

**MERSEYSIDE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM (MLAF)
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT Knowsley MBC**

ON FRIDAY 20th January 2006 AT 1.30 P.M.

PRESENT

FORUM MEMBERS:	
Martin Harker	Chair
Philip Barton	Vice Chair
Ray Derricott	
Ingrid Donakey	Ramblers Association
Margaret Fishwick	British Horse Society
Cllr Peter Millea	Liverpool City Council
David Skelton	Merseytravel
Observers	
Dave Dent	Local Footpath Secretary, Ramblers Association
Gloria Thayer	Ramblers Association
OFFICERS:	
Peter Coulton	St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
Jim Donaldson	Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Val Hough	Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
Bernie Maloney	Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Brian Mason	Liverpool City Council
Paul Thomas	Liverpool City Council (Cycling officer)
Janet Whelan	Halton Borough Council

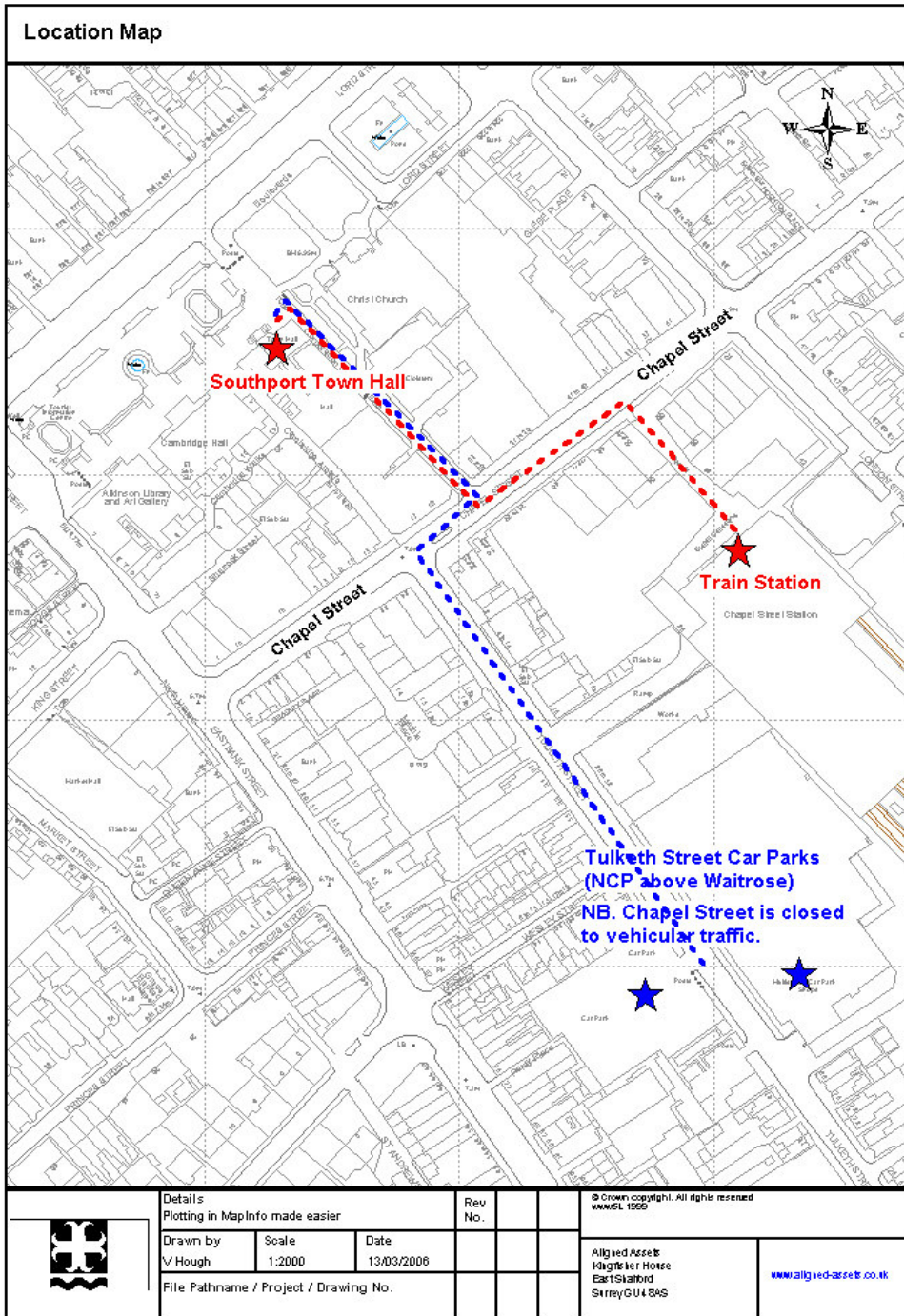
		Action
1	WELCOME & INTRODUCTION	
1.1	Martin Harker (Chair) formally opened the meeting and thanked all for their attendance.	
2	APOLOGIES	
2.1	Apologies were received from Don Thompson, Andrew Brockbank, Jane Hodgekiss and Caroline Vale (Wirral MBC).	
3	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (14th October 2005)	
3.1	The minutes of the previous meeting (14 th October 2005) were agreed as a true record. Any feedback for LTP 2 should be co-ordinated to Councillor Peter Millea.	All
4	<p>MATTERS ARISING</p> <p>A) Web page up-date. To be discussed later.</p> <p>B) A question was asked if any officers were proposing to look into the “Lost rights of Way Project.” An up-date was provided by the officers as to the recent action undertaken by Cheshire County Council. There is an up-date on Cheshire’s web-site for anyone who is interested.</p> <p>C) ROWIP. Officers up-dated the Forum with a current timetable for action including the fact that whilst there has unfortunately been delays in this regard, the officers have met and agreed to pull a composite plan of all of the Merseyside Authorities together in advance of the new appointee. This will enable the ROWIP officer to commence the consultation exercise with a firm platform to work from. At this point the chair thanked the officers. The Forum raised the issue of the strict timetable and hoped that adequate resources would be given to officers to meet the demands of the ROWIP process. The chair asked for suggestions from the members as to what they feel should be considered for the ROWIP. Members were asked to feedback directly to the Chair.</p> <p>Tarbock Interchange – A discussion took place with regards to the Tarbock Interchange and an update was provided by Phillip Barton. A draft Environmental Improvement Strategy has been produced and issued to all adjoining Local Authorities. The side road Orders were published in January although there has been a delay. The chair asked if Traffic Levels would be reduced as part of the J6 improvement. B</p>	All

<p>5</p>	<p>Maloney confirmed that the Highways Agency have suggested a reduction in levels by approximately one third.</p>	<p>Chair</p>
<p>5.1</p>	<p>This was discussed earlier in the meeting.</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>UPDATE from Working Groups</p>	
<p>6.1</p>	<p>Report on working group. This was discussed and agreed that it should be agenda item. The Role of the Access Forum – The Chair read a summary document from the Minister of Rural Affairs (Jim Knight's) speech from the 14th November 2005. A discussion took place thereafter. Councillor Millea confirmed that there is a huge incentive on Local Authorities to produce innovative plans for which they are all prepared. Dave Skelton also confirmed that the Primary Care Trust (PCT) has a duty to improve health and therefore they too have an agenda for health maintenance. Margaret Fishwick recently organised a day of walking in Ruthin with various participants including groups of over 60's, a person with a hip replacement and people that are unable or have difficulty with styles. A debate took place as to accessibility and styles where David Skelton confirmed a useful internet site as www.idgo.ac.uk or www.access.co.uk . Ingrid Donakey suggested that styles these days should not be used however it was suggested that styles on occasion are the only safe means of barrier control. Gloria Thayer confirmed that the Ramblers Association HQ approved a motion at full RA Council that where any style is being repaired they be replaced by gates. This has been a resounding success. Ingrid Donakey asked if officers were aware of graded paths and that she would ask Ramblers HQ for their view.</p>	<p>ID</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE FORUM</p>	
<p>7.1</p>	<p>Andrew Brockbank confirmed by letter that he is to step down from the Forum. The chair thanked him for his longstanding support and input to the Forum. The chair is to write a letter to Andrew confirming this and highlighted the need to obtain new members. The chair asked if any person had contacts for Peel Holdings or Lever Hulme Estates.</p> <p>The Mersey Water Front were suggested as a new member. Brian Mason confirmed that the Mersey Water Front have confirmed their wishes to give a presentation at the next Forum meeting.</p> <p>Ingrid Donakey stated that she would make contact with Andy Ireland from the PCT.</p>	<p>Chair</p> <p>ID</p>

	<p>A discussion took place about inviting other groups to joining the Forum, such as Waterways Authorities, canoeists groups, estuary groups, etc. Peter Coulton from St Helens confirmed that he would prepare a note for the Forum on canoeists.</p> <p>8 ROW Officers District Reports</p> <p>8.1 Ingrid Donakey asked officers for details of their budgets for forthcoming years. A debate took place as to whether this is necessary. The chair asked the secretary (BM) to outline a standardised way in which the officers should produce their reports to the Forum and what content there should be. This was discussed and agreed 9BM to provide a note to the officers to use.</p> <p>8.2 Halton MBC – There has been no change since the last report.</p> <p>8.3 Sefton MBC – There is an imminent Public Inquiry for a claim for a new footpath within Hesketh Road golf club. There will be a decision made all being well in approximately six weeks. There is a claim for a new footpath on Wickes Lane (Formby) which is currently with the Legal Department. Maghull 21 links the Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) over the past 5 years however this has collapsed into the brook. The school has agreed to divert the footpath. Litherland 1 runs adjacent to a HMRI site which has caused flooding. In Crosby there are boulders on a bridleway for which the Committee will not allow the taking of enforcement action. There is a constant erosion of a public footpath from Freshfield Road to the Fisherman’s Path. English Nature manage this path and have now provided details of the trustees for action to be taken. The DM review is on-going and the BVPI figure is 80% although this may drop to 78%.</p> <p>8.4 Liverpool City Council – A public rights of way officer has recently been appointed. There are currently two claims which have recently been received. There are 3 diversion Orders also being processed namely, Springwood Avenue, Riviera Drive and Higher Lane. A recent meeting took place with the RA footpath secretary to agree the next phase of Modification Orders. The BVPI figure has been reduced to 75%. John Davies will all being well, give a brief presentation at the next Forum on motor-cycles.</p> <p>8.5 St Helens – There are a number of substantial orders being processed and the DM is not yet up to-date. St Helens however, have engaged staff to remedy this. There is a problem with shooting on Lord Derby’s estate with organised events. The chair agreed to discuss this with peter Coulton.</p> <p>8.6 Wirral MBC – Leverhulme Estates have a similar shooting problem. There will be a number of temporary Orders processed for the Golf Open. Footpath Wallasey 5 extent is to be agreed across Bidston Moss Lane. The DM and statement is being reviewed with on-going amendments for publication. An</p>	<p>PC</p>
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	<p>order has been placed to remove the plastic sign-posts which have all failed. The BVPI figure is 92.1% which is down on last year. The Walk Wirral leaflets are currently being amended to reflect recent diversions.</p> <p>8.7 Knowsley MBC – There have been 3 recent claims made for public footpaths. The BVPI figure is 95%.</p> <p>At this point Philip Barton left the meeting. 3.45pm</p> <p>9 Gating Orders</p> <p>9.1 BM stated that the regulations were yet to be implemented and that this was likely within the near future. A further up-date will be given at the next Forum meeting.</p> <p>10 Annual Report</p> <p>10.1 To be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>11 Web site and database</p> <p>To be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>12 AOB</p> <p>There is a Public Inquiry imminent (14th February 2006) within Sefton MBC with the Council submitting a holding objection.</p> <p>Claim Forms – BM confirmed that claim forms are available to Members. A presentation will be given at the next Forum from the Mersey Waterfront in relation to the Pride in our Promenades flagship project where there is 43km of promenade for free access proposed.</p> <p>The meeting concluded and the chair thanked all for their attendance.</p> <p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>Southport Town Hall 31st March 2006 at 1.30 – Lunch at 1pm See plan attached</p> <p>Future Meetings</p>	<p>All to note</p> <p>All to note</p>
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	<p>Others to be arranged at the next meeting.</p> <hr/>	<p>All, please note</p>
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MERSEYSIDE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Date: Friday 31st March 2006

Time: 1.00 p.m. for 1.30 Start

Venue: Southport Town Hall

1.00pm Buffet lunch will be available on arrival

AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of meeting (20/01/06)
4. Matters Arising - Tarbock Interchange
5. Rights of Way Improvement Plan –
Update and presentation
Composite Merseyside ROW plan
Guidance on Local Access Forums (meeting in Bristol attended by the
Deputy Chair)
6. Recruitment of new members to the forum.

ROW Officers District Reports

- Content of reports
- Halton
- Knowsley
- Liverpool
- Sefton
- St Helens
- Wirral

7. Gating Orders

8. Annual Report

9. Presentation from Carole Parker Mersey Waterfront Partnership
Development Manager (Tel 0151 237 3940)

10. Presentation by John Davies – Motorcycles and access barrier controls

11. Future meetings

12. Any other business

NB

(This is a draft agenda, please notify the Chair beforehand of any other
agenda items that you may wish to see included on this and any future
agenda)