

NORTH YORKSHIRE  
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

2006

Rights of Way Improvement Plan  
Progress Report

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide a progress report with regard to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan for North Yorkshire.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Local access forums are required to provide input into the production of Rights of Way Improvement Plans (RoWIPs). There are three local access forums in North Yorkshire, one for North Yorkshire outside the National Park Authority areas and one each for both the North York Moors National Park and Yorkshire Dales National Park.
- 2.2 One Rights of Way Improvement Plan is being prepared for the whole of the County which will be gradually merged into the Local Transport Plan for North Yorkshire. This is a progress report regarding the preparation of the RoWIP.

3.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The technical team have met each month since the last LAF meeting in February. The main focus for the group has been to produce overall strategies for improving local rights of way across North Yorkshire. This will form the most important chapter of the RoWIP upon which local priorities for both service centres and landscape character areas will be developed and delivered.
- 3.2 The technical team have been augmented by a member of the Planning & Policy Unit of the Planning & Countryside Section at the County Council who is charged with producing a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the RoWIP. Discussions have centred upon drawing up a list of alternatives upon which to test strategic environmental impacts. The alternatives which have been discussed include differing scenarios of future demand, network management and quality and network length. A handful of realistic scenarios are being tested which include a "do nothing" option. The do nothing option is standard practice in all SEA work.
- 3.3 The technical team are looking at delivering a RoWIP project which is aimed at getting people familiar with the opportunities which are available to them from their doorstep. This will utilise the 50% grant which is being proposed by the Countryside Agency with the aim of

publicising the RoWIP through the media to a range of people. The overall aim is to raise the profile of the RoWIP to potential funders, politicians and potential partners. All access authorities will have to match the 50% grant funding in some form.

- 3.4 The project aims to test whether lack of information about the local area inhibits participation in walking for recreational or other purposes such as walking to the shops, community centre or work. Five potential communities have been identified upon which to run the project, they are: Richmond, Easingwold; West Ayton near Scarborough, Sherburn in Elmet and the three communities of Cononley, Sutton in Craven and Crosshills which are to be taken as one overall community.
- 3.5 Work is continuing on drafting other chapters of the RoWIP and a design for the 20 page pamphlet and whole draft document is being finalised with "Room for Design", the designers of the document based in Northallerton. Pictures have also been commissioned for this publication.
- 3.6 The new post of Project Development Officer which was discussed at the previous LAF meeting will be advertised in the near future to develop the RoWIP "Statement of Action" and specific project work for the RoWIP.

#### 4.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- a) This report is received for information.

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