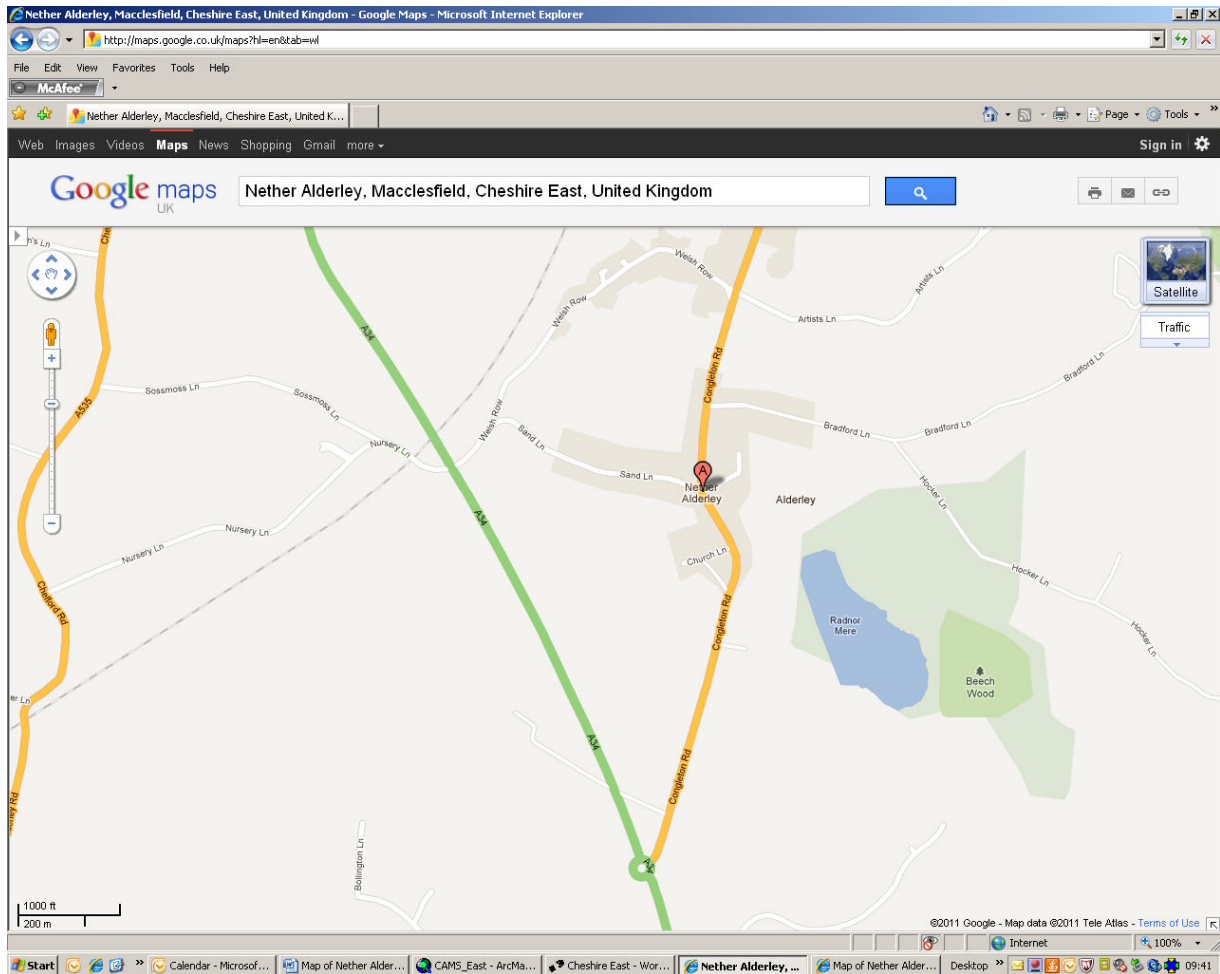
All meetings to commence at 10.00 am

Cheshire Local Access Forum – Friday 23rd September 2011

Location of meeting:

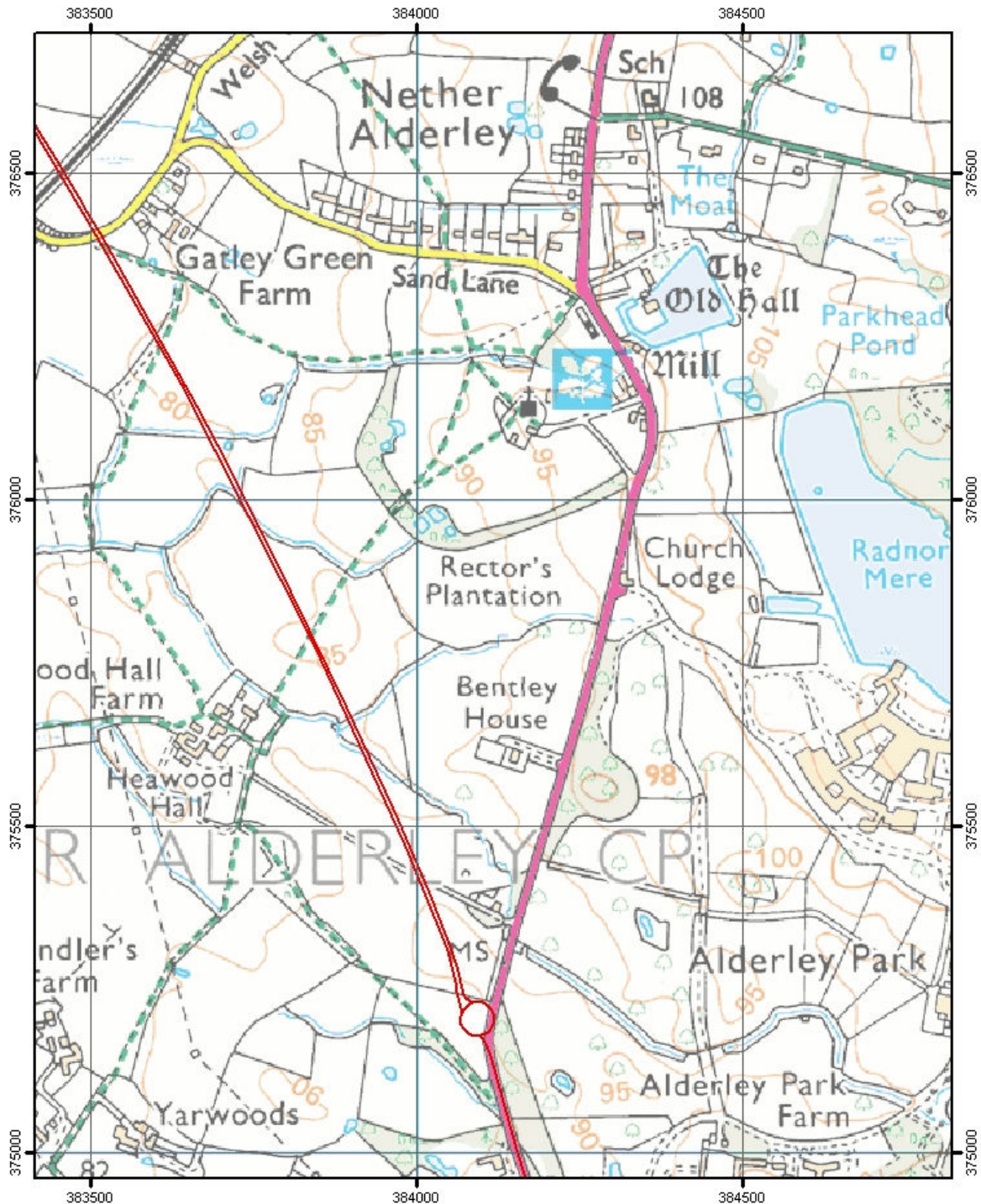
Nether Alderley Parish Hall, St Mary's Church, Nether Alderley, Cheshire, SK10 4TW

<http://www.stmarysaldерley.com/location.htm>



The entrance to the church and parish hall is off Church Lane, on the west side of the Congleton Road. The entrance and exit lanes are separate.

From the OS map below, you can see the red line of the Alderley Edge bypass and the symbol for the church at Nether Alderley. We will meet at the parish hall which is next to the church, and walk along the public footpaths to the site of the footbridge over the bypass. The distance for the walk is approximately 500m there and 500m back. The terrain is churchyard, grazing land and a short strip of woodland, with kissing gates and wicket gates.



1:7,500

Location of Nether Alderley Parish Hall
and Nether Alderley bypass

Plan No.
31.08.2011

This is a working copy of the definitive map
and should not be used for legal purposes



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Cheshire East Council, 100049045 2011.

MEETING : CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
DATE : 23 SEPTEMBER 2011

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

MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

To confirm the minutes of the Cheshire Local Access Forum held on 24 June 2011.

RECOMMENDED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM held on Friday 24 June 2011 at Cheshire West and Chester Council Offices, Civic Way, Ellesmere Port.

PRESENT:

Forum Members

John White (in the Chair)
Robert Anderson
Rhoda Bailey
Neil Collie
Dale Langham
Andrew Needham
Keith Osborn
Keith Pennyfather
John Taylor
Kath Wurchbacher

Officers and others

Rachel Graves, Cheshire East Council
Mike Taylor, Cheshire East Council
Hazel Barber, Cheshire West and Chester Council
Denise Snelson, Cheshire West and Chester Council
Graham Dutton, Warrington Borough Council
Councillor Kay Loch, Cheshire West and Chester Council
David Pott
Simon Hayton, Jacobs
Dan Johnston, Jacobs
Anna Pickering, Highways Agency
Roger Wright, Highways Agency

Action

12 APOLOGIES AND MEMBERSHIP

Apologies were received from Helen Connolly, Andy Gildon, Genni Butler and Ian Hesketh.

There was a vacancy on the Forum following the resignation of Michael Scott and it was proposed that Andrew Needham be co-opted onto the Forum.

Cheshire West and Chester Council had not yet appointed their representative to the Forum.

Councillor Stuart Parker was the new Executive Member for Culture and Recreation at Cheshire West and Chester Council. Councillor Rod Menlove, Cabinet Member for Environmental Services at Cheshire East Council was now the responsible portfolio holder for Public Rights of Way. It was suggested that they both be invited to a future meeting of the Local Access Forum.

RESOLVED:

That Andrew Needham be co-opted onto the Cheshire Local Access Forum and Councillors Stuart Parker and Rod Menlove be invited to attend a future meeting of the Local Access Forum

DS/GB

13 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2011 be agreed as a correct record.

14 TWO SAINTS WAY LONG DISTANCE TRAIL

David Pott, whose idea it was to create the Two Saints Way, briefed the Forum on the development of the trail.

The Two Saints Way was a new pilgrimage route of approximately 86 miles between the two cathedral cities of Chester and Lichfield, linking St Werburgh's shrine with St Chad's shrine.

The trail was split into four sections:

1 - Chester to Nantwich section started at Chester Cathedral, with the route mostly along the Shropshire Union Canal, with a diversion to Beeston Castle and the village of Bunbury, before ending at Nantwich.

2 - Nantwich to Stoke on Trent section was predominately farmland and after the relative flatness of Cheshire there were some hills to walk over on the way into Stoke on Trent. The Staffordshire Hoard could be viewed at the Potteries Museum.

3 - Stoke on Trent to Stafford section of the route followed the Trent Valley, along sections of the Trent and Mersey Canal, through remnants of the Staffordshire New Forest at Trentham and Tittensor Chase. The trail passed through Stone to Salt where it turned south west over Hopton Heath and Beacon Hill to Stafford.

4 - Stafford to Lichfield section meandered out of Stafford along the River Sow, the route joining the Heart of England Way to cross Cannock Chase, before the last few miles of farmland and country lanes to Lichfield and St Chad's Well.

The intention was to open the trail in 2012. Work was in progress to sort out any access issues, design the waymarking and information boards and produce a guide for the route.

Meetings were being held with interested parties, which included Chester and Lichfield Cathedrals, Visit Chester, Staffordshire Tourism, Staffordshire University and British Waterways. The next meeting would be held on 18 July 2011 at 2 pm at the Beaconside Campus of

Staffordshire University in Stafford.

Further information could be obtained by email David - dlpott@twosaintsway.org.uk and a website was under development - www.twosaintsway.org.uk

15 A556 PROJECT UPDATE

Dan Johnston and Simon Hayton from Jacobs and Anna Pickering and Roger Wright from the Highways Agency briefed the Forum on the progress with the A556 improvement project since they had last attended the Forum in March 2010.

There was to be no access from the old Chester Road to Junction 19 of M6. Old Hall Lane was to be stopped up and an underpass created for user. Overbridges would be created at Bentlyhurst Lane and the A50 junction. New pedestrian and equestrian crossings would be created at the Mere Crossroads and the Millington Junction. Changes would also be made to the Bucklow Hill junction. Chapel Lane would be stopped up at the point where the new road crossed it. Changes would be made to the public footpaths around the M56 junction with some being diverted and one path being upgraded to a bridleway.

The survey of non-motorised traffic had been carried out at 20 locations along the affected route. Each survey had lasted 12 hours and had included a count of pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians with face to face interviews. Disabled users had been included and recorded separately. The surveys had been carried out once during midweek in school summer term and once at a weekend during school holidays.

The results showed that more cyclists used the affected routes than pedestrians and equestrian users, with increased usage at weekends. The busiest locations were the A50 junction and the Bucklow Hill junction.

Public consultation would be carried out on the proposals and subject to statutory processes it was hoped that construction would commence in 2013/14.

Forum members asked questions about the status of the underpass, the declassification of the present A556 and future provision of cycle lanes along this route; and plans for wildlife mitigation.

The Forum was asked to forward any further comments to Dan Johnston either by email - dan.johnston@jacobs.com or by post to

Dan Johnston
Jacobs
1 City Walk
Leeds
LS11 9DX

16 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL PERSONNEL CHANGES

Denise Snelson reported on the staffing changes at Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Angela Simpson, Greenspace Manager, was on a secondment post at present but would be taking voluntary redundancy at the end of July. Ian Hesketh was now the Acting Greenspace Manager.

Martin Thornhill, Greenspace Senior Strategy Officer, and Claire Keane, Greenspace Development Officer, had both taken voluntary redundancy.

Denise now reported directly to Ian Hesketh and was the only one in the team working on access development projects.

17 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL RESULTS OF CAMS SURVEY

Denise Snelson reported on the results of the Countryside Access Management (CAMS) survey.

The purpose of the survey had been to enable the Council to have the necessary information to develop and deliver an effective asset management plan for the public rights of way network and to identify those paths with high accessibility or with potential to provide high accessibility.

Using Global Positioning System (GPS) and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) surveyors checked paths against the electronic Definitive Map. All furniture items were assessed including bridges, drains, stiles, gates, bridges and fingerposts. Photographs were taken of every path surface, furniture item and faults. Any issues were logged with the appropriate Network Officer to be resolved.

The results of the survey were migrated directly into the electronic CAMS database which the Council uses to manage the network. This system allowed work sheets and issues to be raised and resolved. It also allowed legal work, such as Diversions, to be logged against paths. The system could be interrogated and analysis reports created as and when needed.

The IT and Web Team were currently working with new software to transfer furniture icons and images across to the interactive mapping system, which would enable rights of way users to look at routes and assess their accessibility and suitability.

18 WORKING GROUPS: FUNDING, UNDER-REPRESENTED GROUPS AND HEALTH

Members of the Working Groups gave an update on their progress to date:

Finance

The breaking down of funding, tabled at the last meeting, had been updated to include details of the Ease of Use Random 5% survey as well as the percentage of easy access paths.

Under Represented Groups

Work was in progress with developing a survey. The Group had considered the definition of under presented groups and had found that there was a lack of baseline data which they could use. They had also found there was a reliance on cars rather than public transport as a means to access the countryside.

Health

The Group had not met and would be doing so shortly. It was noted that health was still a priority for both councils.

19 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATES

Members were updated on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Cheshire. The report received outlined details of the current projects on the general infrastructure, access for equestrians and off road cyclists, accessibility and event and promotions.

Progress on the following projects was reported:

Cheshire East

- Bollington – bridge over canal at Clarence Mill
- Crewe to Nantwich Greenway
- Nantwich Riverside Loop
- discovercheshire.co.uk
- Publications

Cheshire West and Chester

- Cuddington – new footpath to link to Footpath No. 21
- Flintshire to Neston Cycleway
- North West Coastal Trail
- Bishop Bennet Way and Delamere Loop
- Launch of 'Walks for All' booklet
- Publications

20 FEEDBACK FROM NORTH WEST REGIONAL LAF CHAIRS' MEETING

The Chairman reported that the last meeting of the Regional LAF Chairs had been cancelled.

The Regional LAF Chairs had been discussing costal access; the decision to defer the decade review of CROW access map; reduced resources and removal of regional support from Natural England and the future of England Access Forum.

21 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Neil Collie asked if the dates of future meetings could be agreed at the next meeting rather than the Annual Meeting in December

GB/DS

John Taylor reported that he was concerned about the possible loss of subsidies for bus passes due to Councils having to save money, as these the passes were a way of accessing the countryside.

22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Cheshire Local Access Forum would take place on Friday 23 September 2011.

MEETING : CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
DATE : 23 SEPTEMBER 2011

REPORT OF : COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
Contact : Genni Butler
Officer 01270 686059

EVALUATION OF NANTWICH RIVERSIDE LOOP PROJECT

1. The Nantwich Riverside Loop is a three-mile circular walking route. The Loop is designed to encourage people to walk a bit further than they would normally walk, from a semi-urban park into the countryside within each reach of the town centre. Signposted in both directions, the route runs along the River Weaver, crosses fields to the Shropshire Union Canal, follows the improved towpath up to the aqueduct over the Chester Road, before returning to the town via the historic Welsh Row.
2. The Nantwich Riverside Loop is a partnership project involving Cheshire East Council and British Waterways with support from voluntary organisations including Riverside Concern, Nantwich in Bloom, Nantwich Civic Society, Shropshire Union Canal Society, Nantwich Town Council, Acton, Edleston and Henhull Parish Council. The towpath improvement works was funded by a grant secured from Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd. (WREN).
3. To guide walkers around the Loop a new leaflet has been published which is available in outlets around Nantwich and the wider area. The leaflet includes a map, directions and information on the history of the riverside, canal and other features along the route. Press coverage was achieved during the project's development and through a launch event.
4. The leaflet and route have proved very popular with local people and visitors to the area alike. The benefits arising from people walking the route include those relating to physical and mental health, connection to the local environment, confidence in walking in the countryside and added value to the visitor economy of Nantwich.

Results of the evaluation

5. An evaluation survey card was inserted into the first tranche of leaflets to gather evidence as to the value of the route and the usefulness of the leaflet. 79 responses have been received so far. Of these responses:-
 - 95 % said that the leaflet encouraged them to walk the route;
 - 90 % said that having walked this route they are more likely to explore other walks in the area;
 - 94 % said they preferred to find information on walks in a leaflet,

29 % stated the internet as a preferred source of information;
94 % said that they feel healthier having been out for a walk;
97 % knew that walking can improve your physical and mental health;
67 % of respondents reported that they were trying to exercise more or
had been recommended by their doctor or health professional to
exercise more.

6. Respondents also commented to say:-

"We all thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We had a picnic and made it
an all day event, thank you."

"The leaflets ... are great. You can explore places you never knew
existed"

"The 'Loop' is a great idea"

"More routes please!"

"Excellent information, please use leaflets."

"Lovely walk - please produce more leaflets with other walks on in the
area."

"Very pleased about this walk. As a female walker who walks along I
welcome these types of walks as I feel safe and also feel reassured
as there are plenty of signposts so I don't get lost"

"Enjoyed the walk - keen walkers, but nice to have an easy stroll on our
doorstep!"

"We are on holiday in the area with our dog. We enjoyed our visit to
Nantwich very much and look forward to more walks in the area in
future."

Conclusions

7. a) Local, circular routes promoted via leaflets are popular and encourage
members of the public to go walking.
b) This physical activity results in physical and mental health benefits for
those people, as well as a greater connection with their local
environment.
c) The route and leaflet are successful in attracting those who would
benefit most from its offer - those trying to exercise more.

MEETING : CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
DATE : 23 SEPTEMBER 2011

REPORT OF : COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS
Contact : Genni Butler & Denise Snelson
Officer : 01270 686059 or 01606 271931

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 and work completed 2011-12	Update September 2011
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"> Initial BW response received: suggesting permissive path – responses chased August 2011
LTP Area Programme Crewe and Nantwich – Crewe to Nantwich Greenway	Spring 2012	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landowner negotiations continuing Planning permission secured Commons Land permission in application
Poynton Footpath No. 30 (ROWIP Ref. T56)	August 2011	Sustrans, Schools, Parish Council	Sustrans Safe Routes to Schools upgrade to footpath: external funding to re-surface, widen and resolve drainage issue on footpath No. 30 between schools and houses. Footpath No. 76 also improved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project completed
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 sought on connecting bridleway No. 6 also.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highways Road Safety Officers engaged to investigate solutions
Long distance horse ride (ROWIP ref. X15)	March 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Route developed by North Cheshire Riders Application for funding submitted August 2011
Stapeley Footpath No. 1 (ROWIP Ref. T84)	March 2012	Local Transport Plan, Sustrans	Local Transport Plan Cycling project: Sustrans match funded surface improvements on urban path between school, shops and houses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landowner agreement secured Quotes from contractors obtained Environmental mitigation agreed
Pickmere Footpath No. 13 (ROWIP Ref. T24)	March 2015	Parish Council, CWAC, Landowners	Surface improvements on a footpath connecting Pickmere village with Wincham school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site meeting held Landowners' agreement sought
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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knutsford Rail Walks leaflet routes added June 2011
Cheshire East News / other publications	ongoing	Communications teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Providing news material for Council newsletters and promoting work of PROW/CMS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knutsford Rail Trail leaflet nominated for Best Marketing Event award in the Community

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Walking Month press and website coverage achieved May 2011 • Press and website coverage achieved for Nantwich Riverside Loop launch May 2011 • Press release issued for National Bike Week June 2011 	<p>Rail Awards 2011</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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
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CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL UPDATE ON RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROJECTS

Project	Completion date	Partners	Detail	Update September 2011
Cuddington new footpath to link bowling green to FP21 Cuddington upgrade to surface and installation of new bridge	2011/12	Cuddington PC,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> Capital bid for 2011/12 Pursue external funding
Flintshire to Neston Cycleway	Long term	SUSTRANS, CCC Regeneration, Flintshire CC, Engineering Service etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Authority 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 & Network rail) on 2 December 2010 to progress route The meeting in December was very positive, all landowners confirmed they are happy to progress with a permissive cycle route. There needs to be thorough discussions regarding land management issues in the next few months. Flintshire CC applying for Welsh Assembly funding for their end of the route 2011/12. Cheshire West and Chester will look to secure funding for 2012/13 but will pursue earlier delivery if funding available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DMMO priority document has been produced June 2010 Investigate link to Wirral Way 2010
North West Coastal Trail	Long term	NWDA, surrounding authorities, North West Coastal Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merseyside & Cheshire Coastal Access Group meet quarterly. NW Coastal trail proposed route through Frodsham Marsh & Flintshire to Neston cycleway Marine & Coastal Access Act gives Natural England a duty to implement a walking route around the coast by 2020. Working closely to secure both objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible source of funding to secure footbridge across Weaver navigation 2011/12

Project	Completion date	Partners	Detail	Update September 2011
Bishop Bennet Way	2011	Road Safety Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetreins Green stretch on the capital bid list, other improvements will be assessed. Road crossing surveyed for improvement possibilities Creation Order in progress to secure stretch at the end of Whitegate Way to join Cuddington BR16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital programme 2011/12
Delamere Loop	2011			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In progress 2011
Weaver Valley	On going	Weaver Valley Partnership Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Weaver Way- Riversdale Bridge completed 2010. Additional footpath improvements along River Dane through Vickers parkway partially completed. Future improvements to tow path from Hartford Blue Bridge to Winsford are scheduled for early 2011 (£150K CW&C capital funding to be confirmed April 2011) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On going project
'Walks for All' Cheshire West and Chester	2011	Volunteer group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No steps no stile, walks for all booklet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch Cheshire Show June 2010 Walks on Discover Cheshire April 2011
Accessibility	2011	ICT WEB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Entire Network Survey information has now been received, reports are being run and issues/anomalies will be assessed for future work programmes and priorities. CAMS data base Fault reporting system will come on line with the new mapping pages Equalities Act training took place March 2011 to assess impact on RoW work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information delivery July 2010 Web package development programme December. Feature to be available Summer 2011
Discover Cheshire	2011	Tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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"> Additional info regarding parks will be added by the end of March 2011
Cheshire West and Chester publications & events	On going	Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New sister web site for Northwich and Rural North will be a magazine type community based website with blogs and updates etc. Contact magazine, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cheshire Show 2011- large show feature in the 'Countryside & Rural' section to promote

			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Talking Together Magazine (public services magazine) Walks for All booklet promoted in both.• Cheshire walks feature article published in national Country Walking magazine• Walks for All information shared on Peak and Northern Footpaths Society website• ROWIP press releases	Greenspace Team including access & park improvements projects and allotments.
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