

NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

22nd FEBRUARY 2007

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 A first draft was produced and circulated to members in September/October 2006. Two meetings were organised in November 2006. One meeting was held for up to six representatives from the three Local Access Forums in North Yorkshire. The other meeting was a Steering Group meeting containing up to two members from each Local Access Forum, District Council Officers and AONB Officers.
- 3.2 During the two meetings various comments were received regarding the accuracy of information, structure of the plan and general comments regarding stakeholder interests.
- 3.3 During December 2006 and January 2007 the plan was re-drafted taking all comments on board. It has been finalised and passed to the designer to lay out, undergo final proof reading and printing along with the production of CD's.
- 3.4 Four accompanying technical summaries are nearing completion. These will be uploaded onto the County Council website by mid March where they will be available to view as part of the consultation process.
- 3.5 An easy read pamphlet is also being produced of around 20 pages. At the time of writing the text is being finalised for this draft. A copy of the text which is contained in the pamphlet will be circulated at this meeting.
- 3.6 An online and postal survey form is being designed to take comments from the public consultation exercise. It is anticipated that there could be a large response

to the consultation and therefore the survey is being designed in a way which will ease analysis but encourage individual comments.

- 3.7 It is anticipated that the public consultation exercise should start mid March and run for at least the statutory 12 week period. After that time comments will be analysed, responses provided and the final draft will take shape.
- 3.8 The accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment is being prepared in parallel with this plan and interested members can view the Scoping Report and Environment Report as they emerge by logging onto the County Council website.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

- a) This report is received for information.

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