

Cheshire Local Access Forum



Agenda

Date: Friday 21st September 2012
Time: 10.00 am
Venue: West Committee Room - Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe, CW1 2BJ

Location Maps for Municipal Buildings, Crewe on page 1-2

1. **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies (10.00 -10.05)**
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising (10.05-10.10) (Pages 3 - 8)**
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2012
3. **Resignation of Cheshire West and Chester Council from Cheshire Local Access Forum (10.10-10.20) (Pages 9 - 10)**

Ian Hesketh
4. **Local Access Forum Recruitment (10.20-10.25) (Pages 11 - 12)**

All
5. **Call for Papers for the CLAF Annual Report (10.25-10.30)**

All
6. **Paths for Communities Fund and the Local Access Forum's Role (10.30-11.00)**

David Jeffreys, Natural England

For requests for further information

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

7. **A556 Knutsford to Bowdon Scheme: Post Consultation Update (11.00-11.15)**

Neil Collie

8. **Forestry Commission: Independent Panel on Forestry Final Report (11.15-11.30)** (Pages 13 - 14)

John White

9. **Statement of Action and Update of Delivery Plan for Cheshire West and Chester Rights of Way Improvement Plan (11.30-11.45)** (Pages 15 - 18)

Hazel Barber

10. **Update Reports from Working Groups (11.45-12.00)** (Pages 19 - 22)

- Funding
- Under-represented Groups
- Health

11. **Rights of Way Improvement Plan Updates (12.00-12.15)**

Hazel Barber and Genni Butler

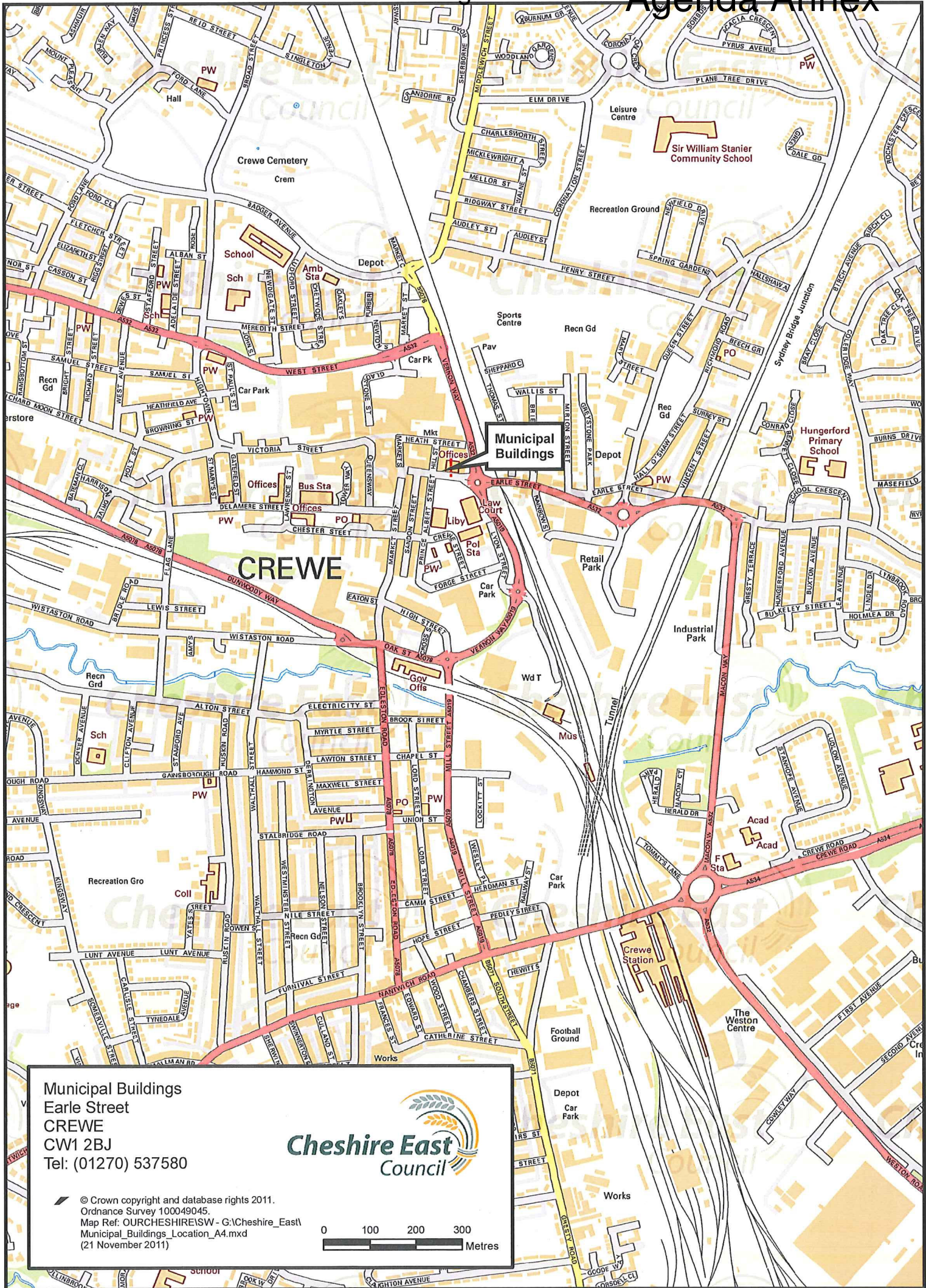
12. **Feedback from North West Regional Local Access Forum (12.15-12.30)**

John White

13. **Reports from Members (12.30-12.45)**

14. **Date of Next Meeting**


The Annual General Meeting is at 10.00 am on Friday 14 December 2012



Municipal Buildings

CREWE

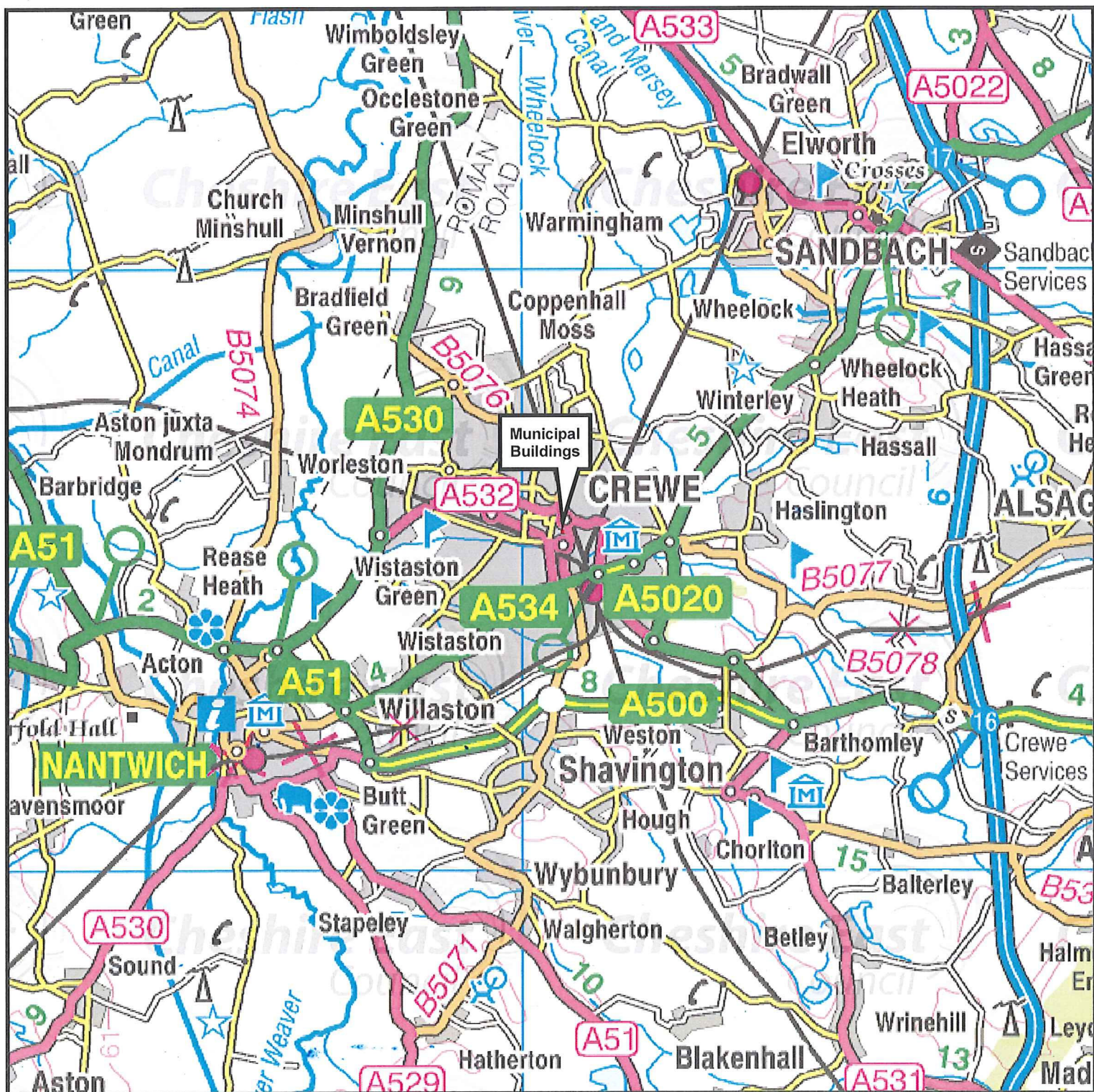
Municipal Buildings
 Earle Street
 CREWE
 CW1 2BJ
 Tel: (01270) 537580



Cheshire East Council

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 Ordnance Survey 100049045.
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 (21 November 2011)

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 Metres



Municipal Buildings
Earle Street
CREWE
CW1 2BJ
Tel: (01270) 537580



Minutes of a meeting of the **Cheshire Local Access Forum**
held on Friday, 22nd June, 2012 at Room 2, Wyvern House, The Drumber,
Winsford, CW7 1AH

PRESENT

Forum Members John White (in the Chair)
Robert Anderson
Rhoda Bailey
Neil Collie
Andrew Needham
Kay Loch
Keith Osborn
Keith Pennyfather
Kath Wurcbacher

Officers and Others Mike Taylor, Cheshire East Council
Genni Butler, Cheshire East Council
Rachel Graves, Cheshire East Council
Hazel Barber, Cheshire West and Chester Council
Adele Mayer, Cheshire West and Chester Council

Action

12 WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Helen Connolly, Andy Gildon,
Dale Langham and Ian Hesketh.

13 MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING

38 Cheshire Local Access Forum Website

Neil Collie commented that the Forum webpage only displayed the
front sheet of the agenda and not the attached reports.

It was agreed that a link would be provided on the Forum webpage
to the reports and minutes on Cheshire East Council's website. **RG/HB**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2012 be agreed
as a correct record.

14 DEFRA PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON A PROPOSED PACKAGE OF CHANGES TO THE PROCESSES FOR RECORDING, DIVERTING AND EXTINGUISHING PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Mike Taylor briefed the Forum on the DEFRA consultation
"Improvements to the Policy and Legal Framework for Public
Rights of Way".

The proposals in the consultation document would affect three areas of rights of way work – Definitive Map Modification Orders and the Definitive Map, Public Path Orders, and the relationship between planning consents affecting rights of way and any necessary consequential public path orders to allow development to proceed.

The consultation had arisen as a result of a Stakeholder Working Group report “Stepping Forward”, published in March 2010, which contained a package of 32 proposals designed to improve various processes associated with identifying and recording historical rights of way. The consultation document set out how the Government intended to implement these proposals. The deadline for responding was 6 August 2012.

Mike had presented a paper to the Cheshire East Council Public Rights of Way Committee on 11 June 2012 which had outlined the Council’s response to the consultation.

John White reported that the Ramblers had drafted a response, which had been sent to members of the Ramblers for consultation before submission.

Hazel Barber confirmed that Cheshire West and Chester Council would be responding with their views.

It was agreed that the Chairman would compile a response to the consultation on behalf of the Forum, generally supporting Cheshire East Council’s response with the caveats that sufficient resources must be made available to implement the proposed changes and that careful wording must be used in the legislation and guidance.

JW

15 CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL CYCLING STRATEGY CONSULTATION

Jamie Matthews, Transport Strategy Officer, Cheshire West and Chester Council, briefed the Forum on the consultation for the new Cycle Strategy for the Council.

There had been considerable investment in the local cycling network in Cheshire over the last 10 years. Chester had been successful in gaining Cycle Demonstration Town status between 2008 and 2011. The challenge for the future was 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 Borough.

The Council was keen to encourage more people to cycle to work, to school and for the fun of it and hoped to be able to encourage

cycling as part of their tourism agenda. It was keen to develop awareness campaigns to highlight the health benefits of cycling and encourage more people to take part in cycle training schemes.

To meet these aims the Council was preparing a new Cycling Strategy for the Borough and was consulting on the following four objectives:

1. **Build** – new and improved infrastructure to improve facilities for cyclist
2. **Inform** – smarter choices, awareness and marketing campaigns to encourage a cycle friendly culture and promote the benefits of cycling as a low carbon form of transport
3. **Know how** – education and training to improve cycle safety and security
4. **Enthuse** – measures to highlight and raise the profile of cycling in the Borough.

Forum members were encourage to respond to the consultation either by completing the forms handed out or online at www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/cyclingconsultation. The deadline for returning completed questionnaires was Friday 13 July 2012. The responses would be used to create the draft Cycling Strategy which would be published and consulted on in September/October 2012, with the final Cycling Strategy being published in December 2012.

16 UPDATE REPORTS FROM WORKING GROUPS

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

Finance

Neil Collie spoke on the Annual Funding Spreadsheet, which had been included in the agenda. He thanked the officers for providing the information for the spreadsheet.

For Cheshire East it was noted that the maintenance budget had been reduced and the Forum was concerned that this would have an effect on rights of way network. Genni Butler reported that the result of the 'Ease of Use' Random 5% spring survey was 76%, which was down on previous years. It was too soon to know if the budget reductions had contributed to this decrease. Genni also reported on the external funding which the Council had obtained for rights of way projects.

For Cheshire West it was noted the budget and the staffing numbers were decreasing and a concern that resources were not available to ensure that work was carried out within prescribed timescales. Hazel Barber reported on the external funding which

the Council has obtained such as £250,000 from Sustrans.

Under Represented Groups

Bob Anderson and Kath Wurcbacher reported that the Group had been considered ways to encourage access to the countryside and had come up with two ideas.

The first was to link the use of public transport and access to the countryside. It was suggested that a leaflet with the timetable and costs of buses from Crewe to Nantwich be included with the leaflet for the Nantwich Loop in the hope that it would encourage families from Crewe to access this walk. The Group asked if Genni Butler could help them with this proposal.

BA/GB

The second suggestion was to target schools to encourage them to bring pupils into the countryside by holding a day in Marbury Park, Northwich, to show teachers what the Park could offer. Funding would be needed for this project and it was suggested that the Group should look for an enabling partner. Hazel Barber agreed to provide details of organisations which may be able to help.

HB/KW

Health

John White reported that Group would be considering the National Institute for Health and Clinic Excellence (NICE) draft guidance on local measures to promote walking and cycling as a form of transport or recreation. The guidance considered the health impacts of increasing walking and cycling and the wider environmental and economic impacts arising from promoting walking and cycling as a form of transport. Consultation on the draft guidance had run from 24 April to 19 June 2012. It was expected that the final guidance would be published in October 2012.

He also reported that the Ramblers had taken over the running of the Walking for Health programme from Natural England.

17 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATES AND ANNUAL REPORT

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

The report for Cheshire East outlined details of the progress to date on the following current projects:

- Crewe to Nantwich Greenway
- Seven Sisters Lane, Ollerton
- Gritstone Trail – crossing of A54
- Long Distance Horse Ride – Cheshire Cheese Loop and Heritage Loop

- Promoted routes added to discovercheshire.co.uk
- 2012-2013 ROWIP and LTP cycling projects

The report for Cheshire West & Chester had been revised to show the progress against the projects identified in the Five Year Delivery Plan for 2011-16. Progress on the following projects was reported:

- Random survey of 5% of the ROW
- Provision additional information on ROW Network on interactive mapping
- Fault Reporting System to be available online
- Development of easily identifiable branding

Copies of the Cheshire West and Chester Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2016 were distributed to Forum members and it was agreed that the Statement of Action would be discussed at the next meeting. **HB**

18 FEEDBACK FROM NORTH-WEST REGIONAL LAF CHAIRS' MEETING

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

- Costal Access – update on Cumbria route
- New Countryside Code
- Paths for Communities
- Moorlands – fighting wildfires
- Pennine Bridleway
- Future of Lake District and Cumbria LAFs
- NICE consultation on promoting walking and cycling

The guidance for Path for Communities application stated that Local Access Forums are a valuable source of information, advice and support and suggested that applicants took the opportunity to engage with their Local Access Forum and reflect the outcome on their application form. Genni Butler reported that in Cheshire East there was proposal at pre application stage for public rights of way within Public Open Space in Dane Meadow, Holmes Chapel and a number of other proposed applications. Adele Mayer reported on two applications in Cheshire West - creation of a section of footpath in the parish of Barrow to link Barrow Lane with Chester Road, and creation of a right of way in Delamere from the station to Stoneyford Lane.

The Forum noted the projects and supported the applications in principal.

19 OUTLINE OF RECRUITMENT/RE-SELECTION PROCESS FOR LAF MEMBERS

Members were reminded that their term of office expired in December 2012 and informed that they would be invited to re-apply for a further 3 year period and indicate their intentions at the time of the September meeting.

The result of this exercise would indicate the number of positions to be recruited to in order to comply with The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007 which required the Forum to have between 10 and 22 members.

It was also noted that the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair would be up for election at the Annual General Meeting in December. The Regulations required 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.

20 : REPORTS FROM MEMBERS

Neil Collie asked if the dates for meetings in 2013 would be on the same basis as this year. The dates would be confirmed at the next meeting. **GB/HB**

21 : DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Cheshire Local Access Forum would take place on Friday 21 September 2012 at the Municipal Buildings, Earle Street, Crewe, CW1 2BJ.

MEETING : CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

DATE : 21 September 2012

REPORT OF : Green Spaces Manager – Cheshire West and Chester Council

Contact : Ian Hesketh

Officer : 01606 271735

RESIGNATION OF CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER COUNCIL FROM CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

- 1 Cheshire West and Chester Council (CWAC) has resolved to withdraw from the Cheshire Local Access Forum and to seek to establish an independent Local Access Forum that is focused upon the geographical limits of the borough of Cheshire West and Chester. As required, notice to this effect was given to the Secretary and Chair of the Cheshire Local Access Forum and Natural England on 31st August 2012.
- 2 Arrangements for a pan Cheshire Local Access Forum were considered to be an interim measure at the time of local government reorganisation in Cheshire and other 'founding' member authorities have previously opted out of joint Forum arrangements eg. Warrington and Halton.
- 3 Elections for membership of the present Cheshire Local Access Forum are scheduled to take place during December of this year, which presents an opportunity to pursue arrangements for a new Cheshire West and Chester Local Access Forum.
- 4 Cheshire West and Chester Council is now proposing that the time is right to seek to establish an independent Local Access Forum that is focused upon the specific access priorities and strategic objectives of the borough.
- 5 An independent Local Access Forum for CWAC would provide the following benefits and advantages:
 - Provide for a greater degree of focus upon relevant access matters specific to the borough of Cheshire West and Chester avoiding dilution across a wider geographical area
 - Broad representation of the varied cross section of interests attached to access and recreation focused upon the CW&C area.
 - Potential for increased level of locally targeted forum activity and tangible outcomes.
 - Development of a more innovative and dynamic approach to Forum business that reflects CWAC corporate objectives and aligned with the 'Altogether Better' agenda.
 - Locally distinctive branding providing greater opportunity to engage with local communities and prospective stakeholders.

RESOLVED

That Forum Members consider the report and any action required.

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MEETING : CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
DATE : 21 September 2012

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

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – RECRUITMENT

- 1 The final meeting of the Cheshire Local Access Forum in its present form is to be held on Friday 21st September 2012, (this meeting)
2. Existing Cheshire Local Access Forum Members are invited to indicate, on the form to be circulated at the meeting, whether they would wish to re-apply for a further 3 year period of membership on one or both of the new Forums. Members are reminded that indicating a wish to re-stand does not necessarily mean that they will be re-appointed, as the Forums must maintain a balance of interests amongst its members.
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 Forums to have between 10 and 22 Members and a reasonable balance of interests.

RECOMMENDED:

That Forum Members indicate on the form to be circulated at the meeting whether they would like to be considered for membership of one or both of the new Forums to be established.

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MEETING : **CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**
DATE : **21 September 2012**

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

FORESTRY COMMISSION – INDEPENDENT PANEL ON FORESTRY FINAL REPORT

1. In March 2011, the Forum received a presentation from officers of the Forestry Commission, on the proposed future changes to the Commission and the public consultation that had been launched.
2. The Independent Panel on Forestry was established in March 2011 to advise government on the future direction of forestry and woodland policy in England and on the role of the Forestry Commission in implementing policy.
2. On 4 July 2012, the Panel published its final report which can be viewed at:-
www.defra.gov.uk/forestrypanel/reports

RECOMMENDED:

That Forum Members consider the report and any action required.

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MEETING : CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
DATE : 21 September 2012

REPORT OF : POLICY OFFICER
Contact : Hazel Barber
Officer : 01606 288539

STATEMENT OF ACTION AND UPDATE OF DELIVERY PLAN FOR CHESHIRE WEST AND CHESTER RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- 1 Members will recall that at the December 2011 meeting Denise Snelson reported that Cheshire West and Chester Council had completed an Open Space Audit and Assessment of Need Household survey, along with consultation with Town/Parish Councils, recreational organisations and the public, on their Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2011-2016.
- 2 The Open Space Audit and Assessment of Need report is available at http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/planning_and_building_control/spatial_planning/emerging_local_plan/background_documents/open_space_audit_and_assessmen.aspx
- 3 The results from these had been used to produce a 'Statement of Action' and 'Improvement Implementation Plan' for the next five years, a draft was tabled at the meeting and it was hoped that the final version of the Improvement Plan would be available in January 2012.
- 4 The Final version of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) was presented to the Cheshire Local Access Forum at the June meeting 2012 and the ROWIP update at that meeting included a new format to reflect the 'Statement of Action' and the 'Five Year Delivery Plan' provided in the 2011 – 2016 ROWIP. A copy of the plan can be downloaded from the website.
- 5 At the last meeting it was requested that there be further discussion on the 'Statement of Action' and 'Five Year Delivery Plan'
- 6 The 'Statement of Action' is split into six major themes, reflecting the conclusions of the surveys and consultations mentioned above:-
 - Assets and maintenance (AM)
 - Economic Growth (EG)
 - Better Safety (BS)
 - Quality of Life (QL)
 - Climate change (CC)
 - Equality of opportunity (EO)
- 7 Please find the summary of the 'Statement of Action' on the next page and the update of the five year delivery plan is to be found as part of Agenda item 11.

RECOMMENDED:

That the report be noted.

Statement of Action

Assets and maintenance (AM)	Action over five years 2011- 2016
AM 1	We will aim to increase the percentage annually of routes that are easy for public use.
AM 2	We will develop an overall Greenspace branding style to deliver consistency of image and ease of producing promotional material that is recognisable in various formats.
AM 3	We will work with colleagues to agree standard procedures for access maintenance improvements activities to ensure the natural and historic environment is protected.(Environmental impact assessment)
AM 4	We will develop best practice and priority procedures for maintaining the network
AM 5	We will review our prioritisation system for dealing with Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) and Public Path Orders (PPOs)
AM 6	We will assess, develop and deliver anomalies such as cul de sacs, boundary changes and permanent building obstructions, using the prioritisation system used for DMMOs.
AM 7	We will work to improve information available to the public on the Definitive Map and Statement
Economic growth (EG)	
EG 1	We will improve the condition or management of existing routes identified during consultation and network survey as significant for tourism or leisure.
EG 2	We will work with colleagues to integrate information about the access network into other promotional information /website
EG 3	We will develop and distribute a range of promotional materials (not just leaflets) aimed at certain user categories to promote top locations across the borough.
Better safety (BS)	
BS 1	We will seek to address safety concerns highlighted whilst using the network during consultation.
BS 2	We will identify off road routes on the network for improvement that will encourage pupils and students to walk or cycle to school.
BS3	Working with colleagues within the authority we will seek to improve accommodation for vulnerable road users where the Greenspace network links with the adopted highway.
BS4	We will ensure that wherever landowner/environmental constraints allow , the option of least restrictive access is applied whenever new path furniture is installed or existing furniture replaced.

Quality of life (QL)	
QL 1	We will increase the opportunity for people to access green space.
QL 2	We will make it easier for people to incorporate walking, cycling and horse riding into their daily lives and work with health professionals to sustain this change.
QL 3	We will work to encourage voluntary groups and local communities to adopt local routes, helping to maintain and develop them for local community needs.
QL 4	We will identify opportunities for forming new partnerships with other organisations e.g Primary Care Trusts where these would help to deliver improvements to the network or assist in drawing down funding.
QL 5	We will cultivate further involvement and integration with existing and future access plans and initiatives within the authority and beyond.
Climate change (CC)	
CC 1	We will aim to increase the opportunity that people have to leave the car at home and choose sustainable transport.
CC 2	We will seek opportunities to create or upgrade the network where necessary to create continuous and connected routes from where people live to shops, services, work and schools.
CC 3	We will work with internal colleagues to raise the profile of the contribution that the greenspace network has on purposeful journeys.
CC 4	We will reduce the reliance on car journeys to the network by developing countryside access opportunities closer to where people live.
Equality of opportunity (EO)	
EO 1	We will offer the information people need to make informed choices when using the green space and network in a way that matches their needs.
EO 2	We will work with partners and colleagues in the health professions, relevant 3 rd sector providers and others to target different groups, particularly older people, people with mental health challenges and other under represented groups.
EO 3	We will give extra weight to route improvements for health where health problems are reported to be greatest and focus on the formation of circular routes with easy terrain.
EO 4	We will make connections with colleagues in adult services and elsewhere in the authority to develop a consultation process with under represented groups to assess their needs to access the network
EO 5	We will follow the Equalities Act 2010 to comply with standards for enabling all people to use the network, where appropriate and reasonable.

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Cheshire East	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
No of kms. of PROW	c.1900	c.1900	1928	1929
% Easy Access*	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	76% Spring survey
No of Officers(Total)	7.8 FTE	8.8 FTE	7.8 FTE, of which:- 3.8 x legal officers 3 x maintenance officers 1 x ROWIP officer	7.8 FTE, of which:- 3.8 x legal officers 3 x network officers 1 x ROWIP officer
Budget Total ('000)	£511	£460	£440.6	£396.0
PROW Maintenance Budget ('000)	£129 start of year budget Actual spend = £187.2**	£132 start of year budget Spending freeze Oct-Mar Actual spend = £115.6**	£139 (revised start of year budget) Spending freeze Oct-Mar: Actual spend £128.0**	£133 start of year budget =£0.07 / m of PROW =£69.3 / km of PROW Spending frozen August £89 spent to date
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

			ROWIP projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £6.9k grant from British Equestrian Federation • Poynton village improvements 	successful bid <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

***% Easy Access is defined as:-**

- No stiles or steps
- Gaps wider than 1m
- Firm surface
- Gradient no greater than 1:10
- Open corridor (no vegetation issues)

****actual spend is receipted expenditure which includes monies spent on projects and orders which are funded from other sources, e.g. Highways or applicants**

<u>Cheshire West and Chester</u>	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
No of Kms. of PROW	c1270km	c1270km	c1270km	c1270km
% Easy Access*	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 £500k 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LTP ROWIP capital N/A SUSTRANS £600k Riversdale Bridge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capital- £1.25k blue bridge Hartford to Winsford 	Capital from SUSTRANS 250K for Burton - Welsh border

	Millenium Greenway	and associated path improvements		
ROWIP suggestions total cost	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

***% Easy Access is defined as:-**

- No stiles or steps
 - Gaps wider than 1m
 - Firm surface
 - Gradient no greater than 1:10
- Open corridor (no vegetation issues)

MEETING : **CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**
DATE : **21 September 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

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 September 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 Planning permission secured May 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common land consent secured • S25 creation agreement negotiations being completed • Construction scheduled
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"> • Landowner unwilling to consider headland permissive path
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. Cheshire Cheese Loop signposted, available and promoted.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 2 nd ‘Getting to know Willaston’ leaflet added May 2012 Cheshire Cheese Loop added April 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bollin Valley Way added • Bollin Valley Cycle Trail added • 3 walks from Alsager Series added • 2 walks from Hassall Green Explorer leaflet added
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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All additions to Discover Cheshire publicised through social media

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haslington walk feature in Cheshire East News prepared but publication cancelled due to spending freeze • Stapeley Footpath No. 1 cycling to school publicity • 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 	
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"> • Scheme delivery underway

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

<http://www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/transportandroads/publicrightsofway1/cheshirewestchesterrowip.aspx>

Project description	Policy reference delivered	Staff/project cost		Year 2 2012/13	Update
Random survey of 5% of the ROW network annually	AM	£*		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%	In progress
Develop a maintenance priority system	AM	£*		review	In progress
Provide additional information on Rights of Way Network available	AM EO QL CC BS EG	££**		Additional routes on Discover Cheshire	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/CW/AC/interactivemapping/ The Sandstone Trail website is still under construction.

Fault reporting system	AM BS	£**		Redevelop to incorporate fault reporting via online mapping	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 every six months next review due October 2012.
Develop easily identifiable branding	AM EG QL EO	£-££***		Incorporate design onto electronic info	Greenspaces style is still being incorporated into publications this year full incorporation may be delayed because of internal changes.
DMMO priority system	AM	££*		Investigate 3 applications	On target
Develop a PPO priority system	AM	££*		Investigate 3 applications	In progress – internal discussions pending, meeting in the diary for 9 th October.2012.
Unrecorded paths	AM CC QL	£-££*		Investigation of 2 paths	Initial meeting held with user groups. Possible DMMO applications identified - ready to be worked up.by volunteer project. Project meeting TBC. October 2012.

Additional Greenspace info on Discover Cheshire website		£**		5 Additional Greenspace sites	Ongoing - Due to the manager of the website Joe Wainwright leaving the authority, this may not be achievable this year and an alternative marketing tool needs to be found.
Work with parish/town councils community groups to adopt local paths	QL EO EG BS	£**		Facilitate interested parish and town councils to adopt local paths	Parish and town councils contacted with a view to implementing this idea.
Develop priority system for improvements	AM EG BS QL CC EO	£*		Review	in Progress
Select 5 priority safety projects to investigate	BS	£-£££***		Select 2nd project to investigate	In Progress – Project 1 Deeside to Neston link taking traffic off the A540 due for completion April 2013. Joint project with Flintshire CC. Project 2 – refurbishment of fp 230 Chester over the railway viaduct. Smaller projects – Wincham planning application – ensuring that paths are diverted away from estate roads.

					- steps provided on Fp11 Tilston and fp2 Carden
Select 5 priority economic growth projects to investigate	EG	£-£££***		Select 2nd project to investigate	In Progress – Oakmere Parish Council Stoneyford – Delamere, bridlepath, path for communities application
Select 5 accessibility projects to investigate	EO	£-£££***		Select 2nd project to investigate	In partnership with Habitats and Hillforts - 12 new kissing gates to replace stiles in and around Delamere, improving access to the Sandstone Trail. 20 Kissing / Pedestrian Gates replaced stiles in the area between Beeston and Peckforton Castles. New bridges and improvements on bridleway and footpath Agden and wigland area. Fingerposts have been replaced across the Borough to improve signage as a result of survey.
Select 5 links to fragmented paths to investigate	CC	£-£££***		Select 2nd project to investigate	Developments in Tattenhall and elsewhere show linkages to the network at the planning stage, after consultation. Part of planning application consultations the provision of linkages is important and

					proposed where appropriate.
Select 5 quality of life projects to investigate	QL	£-£££***		Select 2nd project to investigate	In Progress
Investigate how S106 funding can deliver ROWIP policy	AM EG BS QL CC EO	£**		Target major developments	Section 106 agreements now have improvements to PROW on or near sites included in heads of terms eg Wincham.

Key to abbreviations

*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