

NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

23 February 2006

Information on Public Rights of Way

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider the provision of information on PROW to inform the work of the Local Access Forum

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the last meeting of the Local Access Forum on 24 November 2005, members considered a report on orders relating to public rights of way and the role of the LAF. This led to a discussion on the level of information that might be made available to enable the LAF to more fully understand what was happening 'on the ground'. Reference was also made to the work of the Public Rights of Way Liaison Group as this already received regular progress reports on specific issues. Officers were asked to report back on the statistical information already produced for the Liaison Group and any other relevant information to enable the LAF to take a view on whether it wished to receive regular reports of this type.

3.0 INFORMATION CURRENTLY COMPILED

- 3.1 The Countryside Service already compiles information on a range of work areas to assist with performance management, using a variety of national and local indicators. These are summarised in its annual Service Plan. Those indicators related specifically to public rights of way include:

Best Value Performance Indicators

- The percentage of footpaths and public rights of way that are easy to use by the public (**national BVPI 178**) – data included *for the whole County*, including the National Parks).

Council Plan Key Performance Indicators

- Resolve 800 problems on the public rights of way network each quarter (**local indicator ENV2**).
- Ensure that at least 75% of public rights of way are easy to use by 2006 (**local indicator ENV3**) – data included *for the area outside the National Parks only*

Countryside Service Local Performance Indicators

- The number of Definitive Map Modification Orders sent to Head of Legal Services – target 40 per year

3.2 Progress against targets is monitored annually (or quarterly where this is possible). During 2006/2007 the Countryside Service will be publishing the first of a regular series of Annual Reports. This will include end of year data on actual performance against the indicators listed above, as well as a range of additional statistics aimed at demonstrating improvements in a much wider range of work areas. It has yet to be decided exactly what measures this might include but it may well provide an opportunity to increase the range of information regularly monitored and therefore to address the desire of the Local Access Forum for more detailed information on the service. This Annual Report will be compiled at the end of the financial year. It will be reported to the County Council's Environment and Heritage Overview on Scrutiny Committee on 5 July 2006 and, following approval by the Executive, will be published during August. The Annual Report will therefore be available at the Local Access Forum meeting on 17 August and for each subsequent annual summer meeting, thereby providing a useful opportunity for the LAF to consider service performance at regular intervals.

3.3 Members also asked for details of information currently reported to the Public Rights of Way Liaison Group. The Liaison Group meets on a quarterly basis and has representatives from the following bodies:

- Ramblers Association
- Trail Riders Fellowship,
- British Horse Society
- National Federation of Bridleways Association,
- Cycle Tourist Club
- All Wheel Drive Club
- Land Access Recreation Association
- Country Landowners Association,
- National Farmers Union
- Yorkshire Rural Community Council
- Open Spaces Society
- National Trust
- NYCC Executive Member (Chair)
- NYCC Countryside Service Officers

Unlike the Local Access Forum, representatives are nominated by their particular user groups and are able to formally represent their views. The Liaison Group provides a valuable opportunity to meet regularly with user groups which have an interest in public rights of way to facilitate a two-way exchange of views and flow of information.

3.4 The Liaison Group receives reports on a range of issues. Some of the more regular items include:

- An annual budget update (see Appendix 1)
- Progress with Definitive Map Modification Orders (see Appendix 2)

- Bridge Maintenance (see Appendix 3)
- Updates on the Countryside Volunteer Service (the LAF receives more specific information on the open access element of this)
- Updates on progress with the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (very similar to the comparable LAF report)
- Updates and improvements on the County Council's written policies on such issues as Definitive Map Modification Orders, Ploughing and Cropping, Stiles and Gates, Diversion Orders, Obstructions and Maintenance. Most of these policies pre-date the formation of the LAF and work is ongoing on a comprehensive review. These will be reported to the LAF for their views as and when they are produced.

3.5 Members will appreciate that there is a degree of overlap between the work of the Liaison Group and that of the LAF, although the two bodies have quite different remits. It is intended to undertake a review of the relationship between the two groups over the next few months with a view to streamlining procedures and avoiding any duplication of effort. The outcome will be reported to a future meeting of the LAF.

3.6 Much valuable data is input to the County Council's Countryside Access Management System (CAMS) which is the main database for recording reports of deficiencies in the network and improvements that have been made. Until recently it has been difficult to produce output from the database quickly and efficiently and this has meant that in the past there have been constraints on what information could be provided within the limited staff resources available. The CAMS software has recently been upgraded, however, and it is hoped that in future it will be possible to produce outputs in the format needed much more easily than in the past. An additional difficulty is that the person responsible for maintaining and operating the CAMS system has recently retired. Recruitment to this post is underway. A new Access and Rights of Way Manager will also be taking up post in early April. It is hoped these new appointments will provide an opportunity to re-evaluate how performance management can be improved using a wider range of measures and that this data can then be fed into the work of the Local Access Forum to enable it to provide advice from a more informed position.

4.0 CONCLUSION

4.1 The production of an Annual Report on the work of the Countryside Service will provide a regular opportunity to monitor future service delivery and the level of information included within this report is expected to increase over time. Additional data on specific elements of the service is already provided to the Public Rights of Way Liaison Group and could be copied to the LAF if this would be helpful, although duplication needs to be avoided. The overlap between the work of the two groups is being reviewed to see if improvements can be made.

4.2 In addition to the above, it is hoped that in future the Countryside Service will be in a position to produce more detailed information on outputs which can be fed into the work of the LAF. It would be helpful as part of this evolving work if the LAF could indicate a few priority areas where more information would be particularly useful and every effort will then be made to see if this is would be feasible.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- a) The report be received for information
- b) Members consider what specific type of information they feel would be useful to receive to support the work of the Local Access Forum, bearing in mind the data that is already available and the constraints on the service.

Contact Officer:

John Edwards

Head of Countryside Services

01609 532452

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY LIAISON GROUP

15 September 2005

Public Rights of Way Budget

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide details of current budget provision and expenditure on PROW in North Yorkshire outside the National Parks.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 A budget report was provided to the Liaison Group at its meeting in September 2004 summarising information on the previous year's out-turn against budget and the current year's budget. The Group requested a similar report in future years.

3.0 EXPENDITURE IN 2004/2005

3.1 Expenditure by the Area Rights of Way Officers on maintenance of the network in 2004/2005 amounted to £257.8k against a budget allocation of £214.8k. The increased spend was met from elsewhere within the PROW budget, e.g. the CROW Act. In addition, specific funding was allocated to the Howardian Hills AONB to complete the final year of the long running improvement programme. This attracted external funding from the Countryside Agency, giving a final spend of £27.3k. A further £72.9 was committed to maintenance works through the Community Paths Initiative. £156.4k of the LPSA allocation was committed, the balance rolling forward into the current year. In addition £12.2k of the CROW Act budget was committed, the balance being used to support an increased spend on maintenance, to help meet the LPSA target.

4.0 BUDGET ALLOCATION IN 2005/2006

4.1 The base budget available for maintenance of the network in 2005/2006 amounts to £241.3k. This compares to £214.8k in 2004/2005, an increase of 12.3%. In line with normal practice, a core budget of £30-50k has been allocated to each area team, with the balance held centrally to be allocated in the autumn depending on demand.

4.2 The Howardian Hills AONB improvement programme has now been completed with the result that the entire network has been upgraded to a high standard. Following the successful establishment of the Countryside Volunteer programme and the appointment of Countryside Rangers in each

area office, the Community Paths Initiative has now been discontinued. The project budget has been re-allocated to support the cost of the Rangers.

- 4.3 The CROW Act budget has been increased from £41.8k to £92.8k, an increase of 122%. This is being used for a variety of purposes including the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, the countryside volunteer programme and open access. Any balance will be directed towards maintenance of the network, although it is unclear at this stage how much this is likely to be.
- 4.4 The budget for the final year of the LPSA programme amounts to £142.7k, comprising the annual allocation of £112k with a carry forward from 2004/2005 of £30.7k. Of the total sum, £80k has been divided equally between the four area teams for works related directly to improving the network. This must be fully committed by the end of November 2005 and therefore is being given priority by area staff. The balance of the LPSA funding is being used to support the Countryside Volunteer programme and other support costs directly related to improving the network.
- 4.5 In addition to the above, £70k of new funding has been allocated to the Countryside Service in 2005/2006 to deliver Best Value improvements. This is being used in line with the recommendations included in the Action Plan and is being targeted particularly at supporting staff costs in the Rights of Way and Countryside Management Sections.

5.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the report be received for information

Contact Officer:
John Edwards
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Public Rights of Way	2004/2005	2004/2005	2005/2006
'Project' Expenditure ¹	Out-turn ²	Budget	Budget
	£k	£k	£k
Area 1 Maintenance	37.4	30	30
Area 2 Maintenance	65.3	38	30
Area 3 Maintenance	79.2	50	50
Area 4 Maintenance	56.1	30	30
Central Maintenance ³	19.8	66.8	101.3
Total Area Maintenance	257.8	214.8	241.3
Howardian Hills PROW	27.3	20	
Community Paths Initiative	72.9	70.4	
Total Other Maintenance	100.2	90.4	
CROW Act	12.2	41.8	92.8
LPSA	156.4	187.1	142.7
Total Miscellaneous	168.6	228.9	235.5
TOTAL ALL PROJECTS	526.6	534.1	476.8
Best Value Growth ⁴	130	130	70

¹ Excluding staffing and related expenditure and income

² Includes income from partner bodies eg Countryside Agency

³ Maintenance budget initially held centrally and then divided up between areas depending upon demand

⁴ Largely related to staffing

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY LIAISON GROUP

15 December 2005

County Public Rights of Way
Definitive Map Modification Order Applications - an Update

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update to Members on the progress with the processing of Definitive Map Modification Order applications since the last meeting, and provide an overview of the year.

2.0 RECENT DETERMINATIONS

2.1 Nine applications have been completely determined since the last meeting;

- i) 00/01 Hambleton Stokesley Levenside (BOAT)
 - Application withdrawn following a Creation Order for a FP.
- ii) Harrogate Markington with Wallerthwaite Hincks Hall (BW)
 - Creation Agreement negotiated to circumvent a MO application being made.
- iii) 04/03 Ryedale Thornton Le Clay Off Low Street (FP)
 - Modification Order was confirmed unopposed.
- iv) 86/06 Ryedale Ganton Potter Brompton Plantation (BW)
 - File closed due to insufficient information on the file.
- v) 93/13 Ryedale Wharram Tunnel Plantation (FP)
 - File closed after consultation.
- vi) 92/19 Scarborough Osgodby Osgodby Reservoir (FP)
 - Creation Agreement made to resolve MO application.
- vii) 92/13 Selby Hemingbrough Mill Lane to Landing Ln (FP)
 - File closed due to insufficient information on the file.

viii) 00/04 Selby North Duffield Hall Fm to Park Fm (FP)

- Following the public inquiry in August the Inspector decided not to confirm the Order.

ix) 92/04 Selby Beal East Ings Lane (FP)

- File closed after consultation.

3.0 APPLICATIONS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY AREA COMMITTEES

3.1 Four applications are to be considered at Area Committees within the next couple of months.

i) 04/10 Harrogate Marton-cum-Grafton Main St to Back Ln (FP)

- to be reported to the next Area Committee to recommend forwarding to the Secretary of State for determination.

ii) 01/09 Harrogate Stonebeck Up Scarhouse Dam (BOAT)

- to be reported to the next Area Committee to recommend forwarding to the Secretary of State for determination.

iii) 04/04 Harrogate Bishop Thornton Shaw Mills (BW)

- to be reported to the next Area Committee to recommend an Order be made.

iv) 98/03 Selby Great Heck Booty Lane (FP)

- to be reported to the next Area Committee to recommend forwarding to the Secretary of State for determination.

4.0 NEW APPLICATIONS

4.1 We have received 11 new applications for DMMOs since the last meeting:-

i) 05/10 Harrogate Stonebeck Up Carle Fell Road (BOAT)

ii) 05/11 Harrogate Colsterdale Agra Moor (BOAT)

iii) 05/12 Harrogate Harrogate Borough Bilton Lane (BW)

iv) 05/13 Harrogate Laverton Wetshod Lane (BOAT)

v) 05/15 Richmondshire West Appleton Stripe Lane (BW)

vi)	05/16 Craven	Coniston Cold	Stainton Cotes (BOAT)
vii)	05/17 Craven	Giggleswick	Craven Ridge (BOAT)
viii)	05/18 Craven	Gargrave	Mark House Lane (BOAT)
ix)	05/19 Craven	Coniston Cold	Nr Newton Hall (BOAT)
x)	05/20 Harrogate	Masham	Black Bull Yard (FP)
xi)	05/21 Hambleton	Dalton	Back Lane (BOAT)

The extraordinary number of new applications for BOATS (or upgrades to BOATs) reflects the current concerns about the imminent implementations under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Bill (which would introduce a cut-off date restricting the creation of new vehicular rights of way). Despite the national serious concerns about local authorities being swamped with applications leading up to the 2026 cut off date, up to now we had not had a particular increase in BOAT applications. Since the writing of this report there should have been a Parliamentary decision as to the future of applications for BOATs. We can expect further numerous BOAT applications unless the NERC Bill implements an immediate cut off date.

4.2 21 new applications have been received this year; 6 of those are for a footpath, 4 for a bridleway, and 11 for BOATs (or upgrades to BOATs).

5.0 APPLICATIONS CONSIDERED IN 2005

5.1 28 applications have been considered and resolved this year, as listed and attached in Appendix 1. A further 43 are under investigation.

6.0 RECOMMENDATION

6.1 That Members note the report.

Presenter of the Report :- Penny Noake
 Author of the Report :- Penny Noake
 Definitive Map Officer
 (01609) 532245

1 December 2005

North Yorkshire County Council

DMMO Applications Resolved During 2005

Ref no	District	Parish	File No	Location	
99/05	Craven	Carleton	R1/10E	VICARS ROW TO BECKSIDE	To Add a
				Footpath	
87/09	Craven	Giggleswick	R1/21B	TEMS SIDE & BUCK Lane	To Add a
				Footpath	
97/01	Craven	Sutton-in-Craven	R1/39G	HOLME BRIDGE TO THE HAWTHORNS	To Add a
				Footpath	
99/19	Hambleton	Maunby	R2/98A	OLD RAILWAY BRIDGE	To Add a
				BOAT	
99/22	Hambleton	Seamer	R2/126A	BY VILLAGE HALL TO FP 3	To Add a
				Footpath	
00/01	Hambleton	Stokesley	R2/140A	LEVENSIDE TO ROSEHILL DRIVE	To Add a
				BOAT	
78/01	Harrogate	Grewelthorpe	R3/52B	POND TO KIRBY MALZEARD ROAD	To Add a
				Footpath	
	Harrogate	Harrogate Borough	AD3/54	Harlow Moor Ward, Pinewoods Plantation	To Add a
				Footpath	
04/05	Harrogate	Hartwith cum Winsley	R3/55D	Knox Lane, Low Laithe.	To Add a
				Bridleway	
04/12	Harrogate	Hutton Conyers	A3/61	Pillmore Lane, Hutton Conyers	To Add a
				Bridleway	
	Harrogate	Markington with	AD3/121	Hincks Hall to High Cayton Hall	To Upgrade
				a Footpath to	
		Wallerthwaite			Bridleway
86/05	Ryedale	Ampleforth	R5/6A	BACK LANE	To Add a
				BOAT	
86/06	Ryedale	Ganton	R5/37A	POTTER BROMPTON PLANTATION	To Add a
				Bridleway	
92/23	Ryedale	Pickering	R5/73F	RED YATTS LANE TO TOFTS DRAIN	To Add a
				BOAT	
94/12	Ryedale	Terrington with	R5/94B	TERRINGTON - HOV. SEE R5/63B	To Add a
				Bridleway	
		Wigganthurpe			
04/03	Ryedale	Thornton le Clay	R5/96A	Judy Lane	To Add a
				Footpath	

93/13 Footpath	Ryedale	Wharram	R5/108A	TUNNEL PLANTATION	To Add a
02/18 Footpath	Scarborough	Filey	R6/8G	Ravine to Cliff Top	To Add a
99/17 Footpath	Scarborough	Newby and Scalby	R6/16C	SCALBY MILLS TO JACKSON BAY	To Add a
92/19 Footpath	Scarborough	Scarborough	R6/19F	OSGODBY RES TO KNOX LANE	To Add a
00/10 Footpath	Selby	Barlby	R7/5D	CHURCH LANE	To Add a
92/04 Footpath	Selby	Beal	R7/7A	EAST INGS LANE	To Add a
Footpath	Selby	Grimston	R7/63A	SEAVY CARR WOOD	To Add a
92/13 Footpath	Selby	Hemingbrough	R7/35A	MILL LANE TO LANDING LANE	To Add a
00/04 Footpath	Selby	North Duffield	R7/51B	HALL FARM TO PARK FARM	To Add a
93/09 Bridleway	Selby	Saxton cum Scarthingwell	R7/55B	SCARTHINGWELL PARK	To Add a
89/06 Footpath	Selby	Sherburn in Elmet	R7/57B	MOORLANE TO FP 36	To Add a
95/26 Footpath	Selby	South Milford	R7/59B	HIGH ST TO WEST FIELD LANE	To Add a

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY LIAISON GROUP

9 December 2004

Bridge Maintenance Priorities

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide members with details of progress made with dealing with bridge maintenance issues since the last meeting and to provide information on an initial prioritisation of bridges in need of urgent repair on the public rights of way network.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the last meeting of the Liaison Group on 9 December 2004, details were provided of all known damaged or missing bridge crossings on the public rights of way network using data available in the CAMS system. It was stressed that this had been compiled from 'reports' from members of the public and there was no way of assessing how comprehensive it was without a full survey of the network. Members were asked to comment on the information available and to provide any additional information they might have available to update the list.

3.0 RECENT PROGRESS

- 3.1 Some very helpful feedback has been provided by members since the last meeting and a number of additional defective structures have been added to the database and input to CAMS.
- 3.2 The issue of maintenance of public rights of way bridges was raised at the Environmental Services Management Team during September. The scale of the problem facing the authority was recognised. A range of issues were discussed including the need for an accurate asset register, a rolling bridge inspection regime using specialist engineering expertise and a dedicated budget. Possible alternative options were considered for managing the bridge maintenance programme.
- 3.3 As a means of moving the issue forward, as a first step the Countryside Service was asked to identify those structures which were considered to be in most urgent need of repair in terms of such factors as their potential cost, their degree of urgency and their importance to the network. These would then be subject to a detailed engineering inspection and an estimated cost for repair or replacement would be provided. This would provide a firmer basis for deciding what action could be taken in the short term to address the

problem within the resources available. It was recognised that the potential cost was beyond the scope of the basic rights of way maintenance budget

- 3.4 In the longer term, it was agreed that a co-ordinated programme would be needed to address the scale of the problem involved and that this would need dedicated funding. The County Council is currently preparing its bid for the next round of Local Transport Plan funding (LTP2) and it is proposed to include an element in this to cover public rights of way bridge issues. It is unclear at this stage what form this bid will take but it was considered to offer the most realistic potential for attracting additional resources on the scale required.

4.0 INITIAL PRIORITIES

- 4.1 The results of the initial prioritisation exercise referred to in paragraph 3.3 are included in the appendix. This is based on recommendations made by the Area Rights of Way Officers. It must be stressed that these are not the only priorities but merely a first attempt at identifying where any additional resources could be used to greatest effect. Some of the bridges involve difficult engineering and legal problems which have prevented progress for a number of years. Even if it is possible to find additional resources, it may therefore still not be easy to move forward quickly.
- 4.2 These initial priorities have been submitted to the County Council's bridge engineer with a request that the bridges concerned be inspected and an estimate given of the cost of repair or replacement. In some of the more difficult cases, this work has already been undertaken. When the engineering report has been received, the issue will then be referred back to the Departmental Management Team to consider what scope there might be for making early progress with implementation.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the report be received for information.

Contact Officer:
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INITIAL PRIORITY BRIDGEWORKS ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY NETWORK

Parish	Location	Works Required	Importance
Area 1			
Hutton Rudby	NZ 475053 Potto Slack	Remove old bridge and replace with lightweight structure - 12 metre span	Very popular local walk close to village.
Middleton-on-Leven	NZ 464099 River Leven	3 separate bridges in close proximity, 2 suffering from erosion/slippage. Replace (6m span), repair and re-use. Access difficult	Popular circular walk close to Middlesborough on edge of village involving riverside and woodland.
Great Busby	NZ 526051 East of Cote Hill Farm	Remove old bridge which is too short and replace with 6-7 metre wood bridge. Access reasonable	Very popular walk on edge of National Park between Carlton and Kirkby villages.
Area 2			
Edstone	SE 701826 Cowdyke Wath, River Dove	No existing crossing - new bridge required - 10 metre span. Good access for construction	Will dramatically improve the network for bridleway users within an area that is very poor.
Harome	SE 632821 Rye House, River Rye	No existing crossing - new bridge required - 15-20 metre span. Good access for construction.	To link the PROW network on either side of the River Rye for bridleway users.
Welburn	SE 675859 Hodge Beck, Kirkdale	Usable but in a bad state of repair. Repair or replace. Good access for construction.	Very old bridge well used by the public. Important link to PROW in National Park.
Area 3			
Bewerley	SE 152637 Ravens Nest, Fosse Gill	Existing bridge in poor condition. Difficult steep access.	On footpath in a popular area of the AONB
Clapham-cum-Newby	SD 718676 Skew Bridge, River Wenning	Existing bridge in poor condition. Either repair existing or replace with a new bridge - similar cost?	Key river crossing in a popular area close to the National Park.
Markington with Wallerthwaite	SE 305649 Wormald Green	No bridge exists although the remains of the abutments can be visible - originally adjacent to or possibly an integral part of the railway bridge across the beck. Good access next to road.	Close to several villages in a popular area near Ripon
Goldsborough	SE 368559 Goldsborough Mill, River Nidd	Closed to horseriders following safety audit since approx Aug 2002. Repair or replace.	Key river crossing on bridleway network on edge of Knaresborough
Area 4			

Linton/Newton-on-Ouse	SE 513614 River Kyle, Linton	Existing brick arch crossing in poor condition but of historical interest - retain and replace with new bridge - already purchased and in storage.	
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