

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
NORTH YORKSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

17th February 2005

Rights of Way Improvement Plan Update

1. Purpose of Report

1.1. To provide an update on progress with the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP).

2. Background

2.1. During 2004, the Local Access Forum along with the Local Access Forums representing the North York Moors National Park Authority and the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority was consulted as part of workshops designed to complete a RoWIP submission for the Local Transport Plan (second round) due to be completed imminently by North Yorkshire County Council.

2.2. The Local Transport Plan (LTP) required the following RoWIP submissions: -

- A high level statement of policy & objectives for improving local rights of way.
- The stage that North Yorkshire is at with the preparation of the RoWIP.
- Key issues to be addressed locally in the RoWIP.
- How the RoWIP is to be integrated with the LTP process locally.
- How improvements would deliver transport shared priority objectives and wider quality of life issues.

2.3. A steering group was set up in order to review results from workshops and those survey results which could be analysed in the time available up to the end of January 2005 when a RoWIP submission for LTP was required.

2.4. This steering group consisted of the chairperson of each LAF plus one additional member, a representative from each of the seven District Councils, an officer from each of the three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and members of the technical workgroup (RoWIP Officer NYCC, Access & Recreation Officer NYMNP and Transport & Visitor Manager YDNPA).

3. RoWIP Update

- 3.1. Results from seven workshops together with tick sheet results from a citizen's panel survey, Parish Council survey, business survey and web survey were analysed and presented to the RoWIP steering group in November 2004.
 - 3.2. High level objectives were drafted from this analysis and presented to another meeting of the steering group held in December 2005. These were broadly accepted with minor amendments.
 - 3.3. The technical work group met in January 2005 in order to finalise: -
(for each high level objective) who was responsible for that objective, the target that it met within the five year LTP2 period or the target required in order to complete the final RoWIP and the actual outcome which would result from the implementation of that target.
 - 3.4. The final RoWIP submission was forwarded to the LTP2 team by the January 2005 deadline. A copy is attached for information.
 - 3.5. It is understood that the RoWIP submission will form an annex to the main LTP document.
 - 3.6. LTP will shortly be going to print and there will be a brief period available for public consultation starting from March 1st 2005.
4. Other RoWIP progress
- 4.1. A methodology is being devised in order to assess the local rights of way network. This will look at three aspects of the network for each access authority : -
 - The physical usability of the network.
 - The adequacy of the network for different classes of user.
 - An assessment of the definitive map and statement.
 - 4.2. The consultancy ENTEC, has provided an approach to assessing the adequacy of the local rights of way network. This approach has been used by City of York Council in their RoWIP. North Yorkshire has received a copy of this research from City of York Council and is assessing how the approach can be used in North Yorkshire.
 - 4.3. Results from surveys will be used in assessing the physical usability of the network. Each access authority currently surveys (as a minimum twice a year) for the Best Value Performance Indicator 178, the "Ease of Use" indicator which is collated by Central Government. Results from this and any additional surveys will be analysed.
 - 4.4. An audit of outstanding issues for each of the three definitive map and statements will be progressed in order to assess: -
 - The extent to which routes and networks are available to different groups of users.

- Areas deficient in rights of way for particular groups.
- Inconsistencies and anomalies.
- Opportunities to improve the network, restoring severed rights for example due to road building.

Areas without a definitive map and statement will also be assessed.

4.5. The technical work group for the RoWIP will meet on the 14th of February 2005 in order to progress and agree the approach to assessment which will be used in North Yorkshire.

4.6. A new member of staff, Ms Sarah Glover has been recruited on a fixed term contract for one year in order to assist in the assessment stage of the RoWIP. She will cover the two National Park Authority areas and some of the rest of the rights of way network out side their boundaries.

5. Recommendation

5.1. It is recommended that this report be received for information.

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