



MINUTES
of a meeting held in Baptist Church, Chelmsford
Tuesday, 6th August 2019 at 2pm-4.55pm

Present members:

Louise Fuller (LF)	Katherine Evans (KE) -	Ed Dixon (ED)
Vernon Glashier (VG)	Chair	Sue Dobson (SD)
Jan Arthur (JA)	Ray Booty (RB) – Vice	Martyn Towns (MT))
Sandra Reynolds (SR)	Chair	Gary McCarthy (GM)

Guests:

Marlene Curtis, Catherine Bailey, Rowena Macaulay, Tristan Vetta

LA Officers present:

Shirley Anglin (SA), Roy Read (RR)

Apologies:

Adam Scott, John Victory, Len Banister

Minute Taker:

Theresa Tremain

1	Chairman's Welcome: apologies and appointments	Action
	KE responded to LF's request that meetings are not cancelled at short notice to confirm that meetings will go ahead on scheduled dates. As Sue Dobson has been appointed as a Chelmsford City Councillor ELAF meetings in 2020 it would be preferable if the second Tuesday of the month can be avoided if possible. Dates will be agreed at the November meeting.	
2	Minutes of the previous meeting These were agreed. SA will add these approved minutes to the web-site.	SA
	Matters Arising ELAF member profiles Ray has completed his profile. Martyn will do his shortly. Once SA has all profiles, she will update the webpages. PROW Inspectors	MT/SA

	<p>The PROW patches are as before with 10 inspectors and 2 engineers. Alan Roscoe has taken over Janet Hill's patch.</p> <p>ELAF website</p> <p>essexlaf.org is available. Also chairman@essexlaf.org is ready for Katherine to use.</p> <p>The original website name essexlaf.org.uk is now in the 60 day period when the owner can reclaim it. RB will do this in September.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Strategy</p> <p>This went out for consultation and slight amendments. There are a number of issues with strategy and it is not yet fit for purpose. The non-technical draft is on the ECC website.</p> <p>Network Rail: Update on TWAO Enquiry</p> <p>Following the site visits there was no feedback from the Planning Inspectorate which is common practice. The Report should be with the Secretary of State in November.</p> <p>Update from the Regional LAF</p> <p>KE circulated the minutes in July.</p> <p>Blackwater Rail Trail</p> <p>SD and SR are due to meet with the Leader of Maldon District Council. They will report back in the November meeting.</p> <p>ECC Report</p> <p>SA gave an update on the TRO online trial mapping system which is currently in-house. It is not yet ready for launch but the team are pleased with its progress so far. There can be difficulties with getting short term closures on in time and taking these off can be problematic. Some data issues with the mapping cycle. VG asked how closures will be displayed. This is still in progress. At present they are marked red or green. Notices can be extended as required.</p>	RB
3	<p>Re-election of members</p>	
	<p>RB pointed out he was appointed Vice-Chair two years ago for six months. SD and ED proposed and seconded. RB was duly appointed Vice-Chair.</p> <p>RM and TV would both like to join ELAF. SA explained that potential members usually attend a couple of times to make sure it is for them. SA will send out application forms. TV introduced himself. He is a Forest Keeper in Epping Forest who manages access for a variety of forest users. He would like to find out how the forest which is privately owned</p>	SA

	<p>with an Act of Parliament allowing public access is connected to PROW.</p> <p>SD has been elected as a Chelmsford City Councillor. She will check if she can be appointed by the council to ELAF. SD is also on the Planning Committee at Chelmsford City Council which meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 6pm.</p> <p>Doug New has not attended for a while so he was not re-elected to the forum.</p>	SD
4	Chairman's Report from the Regional LAF meeting held on 10th July	
	<p>There was a discussion on submitting DMMO claims for new rights to be added to the Definitive Map. SA said the backlog is not important – all claims will be considered provided they are submitted by the 2026 deadline. SA will invite Helen to the November meeting.</p> <p>The next Regional Meeting is in January. SA to add to our November agenda.</p> <p>SD reported that the BHS are running a 2026 Project which aims to increase the number of historical claims nationwide, and two counties have been selected as pilot areas – Essex and Lancashire. This has resulted in the Finance Act maps being digitized and uploaded so that they are accessible to anyone (these maps are usually the main evidence maps on any historic claim) and the cost has been funded by the BHS with the Cloud cost being met by EBA, who have been carrying out research for some years.</p> <p>KE mentioned the erosion of riverbanks and how some footpaths are being lost. Diversion orders are needed.</p> <p>TV told us that Epping Forest has waterways which are under orders from the Environment Agency to ensure access. Pressure can then be put on the landowners to keep the waterways open. SA spoke about erosion issues and mechanical byway problems in Little Dunmow. Only soft engineering is allowed. The Environment Agency should be more pro-active in maintaining riverbanks. KE asked for a volunteer to talk to the Environment Agency – no-one came forward.</p>	SA SA
5	ECC Report: Matters arising (website responses, PROW Maintenance Strategy)	
	<p>SA distributed the report. Additional cutting has taken place on an ad-hoc basis following complaints. LF asked for it be emailed as it would be easier to read. KE suggested Rambler volunteers could be used to help with path clearance. ED enquired about a footpath in Little Burstead and SA advised Brentwood Ramblers may do works in this area. ED has reported issues on the website but no progress. KE will contact Brentwood Ramblers.</p> <p>RB asked about signage as a footpath has been signed as a byway. SA will provide him with a disc to change it. It was pointed out that</p>	SA KE SA

	<p>work on roadside verges cannot be carried out by volunteers as they are not insured.</p> <p>ED stated that that the reporting email acknowledgement he had previously received contained his actual words. This has been changed so it is necessary to keep a separate record. SA advised him to report again if necessary. ED explained that there is overgrown vegetation covering a ditch which is dangerous. If it is on a cutting schedule it will be done as per the schedule. As above KE is happy to take on this.</p> <p>Jo Heynes will be at the November ELAF meeting to discuss PROW Maintenance Strategy. Andy Hilsdon has moved on and Liz Burr, Head of Network Management will be the interim manager.</p> <p>Two Local Highways Panel projects have been agreed. FP104 in Colchester and FP20 in West Mersea. KE thanked SA for her report.</p>	<p>KE</p> <p>SA</p>
6	Colchester Orbital – Presentation by Rowena Macaulay	
	<p>RM introduced CB and ER. She set up the Walk Colchester project in 2010 to benefit all. There are 3 projects underway at present – The Colchester Orbital, Jane’s Walk Colchester and The Colchester Roma 7 Project. RD did a Masters in Inclusive Design and has joined Smart Networked who produce digital maps. The Colchester Orbital (14-15 miles) has strong support from Colchester Borough Council and has been awarded 50k already. CB who is the dedicated officer has identified 27 manmade barriers which will be removed. The ‘Friends of the Colchester Orbital’ has now got more than 60 members.</p> <p><u>Original Motivation</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To identify and protect green space – a sense of a green corridor. 2. To encourage walking and cycling across ability. 3. A new way of celebrating the town for local people and tourism. 4. To connect the town centre with communities around the orbital – strategic spokes. 5. To create a route that is inclusive and accessible. <p>The Colchester Outer Orbital (40+ miles) led by the Essex Bridleway Association is a work in progress.</p> <p>SD said she will be looking at Colchester next as part of the bridleways network within the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.</p> <p>The Colchester Orbital Cycle Route (led by Cycle Colchester) had to be altered due to heavy road traffic.</p> <p><u>Creative Uses of the Orbital</u></p> <p>Used regularly by a large number of users (Beat the Street – Intelligent Health)</p>	

It has involved 25 miles of planning as there are alternative routes. Have not created any new paths but made the best use of existing paths – there is a coffee table book produced to show their efforts. RM said this had definitely helped with fundraising. This book was then circulated to ELAF members so they could appreciate the route in full colour.

Barrier Auditing

There is a demonstration site in the Chilterns - Aston Rowant which shows all types of barriers. SA asked if safety is considered before removing barriers. CB explained how they look at alternative options. RM realises that access cannot be fully inclusive and intends to produce a leaflet to suggest bus routes to more accessible paths and a guide to lunch stops.

RM also brought 2 publications to our attention – A HM Government Paper on 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment and Understanding the British Standard for Gaps, Gates & Stiles.

RM shared her reflections on the necessary conditions for all walks

- (i) information
- (ii) confidence
- (iii) motivation

Good information and good routes.

The potency of visual information – important to have a range of types of information types. To get way from easy access trails and recognise the countryside as having diverse opportunities for all. To use equality law and design guidance.

SR said the Flitch Way has a buffer zone which developers have to take notice of. Planning applications have been refused and this has been upheld by the Secretary of State. SR will share the link with RM.

CB and RM are working on a wish list for supplementary planning guidance. Not to be traded off for green space. They recognise the need for biodiversity and do not want access to override this.

CB thought barriers could be artworks perhaps sponsored by local businesses. Currently in the process of producing pamphlets and a digital GIS map which will link to Open Street Map.

7	Coastal Communities Fund Grant	
	This will be discussed at the November meeting. Add to agenda.	SA

8	Active Essex Local Delivery Pilot – Ed Dixon, Emma Regan Colchester Borough Council	
	<p>ER gave a brief overview. Active Essex together with Colchester, Basildon and Tendring district councils are working on a 3-5 year programme to decrease inactivity across Essex. These pilot sites will focus on getting inactive people, less than 30 minutes per week, active. The core target group includes people with dependent children, mental health sufferers and older people. Organisations can play their part in encouraging take-up working with grassroots communities and volunteers. There is significant funding available although it is early days with an active network of people who can identify what is needed and existing provision. Upskilling for volunteers could be useful to improve access to take-up for low interest groups.</p> <p>ED attended a presentation in Basildon. It is apparent there is a very diverse of scope of initiatives and ELAF can get involved. ED would like to attend the Local Delivery Forum in County Hall.</p>	
9	Temporary Closure Orders	
	This will be discussed at the November meeting. Add to agenda.	SA
10	ECC Draft Walking Strategy and the ECC Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy	
	This will be discussed at the November meeting. Add to agenda.	SA
11	ROWIP – Project group formation	
	<p>The current ROWIP dated 2009 is due for review. KE, RB and SD met in July to draft Vision and objectives. It was felt by the group that the new ROWIP could be drafted in the layout of a Local Plan. The Vision Statement should outline what ROWIP needs to action. Details of connectivity and accessibility should be aimed at planners. The Green Essex Strategy includes biodiversity and ecology. The ROWIP is not required to be considered as a legal document but should be evidence based designed for future planning. JA remarked that was a very good document. CB suggested the addition of a glossary. The ROWIP should be designed to cover both recreational and utility use. EBA and BHS are currently looking at potential improvements to the bridleway network which will take the form of an appendix to the final ROWIP. TV asked about succession planning to engage young people. Youngsters are often discouraged by their parents from using public roads. RW pointed out difficulties with using shared space and separate routes are more appropriate in certain situations for walkers and cyclists. The ROWIP comments and suggestions will be distributed in due course.</p>	

	SA remarked that the ROWIP is an ECC document that will be written by ECC and will look to incorporate feedback from the LAF project group.	
11	Any other business	
	None.	
12	Items for next agenda	
	As above 7, 9 and 10.	
13	Date of next meeting	
	Tuesday 5 th November 2019 at 2pm Venue TBA	

DRAFT