

Statistics and feedback

National LAF Conference (South) 23rd February 2016, Bristol National LAF Conference (North) 1st March 2016, Leeds

Feedback forms were produced and circulated to the delegates of both LAF conferences and the results from them are as follows:

Total Delegate Numbers: Bristol = 66
Total Delegate Numbers: Leeds = 64
Total Delegate Numbers = 130

Total Delegate Numbers: Bristol (-NE/Defra staff) = 54
Total Delegate Numbers: Leeds (-NE/Defra staff) = 57
Total Delegate Numbers (-NE/Defra staff) = 111

Total Number of LAFs represented at conferences = 62
Total Percentage of LAFs represented at conferences = 72%

Number of feedback forms received from delegates: Bristol = 23
Percentage of delegates (-NE/Defra staff) submitted feedback form: Bristol = 43%
Number of feedback forms received from delegates: Leeds = 36
Percentage of delegates (-NE/Defra staff) submitted feedback form: Leeds = 63%
Total Number of feedback forms received from delegates = 59
Total Percentage of delegates (-NE/Defra staff) submitted feedback form = 53%

Did content meet expectations: Bristol = 100% Yes
Did content meet expectations: Leeds = 94% Yes, 6% Yes/No
Did content meet expectations: Total = 96% Yes, 4% Yes/No

Which session did delegates find most useful: Bristol?

26% = Alternative funding for access projects
22% = New Barriers to Disabled Access
17% = Updates and Reforms - Defra
13% = A stakeholders guide to influencing your local council (BHS)
9% = Naturally Healthy Project
9% = Registering our White Roads
4% = Charitable status for sub-groups - Norfolk LAF

Which session did delegates find most useful: Leeds?

15% = Access Prioritisation
12% = 2026
12% = Alternative funding for access projects
12% = New Barriers to Disabled Access

12% = Registering our White Roads
 9% = Updates and Reforms - Defra
 9% = Looking at the benefits of dementia inclusive walks
 6% = What can be achieved in an urban/semi urban area, and Creating new peri-urban multi-user routes
 6% = Riding or Cycling on Footpaths
 3% = Recreational Vehicles
 3% = Story behind the Sandstone Way

Which session did delegates find least useful: Bristol?

35% = Updates and Reforms - Defra
 24% = Recreational Vehicles
 12% = A stakeholders guide to influencing your local council (BHS)
 12% = All were useful
 6% = Charitable status for sub-groups - Norfolk LAF
 6% = Naturally Healthy Project
 6% = Registering our White Roads

Which session did delegates find least useful: Leeds?

33% = Updates and Reforms - Defra
 20% = All were useful
 13% = New Barriers to Disabled Access
 10% = Registering our White Roads
 7% = Alternative funding for access projects
 7% = Recreational Vehicles
 7% = What can be achieved in an urban/semi urban area, and Creating new peri-urban multi-user routes
 3% = Riding or Cycling on Footpaths

Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were the delegates with:

	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Defra: Updates and Reforms	15%	38%	34%	8%	6%
Recreational Vehicles	19%	19%	25%	31%	6%
Naturally Healthy Project	11%	44%	44%		
Charitable status for sub-groups	60%		20%	20%	
New Barriers to Disabled Access	56%	30%	9%	6%	
A stakeholders guide to influencing your local council	43%	38%	14%	5%	
Alternative funding for access projects	40%	45%	11%	4%	
2026	57%	36%	7%		
Registering our White Roads	26%	26%	32%	16%	
Disability Access	25%	50%	25%		
Looking at the benefits of dementia inclusive walks	71%	29%			
Access Prioritisation	40%	33%	27%		

Story behind the Sandstone Way				100%	
What can be achieved in an urban/semi urban area, Creating new peri-urban multi-user routes	41%	41%	19%		
Riding or Cycling on Footpaths	38%	38%	25%		
Nottinghamshire Guided Walks Partnership	25%	75%			
Workshop roundup / Q&A	11%	53%	33%	2%	
Conference organisation	34%	62%	4%		

Delegate Feedback and Comments

Better refreshment flows.
Good model. Aim for more multi-user routes. Emphasis is always on walkers and cyclists in government thinking. But need to ensure equestrian involvement. This year was very good, thank you.
Improvements to drink and food and toilet arrangements would save a lot of time.
It was a shame my video couldn't be played - tech support in advance would be great to ensure future videos can be played.
It was generally a well organised event with sessions of appropriate length and refreshments provided at appropriate times. It would be helpful if in future suggestions were made for appropriate accommodation close by for delegates overnighting.
Maybe too much on the agenda.
No it was good.
Suggest LAFs are identified from national annual report and to speak on issues they have covered during the last year or so, whether successful or unsuccessful.
The event was well organised and I thank you for arranging the prayer facilities!
The workshops were not practical enough to achieve much. the morning session offered very few clear ideas on naturally healthy projects in town and country but did give some opportunity to talk to fellow delegates. The afternoon sessions had little to say to LAFs who are well advanced on their definitive map and missing link ID.
Time was lost in the morning by moving delegates to the first workshop and then back to my presentation which then ran into lunch. Suggest do all the presentations and then move to the workshop.
Use a less cramped venue and make sure that you have more toilets!
Venue was nice but toilet facilities were inadequate for group this size and PA didn't work well.
With quite small numbers, I would like to see resources pooled for one national conference with high quality and invite a responsible politician.
Workshops could have more time and fewer talks. Roundtable talk is useful.
Good accessible venue. Thank you.
Good to use a venue that is easy to get to from the nearest station.

Talk 1 - too technical unless you had prior knowledge. Talk 3 good but garbled. Talk 4 - did we get any alternative funding ideas?
Thank you for the opportunity.
The lunch was fine but the rooms/seats available were not conducive for comfortably meeting and talking to several fellow delegates. This was perhaps especially important for delegates whose return 8-9 hour journey made them choose to arrive after 10:30am. I found the British Caving Association display, literature and representative very interesting despite caves not being very applicable to my region. I look forward to following how the BCA proposals are progressing.
This subject title was incorrect. This was enabling a new group to apply for grants, not a LAF sub-group setting up the possibility to apply for various grants. Very interesting though.
Venue is fine but rooms for workshops and breakouts need tables - lunch was ok.
Were not expected to give workshop summary at the end. Defra session - guidance about what to do and how to do it (as at present. Disabled access - brilliant and positive. John Dennis - excellent session. Phil Wadey - interesting, raised questions about sharing best practice.
A wider range of interests needs to be represented – cyclists and off-road trail bike/motor vehicle users need to demonstrate their specific needs and understand potential conflict with slower horses and pedestrians. Private landowner attendance needs to be encouraged to see the challenges they face with demand for increased access and usage. Also need to recognise the special roles of Urban LAFs in improving the built environment, creating traffic-free but not necessarily 'green' routes, influencing major developers, and maximising the use of the limited green space still retained.
An opportunity missed to talk about strategic issues, what NE and how NE is going to work with LAFs in the future and what the future of LAFs may be.
As this is the only national forum available to LAFs it is suggested that it should generate conference resolutions to be taken forward to DEFRA, etc.
Be good to open it up to more LAF members and include some training.
Consult LAFs or regional LAF forum for topics e.g. nearby there is network rail closure for rights of way crossing tracks at the expense of local communities landscape bridges.
Get conference to debate and agree recommendations.
I though it was an excellent event, in an good location, and suitable building.
It was disappointing that the same talks were put against each other in the workshops. For those of us at both conferences, this greatly reduces the choice. Also the afternoon had 3 things in parallel that related to the recording of ROW, all were interesting topics.
It would be useful to have some hard copy material from the sessions (I don't use 'Huddle') - or details emailed out. A bit more clarity of what the workshops are about and what is to be discussed before each would be helpful, i.e. what is the aim of each. Some kind of round-up or discussion about each workshop afterwards.
No, I felt it worked well on the whole and I will recommend to our LAF members that they make an effort to attend any future events.
Not all delegates wore their name stickers so not easy to find someone from a particular LAF to network. Can we find a way to meet someone?
Please just have one national meeting. Confirm that presentation slides will be emailed to LAFs. Would be good to ask presenters to use PA system - even if they think they are loud enough, voices drop at the end of sentences.
Reserve at least 2 places per LAF (partly my and secretariats failure - we didn't get booked early enough then the booking was full but space for at least 20-30 more people in venue)

Sort out PA system. I wear a hearing aid and was unable to hear quite a lot of the questions from the floor. Needs to have and use roving mics throughout not just at the end. Needs feedback session to whole conference after the workshops.
Time was lost in the morning by moving delegates to the first workshop and then back to my presentation which then ran into lunch. Suggest do all the presentations and then move to the workshop.
Venue easy to travel to and find in Leeds. Good food, seating, warm so v good. Workshop feedback from all. Some sort of training.
Very difficult to do but perhaps a quality check or a tighter remit to speakers.
White roads was vague in the extreme. The speaker giving personal and unsupported views disputed by many in the room. A national conference topic should be definitive not an opinion.
With 8 workshops feel we were forced to miss too many sessions and therefore a lot of useful information. Either reduce the sessions or allow for more to be attended.
An easily accessible and convenient location and venue for the Northern Conference, but A VERY unhealthy lunch. Apart from the lettuce garnish it was all fat and carbs.
And in advance if delegate contact details can be shown on attendance list. Far too many white bread sarnies - not healthy or tasty.
Biannual not annual adequate.
For the '2026' session it would be helpful to have some more information about the 'front-end' activity of identifying routes which may need to be claimed, what the best way to do this is, etc..
Just to say very enjoyable. Meeting like minded people. Good lunch. Excellent overall. Look forward to next year. Could be in Nottingham.
More emphasis on multi-user routes. Some speakers only mention cyclists (e.g. Sandstone Way).
Need an EAF.
Not able to comment on cover charge but wouldn't think it would be an issue at proposed level. I will enquire and feedback.
Q&A - good points made but are they being taken further as the national voice of LAFs? Good event, thanks.
Re £20 - question fro AA to answer. If resources tighter, would rather have secretarial support.
Re £20 - Re: Query below – LAF funding is from Authority so unable to answer.
Re. costs below... I think this is not a good idea at all. I think most people paid their own travel expenses, are volunteers anyway and some may well have had to take unpaid leave from work. I certainly needed to get permission from my employer to have the day off. One must not forget how LAFs are volunteer run and led as well as having people on the LAF who give freely of their time and may not be retired and possibly as free to take time off/travel.
Regional LAF meeting was held in same venue - poor acoustics.
Single national conference would be better option and probably not cost significantly more than 2 smaller ones.
Thank you for the opportunity.

The Q & A Session by definition was limited to those topics presented or the subject of workshops at the conference.

There should be an opportunity for a more general open forum, perhaps encouraging delegates to submit topics or questions in advance to allow informed response and debate. This could then be expanded to allow conference to submit and debate formal motions, which if approved by a vote would place an action on the appropriate government department.

Try and keep the annual conference going.

Use social media, tweets etc. to publicise.

Venue facilities good for the numbers and Leeds accessible by rail and road. Day well structured and kept on schedule.

Venue good, better than Bristol conference.

Very glad there was a conference and wish there was a national one too. Re £20, I suppose so - they don't spend much of the current budget on us but can we assume there will even be a LAF budget or a LAF administrator?

Would prefer a single national conference.