

Questions & answers notes

National LAF Conference (North) 1st March 2016, Leeds

Questions & answers

Chair, speakers, workshop leads and Pippa Langford, Natural England

Notes

Q: Sport England consulting on a new strategy – what discussions are going on with Natural England (NE)?

A (Liz Newton): NE Chief Exec met with Sport and Recreation Alliance (Sport England were there). NE are commenting on the strategy – trying to make links to NHS, DCMS have input – trying to get integration.

A: (John Dennis): Sport England is breaking free into new world.

Q: Lottery funding also to be used?

A (John Dennis): Yes.

Q (Liz Newton): Joined up integration – what can LAFs do at a more local level?

A (John Dennis): Guilty of not linking with LAFs enough – more to be done.

Q: 10 new Healthy Cities announced – what input has NE had with NHS? Have the use of multi-user paths been promoted?

A (Liz Newton): Lots with Dept. of Health, e.g., Outdoors for All, Dementia work. Been working with the NHS to get them to use evidence of benefits of access. Built environment was mentioned in the announcement but what about Green Infrastructure, RoW? More to do.

Q (Peter McKay): From white roads workshop, identified that local highway authorities are not complying with the legislation re registering of un-adopted roads. Can this be fed to the DfT?

A (Pippa Langford): Bryony Thorpe from Defra agreed to discuss this with DfT.

Q (Peter McKay): OS integrated transport network map (basis of single digital map), showing too many roads as private and restricted. Can this be fed back?

A (Pippa): Please put in writing and send to NE.

Q: Cycling and walking investment strategy – DfT viewing this as urban/cycling. Benefits of bridleways could play a part, any views on getting this message to the DfT?

A (Peter McKay): Yes.

A (John Dennis): Big task for users and groups to jump out of their boxes.

Q: When is the government going include everyone not just walking and cycling?

A (Pippa): Speaking for NE we don't just do this, work with BHS to improving routes for horse riders (e.g. P4C). Also ran bridle-gates trial to improve gates for horse riders. Let NE know if more can be done.

Q: Defra involvement with Healthy Cities – what have NE done to influence DfT to push the rural economy? Funding has an urban bias?

A (Pippa): Defra spoke to DfT re walking/cycling strategy. National Parks in particular can play the tourism card, can access money from LEPs and other grant funds to boost tourism and health and economic benefits. DfT is urban focussed but many LAFs will have urban areas so play to that.

A (Anthony Francis-Jones): Bridleways are for all users.

Q: Can new anti-pollution zones be used to seek out new Green Infrastructure (GI) routes?

A (Anthony Francis-Jones): Local plans that LAs write up look at GI and will consult LAFs if they recognise their expertise.

Q: LAFs should lobby government nationally from future conferences with a view from the conference?

A (Liz Newton): LAFs can do what NE can't. LAFs could engage with Defra Ministers. Speak in the language they're interested in.

A (Pippa): NE do post government information onto Huddle but have to leave it to LAFs to respond themselves as appropriate.

A (Phil Wadey): Part of greenway steering group. Found grants could be obtained for one purpose that helped other parts. Network built for all non-motorised users.

Q (Liz Newton): HLF Landscape Partnership scheme is keen to include people – any experiences?

A: Good for all LAFs to engage with new partnerships or get on existing partnerships – possible funding from HLF.

Q: Why no Twitter/tweets to promote the conference?

A (Dementia Adventure): We tweeted.

A (Liz): Will do for future events.

A (Pippa): We tweeted too.

Liz Newton thanked speakers and organisers:

- Impressed by how much time LAFs put into their work.
- Huge amount going on.
- Need to think about doing things differently due to less resources.
- Need to brigade different skills.
- Thanked attendees.