

NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

22nd FEBRUARY 2007

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT IN THE NIDDERDALE AONB

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the progress of the public rights of way improvement programme within the Nidderdale AONB.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At the meeting of the local Access Forum on 16 November 2006, members considered and commented upon a proposal for a comprehensive programme of improvements to the Public Rights of Way network within the Nidderdale AONB.

3.0 UPDATE

- 3.1 A full Survey of all the Parishes within the AONB is nearing completion.

- 3.2 The survey results indicate that the Nidderdale AONB has one of the highest network densities found anywhere in the County and the highest concentration of furniture items such as stiles and gates.

- 3.3 The survey confirms that the network is in need of significant improvement, with the highest density of problems found anywhere in the County.

- 3.4 A full scheme of improvement works has been agreed in the parish of Birstwith in line with the original proposal and officers are currently negotiating agreements in the parishes of Dacre, Beverley and Menwith.

- 3.5 Whilst it is not feasible to complete work on every route in the remaining parishes identified as year 1 parishes, several capital intensive programmes have been identified within these parishes for completion this year such as resurfacing work to the Nidderdale Way between Glasshouses and Pateley Bridge.

- 3.6 Implementation of all agreed works is currently underway on the ground and it is anticipated that the full budget allocation of £50 000 will be spent within this financial year.

4.0 EFFECT OF THE DEVELOPMENT AND COUNTRYSIDE RESTRUCTURE

- 4.1 With effect from 1 February 2007 Dave Ranner became the sole officer dedicated to the project as a result of restructuring.

4.2 As a consequence extra support will be lent to the project by the Area Countryside Rangers based at Skipton.

5.0 FUTURE OF THE PROJECT

5.1 A presentation has been made to Natural England with a view to securing funding for the project in 2007/2008, early indications are that Natural England may not have the resources to support the project.

5.2 North Yorkshire County Council and the Nidderdale AONB remain committed to the project and the programme will continue in 2007/2008, the scale of the programme will be determined once a budget allocation has been agreed by the partners.

6.0 CONCLUSION

6.1 The project is on track to deliver £50 000 of improvements to the rights of way network within the Nidderdale AONB in this financial year.

6.2 There is a commitment to delivering further improvements in 2007/2008, although funding is yet to be secured.

7.0 RECOMENDATIONS

It is recommended that

- a) This report is received for information.

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