

Local Access Forum
Meeting of the 'Access for All' Subcommittee
Thursday 17th April 2008

Present: Tony Turner (note taker), Eric Broadbent, Diane Baines, John Goss (chair), David Swabey, and Paul Tibbatts

Unable to attend: David Gibson, Leo Crone.

Matter Arising from the Previous Minutes:

John Goss had had no reply to his letter to the Communication Department, North Yorkshire Times, regarding the lack of wheelchair access to the walks they had published.

1. It was agreed that we needed to prepare a LAF agenda for the visit of Richard Flinton, the new Director, that would help him to understand the work of the LAF and the issues that current members were concerned about. We need to choose some simple short term opportunities for improvement, as well as introduce him to some bigger and more long-term issues linked to the need to improve future funding for ROW. Can members of the LAF be prepared to offer examples of 'quick wins' where improvements could be made that are relatively inexpensive?
2. It would be helpful to establish a future wish list of projects and plans from the LAF with potential costs attached. This would help NYCC and others to better understand future funding needs. This existed partly in the existing ROW Improvement Plan but the LAF could 'fine-tune' this further.
3. David Swabey circulated an excellent list of accessible routes for those with limited mobility. The list contained additional information about gradient, distance and whether any further work was needed to make the route fully accessible. It was agreed to ask for officer advice about using this resource to publish a list of accessible routes in North Yorkshire. David (because of his extensive knowledge) was asked if he could identify any circular routes also.
4. The subgroup believes that waymarking should include some signs where destination and distance information is also given. These additional signs could be provided through local sponsorship. (To suggest adding to the list of principles.)
5. The group also suggested that where the circumstances would be appropriate, stiles could eventually be replaced with gates that are pushchair and wheelchair friendly. This suggestion will be included in the Parish Council Toolkit.
6. Publicity & Communication:

- 6.1 It was suggested by Diane Baines that we develop a primary school resource pack with suggested activities to help young people to understand their local rights of way.
 - 6.2 To publish a guide to the different rights of way in the NY Times. Can the officers provide this information to the editors? This could go on the NYCC website, similar to that of South Gloucestershire.
 - 6.3 Where walks are currently publicised in the NY Times and elsewhere it was agreed to encourage the authors to add information about any section of a ROW that had higher rights e.g. cycleway or bridleway.
7. The group expressed concern that the finance for supporting the maintenance and improvement of ROW has been reduced. It was agreed to ask for an update on this at the next meeting.
 8. We see Lancashire as a model of excellent practice. Can North Yorkshire learn from there?
 9. Members recommended offering a presentation to Richard Flinton at its next meeting. It was agreed to seek volunteers to share in delivering the presentation.

After the meeting John Goss indicated that he was intending to resign his place on the LAF because of current poor health.