

LEICESTERSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – 11TH DECEMBER 2007

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

LAF PROPOSED SEMINAR

Purpose of Report

1. To update members on the half day seminar to be hosted by the Leicestershire Local Access Forum in association with Leicestershire Together.

Background Information

2. At the last meeting of the forum, members agreed to host a seminar early in 2008. The event is proposed to be entitled 'Green Ways for Growth Points'.
3. The event is intended to focus on access issues facing local authorities and agencies who are juggling major new development proposals for the county whilst trying to tackle a range of other issues. These include climate change, improving health, and working in partnerships to create Sustainable Communities. Green Infrastructure combined with rights of way and outdoor activity can play a major role. Developing and promoting networks of natural places, parks and paths can bring green space to the doorstep. It can also encourage walking, cycling, enjoyment of nature, boost well-being, build local identities and aid place-shaping. The seminar will look at what can be done and how.

The Day

4. The final date is dependent on arrangements with guest speakers. It is expected to be held towards the end of February. Main speakers will focus on:
 - Green Space for Good Health – the need for Access to Nature on the doorstep.
 - Green Infrastructure in 'New Growth' - the River Nene Regional Park experience and Access.
 - Energising Infrastructure – building Outdoor Recreation into people's everyday lives.
 - Greenways for Leicestershire – planning and promoting networks through Local Partnerships
5. A draft schedule is outlined below:

09.15	Reception and Tea/Coffee
09.45	Welcome from Chairman of the Local Access Forum
10.00	Keynote Speaker – followed by questions
10.30	Speaker 2 – followed by questions
11.00	Break and Tea/Coffee
11.10	Speaker 3 – followed by questions
11.40	Speaker 4 – followed by questions
12.15	Summary and closing remarks by Chairman
12.30	Buffet lunch available
13.30	Delegates depart

Delegates

6. The following groups are intended to be targeted as delegates:

Representatives from:

- County Council - Strategic Policy and relevant Highways staff.
- District Councils - Policy and Planning Officers, Greenspace Managers and Physical Activity Co-ordinators
- Natural England
- EMDA and the Govt. Office East Midlands
- Leicestershire Together partners
- Local Strategic Economic Partnership members
- Walking the Way to Health Initiative partners in Health Authorities
- The National Forest
- British Waterways, Severn Trent Water, Environment Agency;
- Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, The OnTrent Initiative;
- Groundwork Trust, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers;
- NFU, CLA, Bradgate Park Trust, GreenSpace;
- Sustrans, Transport 2000, Leicester Shire Promotions;
- Ramblers Association, Leics. Footpaths Assoc, Leics. & Rutland Bridleways Association.
- Other interested groups

Recommendation

7. Members confirm the current proposals are satisfactory and suggest any further groups that should be invited to attend.

Officer to Contact

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