

Minutes of the Little Bowden Neighbourhood Forum meeting on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Meadowdale School.

Present: Beverley Brown, Sally Lax, David Lax, Matthew Bills (HDC, Neighbourhood Planning), Julie Hilliam, Pete Urmston, Bob Bellm (Harborough Transport Action), Bruce Durham (Harborough Woodland and Floodhubs), Peter Russell, John Hill, Kay Hillier, Janet Lee, Alex Beltrao, Josephine Brown, Deb Greatorex-Sanderson, Andrew Nicholson, Simon Hobbs.

Apologies: Cllr Peter James (HDC), Cllr Stuart Finan (HDC), Phil Baildon, Sandra Colver, James Ward, Jan Turner, Jonathan Davies, Alan Denton, John Comont, Cllr Barry Champion (LCC), Lucy Hobbs.

1. Matters arising from minutes and Action List: (see July '23 table at the end of minutes)  
Minutes accepted as a true record.
2. Declaration of interest - none
3. NPS feedback at St Nicholas Church Fete (17<sup>th</sup> June '23) and other events

BB asked AB to show the group the LBNF web pages on the Leicestershire Communities website.

<https://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/np/little-bowden-np>

SH ran through the results of the feedback forms gathered at the St Nicholas Church fete.

First – D - Protect the future of the Sheep field.

Equal second – C - Improve traffic safety by introducing monitoring measures.

Equal second – B – Pursue improvement of cycleways.

Fourth – L – Ensure the looks of new developments blend in with current standards and aesthetics.

Fifth – I – Encourage the planting of trees and spinneys in new developments rather than single trees.

Other events attended by Julie Hilliam who gathered the following feedback:

First – D - Protect the future of the Sheep field.

Second – A – Ensure a holistic view of Flood alleviation for Little Bowden.

Equal Third - C - Improve traffic safety by introducing monitoring measures.

Equal Third - E – Ensure greenspaces are managed and maintained effectively.

Fifth – I – Encourage the planting of trees and spinneys in new developments rather than single trees.

Other Post-it notes and priority suggestions from Fete and other events – see appendix A

MB suggested that each Neighbourhood Priority should be rated as short, medium or long term, who would action, who might be involved in delivering the priority and to add more detail.

Continue to obtain feedback on the priorities. MB had received feedback on what the Meadowdale School children liked and didn't like about Market Harborough. Results to be determined.

Bob Bellm (HTA) raised the importance of crossover and communication with the other forums.

MB announced that funding had been announced by Central Government for Neighbourhood Forums (up to £18K) but must be spent by March 2024. Building Design codes can now be written into Neighbourhood Plans. These are guidance noted looking at the character of an area – similar to the report that Pete Urmston has produced eg designs of frontages, colours, window types. This could be part of District wide design code.

4. Vanessa and Dominic – Horsefair Close flooding – To be discussed at another time
5. Website update – see 3.
6. a. Social and Community

AB showed the group various maps including a boundary map, Active travel map, Events map and a one showing distribution of Defibrillators. SH had been in contact with Martin Fagan of The Circuit (British Heart Foundation). MF has suggested a meeting. Defibs need verifying and checking that they are in working order etc. PU suggested that having a defib at the two primary schools in Little Bowden would help to fill the gap. **1/0723 Bev B to contact Martin Fagan again to organise meeting**

Skatepark – still need to try to organise event for riders.

Josephine B suggested that a scale was added to the amps and offered to assist Alex B with mapping.

b. Flooding and Greenspaces

Bruce D, River Warden from Harborough Woodland has set up Friends of River Welland Facebook group and local Floodhub WhatsApp groups. Bruce talked about the recent flooding across Market Harborough and the spreadsheet generated of nearly 50 incidents. 7 inside properties. Drains have been cleared by LCC as a result of the feedback from the community. However, it is not clear to the public who to report flooding to so has contacted local App developer to discuss reporting app. Collaboration between all parties from LCC, HDC, Environment Agency, etc is key to try to solve problems eg link to flood screen CCTV on Dunmore Road. Plans of the infrastructure have been requested and will keep the group informed.

c. Built environment

PU reported that he had drafted an advisory letter regarding the planning application for two houses at 116 Scotland Road ref no 23/00809/FUL asking for any further development to require Planning permission. MB confirmed that once Neighbourhood Plan is adopted, the comments from the Forums will have more weight.

<https://pa2.harborough.gov.uk/online-applications/search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>

d. Transport

James W and Bob Bellm of Harborough Transport Action (HTA) attended the LCC engagement meeting in Oadby.

LCC recently announced that they are encompassing Harborough in this year's LCWIP plan, HTA are now awaiting clarity on the format and process for liaising with LCC (HTA are leading on this) and are due to meet with LCC soon.

JW has asked Cllr Champion to raise consultation on the Kettering Road cycle way from LCC. Cllr Champion had contacted David Hunt (LCC) to see if he's available for a meeting to discuss Kettering Road and anything else the LBNF could be doing to aid LCC in its decision making. Cllr Champion will be at LCC meeting.

Welland Neighbourhood Forum is also undertaking a similar exercise to the LBNF review. Quick wins would be good. Would be beneficial to link schools to improve Active travel routes for children and parents.

Cllr Darren Woodiwiss (Welland) had said they'd been asked for five priorities for the Active Travel routes in his Ward area. Each Cllr has had this letter. Forums to assist Cllrs with the five priorities in each area. 2/0723 **Bob B/SH to report back re meeting with LCC**

Quick wins could include lighting and ramps on footbridge. **3/0723 SH to contact David Rose of Network Rail.**

Alex to hold fire on submitting the review but can determine logos, graphics etc that might be used for Little Bowden or across MH.

7. AOB

Sheila W asked if it could be requested that bins were not left on footpaths and pavements as they become hazardous to the visually impaired. **04/0723 Check with Environmental services HDC.**

Date of next meeting – Thurs 17<sup>th</sup> August Venue TBA

Meeting closed 8.20

April meeting actions

Action	What	Who	By when	Comment/outcome
7/0423	Arrange a website for the LBNF	Lucy Hobbs	18/5	Complete

May meeting actions

Action	What	Who	By when	Comment/outcome
3/0523	Check defib locations in Little Bowden	Simon Hobbs	15/6	Meeting with Community Heart beat Trust Charity
4/0523	Investigate skatepark event organisation	All S&C group	15/6	Ongoing

June meeting actions

Action	What	Who	By when	Comment/outcome
2/0623	Speak to Steve Jones of RTU about lighting and ramps on footbridge	SH	Next meeting	Complete
3/0623	Ask Alex to amend Cycling review map	PU	Next meeting	Complete
4/0623	Investigate access to Blackberry Grange from BVW	SH	Next meeting	Complete

### July meeting actions

Action	What	Who	By when	Comment/outcome
1/0723	<b>Bev B to contact Martin Fagan</b>	Bev B	Next meeting	Ongoing
2/0723	<b>Report back re meeting with LCC</b>	Bob B /SH	Next meeting	Ongoing
3/0723	<b>Contact David Rose of Network Rail.</b>	SH	Next meeting	Ongoing
4/0723	<b>Check with Environmental services HDC.</b>	SH	Next meeting	Ongoing

### Appendix A

#### New priorities from feedback at Fete on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Coffee shop & Community centre.  
Street cleaning in association with better drain cleaning.  
Remove graffiti.  
Establish low traffic neighbourhoods.  
Raise awareness of forum and promote logo.  
Clearing drains regularly would assist with flood alleviation.  
Provide salt for retirement homes so paths are not icy in bad weather.  
Ensure new cycleway on Kettering Road is started. The current footpath is quite inadequate.  
Graffiti.  
Zebra crossing needed on Scotland Road esp. for children from Dunmore Road to school.  
Who owns the fence by the River Jordan on Litte Bowden Green. Needs to be improved to reduce possibility of accidentally falling in river.

#### From Snugs meeting

Wondering if St Nicholas Churchyard is included in Greenspaces. Is it the responsibility of HDC to maintain?

#### Solo group meeting

Dogs on leads in park. Cycling on pavement.  
Clearing of drains  
Keep dogs on leads in parks and open spaces.  
A solar powered fountain on the roundabout at Lidl.  
Traffic entering St Mary's Road from new development of flats on old Harboro Rubber site. Why not use the other side of the building next to service drive for Welland Place. Also noise issue.  
Land between Cherry Tree pub playground and Little Bowden Mono has got planning permission for houses. Footings have been put in and no other work has happened in 40 y. Everards owned the land but cannot access/ I would like this land to be left wild.  
Clear road drains.  
Speed limit 20mph on Glebe Road. Unsafe for residents at present.