

3.

Introduction to Major Projects – Rob Owen

RO gave a brief presentation on the major schemes that are happening / coming up within the Borough:

Transport Strategy – a general overview was given: by 2026, the Council wants people to have good access to an attractive transport system, which provides choice for jobs, goods and services, and balances the needs of sustainable residential communities with strategic business networks.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan, through the consultation process a map of requested and potential strategic routes were identified. Of these 6 routes have been prioritised and where sections fall on Council land they will be dedicated as bridleways:

Bamfurlong Junction to Amberswood Common

Byrom Lane to Newton Road, Lowton

Landgate Lane to Wigan Flashes

Leigh Road to Liverpool Road, Hindley

Lowton St Marys Line

Woodland Grove to Red Rock

Cycling & Walking Development Plans, the cycling strategy is programmed for being relaunched within the next year. The walking strategy within 2 years.

Core Strategy and Local Framework Plan was adopted in Sept. 2013 and provides a strategic local plan for the borough. This replaces a number of policies within the Unitary Development Plan and changes the policies map with some additional sites at Northleigh Park, between Hindley and Leigh.

Following the Inspectors decision and in accordance with Policy SP4, Strategic Infrastructure Assessments have been produced to inform the Council's decision making on planning applications for housing development in the two broad locations of Standish and Golborne and Lowton.

Currently the Planning Policy Team is working on the Allocations and Development Management Local Plan. The Council will be consulting on a draft plan in the Autumn of this year, at which time the LAF will be consulted.

Leigh Guided Busway, Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering, in partnership with Transport for Greater Manchester, is responsible for designing and constructing Greater Manchester's first guided Busway. Balfour Beatty have released an outline programme of works which will give an indication of when and where work is expected to commence in the areas of Leigh, Atherton and Tyldesley.

While the programme of works is designed to give an accurate timescale of the construction process, TfGM would like to stress that it offers a guide and that timescales are subject to change. They will update and monitor this to ensure that the information is kept up-to-date.

You can view the Programme of Works by clicking [here](#) (PDF, 529KB).

	<p>High Speed Rail Phase Two, Consultation on the proposed route from the West Midlands to Manchester, Leeds and beyond ran from July 2013 to January 2014.</p> <p>The Secretary of State will make an announcement in Autumn 2014 on progress made following the review of the consultation responses regarding the Phase Two route. It is expected that he will take a decision on the route at a later date, once he has considered the outcomes of the consultation and the additional work he has commissioned following recommendations made in Sir David Higgins' report 'HS2 Plus' which was published in April 2014 to maximise the potential benefits of the Phase Two scheme.</p> <p>You can view the report at: www.hs2.org.uk/david-higgins-launches-his-vision-for-hs2</p> <p>The HS2 teams will still be available to meet with communities and organisations during the route refinement process. But, to make sure that the consultation process is fair, they cannot discuss the potential refinements to the Phase Two route until a decision is announced.</p> <p>Following the announcement of the Secretary of State's decision, HS2 Ltd will meet with communities and their representatives to discuss the route and the next stage of the project in more detail.</p> <p>Planning Developments, RO gave a brief update on major planning applications.</p>	
4	<p>Natural England 'Working with Local Access Forums' – David Jeffreys</p> <p>DJ gave a brief introduction to the new structure and priorities of Natural England (NE): promote nature conversation, protect biodiversity, conserve the landscape, improve the natural environment, promote access and contribute to social well being.</p> <p>Natural England supports LAF through the production of newsletters, producing an annual report for all LAF's, providing a regional coordinator, organising a national conference, maintain the Huddle site a web provision for dissemination of information, plus guidance from NE own website:</p> <p>http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/laf/default.aspx</p> <p>DJ emphasized that the main remit of the LAF is to provide advice to local authorities on a variety of different issues; ideally these should be of relevance to the area and be of a strategic nature. DJ gave some examples of successes that other LAF's have achieved: such as influencing plans and strategies, facilitated joint workings and a positive partnership approach. Liaised with developers to seek improvements to access and provided guidance and information that have enabled greater access to the countryside. Some LAF's have also volunteered for work.</p> <p>Support for LAF's continues to grow with Ministerial Support from Dan Rogerson (MP), Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Defra). NE believes that LAF's can and do make a difference: better engagement with local authorities so influencing strategic plans, sharing good practice through the</p>	

	<p>Huddle site and improving communication and dissemination of information.</p> <p>DJ emphasised that there is still work to be done; two way communication with local authorities, a membership drive, greater use of huddle and further guidance from NE.</p> <p>DJ advised that he was there to help LAF Members as well as Local Authorities:</p> <p>david.jeffreys@naturalengland.org.uk</p> <p>Tel No.: 0300 060 0175.</p>	
5	<p>Election of Officers:</p> <p>EP advised that on one or two applications members didn't indicate whether they wished to stand for a post or not, so far there was one nomination for Chair: RK And two for Vice Chair: RK, JR</p> <p>EP asked if there were any other nominations; there wasn't.</p> <p>After a vote was taken through a show of hands, RK and JR were duly appointed as Chair and Vice Chair respectively.</p>	
6	<p>LAF Strategic Objectives for 2014/16</p> <p>There was some discussion on this matter and it was emphasised by Officers that Members were not expected to determine the Forums objectives now; this was an opportunity to raise the profile and give the matter some thought. It was agreed that an interim meeting would be organised for Wednesday 16th July. EP to confirm details.</p>	EP
7	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>RO asked if the time and venue were okay for the majority, whilst the Town Hall at Wigan was unavailable. It was agreed that the next meeting would be at Leigh Town Hall.</p> <p>RO enquired how Members would like their names to be displayed on the minutes; due to some issues in the past it was agreed that initials would be used only.</p>	
8	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday 10th September 2014</p>	All
9.	Close	