

# Luton Local Access Forum (LLAF)

## Meeting 3, minutes

**Author:** Sarah Smart, Secretary

**Contact:** [localaccessforum@luton.gov.uk](mailto:localaccessforum@luton.gov.uk)

**Version:** 1.0 (final)

**Last updated:** 17 June 2025

## Contents

Date and time.....	2
Venue .....	2
Attendees .....	2
Secretary .....	2
Objectives.....	2
1. Welcome and apologies .....	2
2. Priorities and special areas of interest .....	2
3. Appointments .....	3
4. Minutes of the last meeting.....	3
5. Matters arising .....	3
6. Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) .....	4
7. Public spaces protection orders (PSPOs) .....	4
8. Definitive map modification orders (DMMOs) .....	4
9. Registers.....	5
10. Planning applications impacting on rights of way .....	5
11. Ongoing projects and consultations .....	5
12. Other items from the forward plan.....	5
13. Any other business .....	6
14. Date of next meeting.....	6

## Date and time

Wednesday 12 March 2025 at 6.30pm

## Venue

Luton Town Hall, committee room 4

## Attendees

Russell Cartwright (RC)  
Chris Godden (CG), Highway Development Control Manager (Planning), Luton Council  
Councillor Javed Hussain (JH)  
Mamnun Khan (MK)  
Roy Mccrudden (RM)  
Cherry Newbery (CN)  
David Oakley-Hill (DO)  
Raheed Salam (RS)  
Antony Swift (AS), Head of Transport Services, Luton Council  
Louis Upton (LU)

## Secretary

Sarah Smart (SS) (Luton Council)

## Objectives

To agree the minutes and terms of reference.

To discuss on-going rights of way and access matters.

### 1. Welcome and apologies

MK welcomed everyone and apologies were received from the following members:

John Mardle (JM)  
Graham Simpson (GS)  
Neville Williams (NW)  
Sam Willis (SW)

### 2. Priorities and special areas of interest

#### Local cycling and walking infrastructure plan

Antony Swift, Head of Transport Service, Luton Council gave a presentation on the local cycling and walking infrastructure plan (LCWIP).

The presentation prompted various questions and comments, key points were:

- Air quality is monitored as a statutory requirement
- Work to improve air quality, such as, electric vehicles, traffic exclusion areas round schools, e-cycles
- A cycle map is available on the Council's website and in hard copy; it is being improved
- This plan covers the period to 2033, whereas the net zero strategy is longer-term to 2040

- The response rate for the travel perception survey was much higher than for the second consultation (754 versus 72 responses respectively)
- The perception survey was very focused, whereas the second consultation was necessarily longer
- Schools are supported to produce travel plans, which can include walking bus schemes
- There is a rolling programme of production and monitoring of school travel plans
- Schools find it challenging to encourage parents into active travel; attitude and behaviour are vital
- Young people can be influential, and RS has data from 1050 young people aged 13 to 24
- Luton Council is working with the Power Court project as it aligns with the LCWIP

Action: AS to provide hard copy cycle maps to the forum for distribution

Action: RS to share data from young people relating to active travel

### 3. Appointments

Raheed Salam has been appointed to the forum since the last meeting.

### 4. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes were agreed without amendment.

### 5. Matters arising

The following actions have been completed:

- The Local Plan and Local Transport Plan presentations were circulated
- Members completed the Local Transport Plan survey
- The privacy notice was circulated
- ALL present confirmed their acceptance of the privacy notice
- The stile on the cemetery route will be removed as part of the ongoing maintenance of the footpath by the site manager
- A template for logging the state of paths was prepared and has been trialled by LU. One report has been forwarded to the Highways Team for action
- No information on training for LAF members was received from the East of England Local Access Forums group
- Some advice from ADEPT Rights of Way Working Group, Eastern Region about training they provide to their LAFs, but is awaiting written confirmation
- The Communications and Marketing Team are promoting the Love Clean Streets app

#### Actions carried forward to the next meeting

- ALL to investigate different platforms for sharing documents
- CG to upload the map of rights of way to the Council website
- ALL to advise CG of any groups we should contact directly regarding the ROWIP
- MT to collect information from Scouts and Guides about the state of the network
- SS to circulate information on training from ADEPT once received

## 6. Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)

CG presented a programme for the review of the ROWIP as follows:

1. Internal review of existing ROWIP  
Due date: June 2025
2. Assessment of other plans and their relationship to the ROWIP  
Due date: June 2025
3. Assessment (internal) of Rights of Way Definitive map and statement, DMMOs, request for improvements and condition data (this includes the excluded area)  
Due date: August 2025
4. Undertake survey with interested groups including neighbouring authorities and wider public. This will be presented to the LAF for discussion before the survey take place.  
Due date: October 2025
5. Report results  
Due date: December 2025
6. Prepare Statement of Action  
Due date: December 2025
7. Publish Draft Plan  
Due date: January 2026
8. Consider Representations  
Due date: April 2026
9. Report to committee  
Due date: June 2026
10. Publish Plan

The final dates for reporting to the committee and publishing the plan are subject to the availability of committee dates.

## 7. Public spaces protection orders (PSPOs)

### L014 Whitwell Close

The gating order that related to Barnfield College is to be reviewed now the college has closed.

### Other

Mussons Path and Frederick Street Passage were at one time proposed for gating orders, but this was not possible because some properties only have access via those routes.

## 8. Definitive map modification orders (DMMOs)

### Stanmore Crescent

Following the public enquiry into the Stanmore Crescent path, the Planning Inspector decided to confirm the order. The decision was publicised on 12 March 2025. The decision is final unless successfully challenged in the High Court. We need to wait 6 weeks before we proceed with the next steps, in case anyone brings a challenge.

### Beech Hill ward

The review of potential routes in the excluded area of Beech Hill ward has been completed and we are now preparing for an informal consultation, which will finish in June. Additional routes have been identified and added, although one will not proceed to consultation as it has not been in existence for 20 years.

## Biscot ward

The review of potential routes in the excluded area of Biscot ward is well underway.

The LAF will be included in the informal consultation process, so they will receive full details of the paths under consideration at that point.

Some paths near schools have problems with litter and it would be helpful if signs were posted.

## 9. Registers

There have been no changes to the registers.

## 10. Planning applications impacting on rights of way

CG provided an update on planning applications as follows:

### Weybourne Drive

A planning application was refused on appeal because the land is safeguarded for the link road. However, the link road is under review in the LTP5 and so it may be that this safeguard will be removed, in which case, the green space is at risk of development.

### Corner of Dunstable Road and Dallow Road

Planning permission has been granted for development on the corner by the Sikh temple, which will provide £150k contribution towards funding for a link from the footway bridge to the busway. An extra stop on the busway is proposed in both directions.

LU provided feedback on a planning application for a planter on the corner of Mill Street and New Bedford Road which is a permitted development. LU has written to Luton Council because the gap between the planter and the bollards by the road is only 1.2m. LU has asked for the planter to be moved to increase the gap. CG was not aware of this application, presumably because it is permitted development.

## 11. Ongoing projects and consultations

### Power Court (football stadium)

This planning application has been approved.

### Local Plan (LP)

LU presented a draft advice note on the Local Plan (LP) community involvement paper and it was agreed that members would send any comments on this draft to MK so that he can amend the advice note.

Action: ALL to read and comment on the draft LP advice note so that MN can submit the advice to Chris Thom shortly

### Local travel Plan (LTP)

LU presented a draft advice note on the Local Travel Plan (LTP5). A discussion followed regarding the monitoring on LTP4 and the fact that LTP5 will be more robust and ambitious. It is challenging to change existing behaviours and engaging young people using a co-creative method would be helpful. RS, with his experience in youth work, gave some insight into how young people might be trained to engage with their peers.

## 12. Other items from the forward plan

None

## 13. Any other business

### Central Bedfordshire LAF

LU gave a brief update. A small piece of construction has been completed on the M1 to A6 link to retain the planning permission. When the project will go ahead is unknown. The rights of way team at Central Bedfordshire Council is suffering from budgetary cuts and that will impact on maintenance and signage of paths on the borders of Luton and Central Bedfordshire.

### Devolution plans

JH reported that Luton is unlikely to be included in the first tranche of Mayoral Strategic Authorities.

### Vice chair role

John Mardle needs to step down as vice-chair of the forum and MN expressed his thanks for the support John had provided since his election. It was agreed that we would elect a new vice-chair at the next meeting.

Action: SS to add election of vice-chair to agenda for next meeting

## 14. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 11 June 2025 from 6:30pm to 8:30pm in the Town Hall, committee room 4.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

### Actions carried forward to the next meeting

- ALL to investigate different platforms for sharing documents
- CG to upload the map of rights of way to the Council website
- ALL to advise CG of any groups we should contact directly regarding the ROWIP
- MT to collect information from Scouts and Guides about the state of the network
- SS to circulate information on training from ADEPT once received

### New actions

AS to provide hard copy cycle maps to the forum for distribution

RS to share data from young people relating to active travel

ALL to read and comment on the draft LP advice note so that MN can submit the advice to Chris Thom shortly

SS to add election of vice-chair to agenda for next meeting