



Unapproved Minutes
Meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum
Held on Tuesday 17 June 2008
Yoredale, Bainbridge

Present: Jon Beavan (JB), Michael Bartholomew (MB), David Gibson (DG), Phil Woodyer (PW), Pat Whelan (PWh), Paul Tibbatts (PT), Ken Miller (KM), Robert Mayo (RM), Malcolm Petyt (MP), Ben Heyes (BH) and Peter Bradfield (PB.)

YDNPA Officers present: Alan Hulme (AH), Rachel Briggs (RB) – LAF Secretary, Mark Allum (MA), and Andy Ryland (AR).

The meeting started at 6.00pm.

1. Welcome

MB welcomed Michael Breckon from The National Byway.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from: Deborah Millward (DM), Harold Brown (HB), Judy Rogers (JR) and Guy Keating (GK).

3. Approval of Minutes

DG noted that the word been needed to be replaced with being on page 5.

DG said that on page 11, under Consultation Under reg 5, the 2nd paragraph should read 'other public utilities' and not amenities.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

MB informed members that he contacted Doug Huzzard from NYCC on two occasions with regards to the Unsurfaced/Unclassified Roads Group and had not yet received a response.

4. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

5. Chairman's Report

MB gave a verbal Chairman's report.

He began by noting the large amount of work that is going into the Cumbria Countryside Access Partnership. A lot of YDAF Member time is going into liaison with Cumbria and it may be time to begin thinking about relations to the east i.e. North Yorkshire. KM informed the YDAF that the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group would be working with the Nidderdale AONB on cross boundary issues. JB reminded members that when the YDAF was formed, Nidderdale had shown an interest in becoming part of the YDAF. It was suggested this be revisited. MB thought that it would be a good start to invite an officer from Nidderdale to attend meetings of the YDAF as an observer.

RB to invite Paul Burgess from Nidderdale AONB to attend meetings of the YDAF.

MB updated members on the North Yorkshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP). Since the last meeting of the YDAF, MB has spoken to officers of NYCC who have said that they will not be issuing members of the YDAF with hard copies of the plan.

6. The National Byway

Michael Breckon (MBr), Director of Operations, gave a very informative presentation on the National Byway, which was well received. He explained that the route of the National Byway is 4500 miles long, is largely on tarmac roads and is 80% complete. The section known as the 'Trans Pennine Spur' is not yet complete and this is the section that will go through the Yorkshire Dales National Park. It is hoped that the national launch of the route will be during Summer 2010.

There was some discussion about the route and whether it was a circular route or an a to b route. MBr told members that the National Byway is a circuit with various loops coming off it.

MP asked how they were planning on preventing the quiet lanes getting busier. MBr explained that he carries out informal vehicle counts on the route and that numbers haven't changed much in the last few years.

Some members expressed a concern about the impact on local communities. PB asked how they planned on informing local communities of the increase in traffic. PT thought that this was an important issue in Wharfe where there would be a potential conflict with the Three Peaks Bike Race. MBr told members he would go to any Parish Council meetings that would be interested and that adverts would be placed in the local press when the route was to be opened.

JB thought that any increase in cycling opportunities was beneficial but that he thought there was some duplication with the National Byway and the Dales Cycleway. PW disagreed with this and thought that the more routes the better as this would dilute the amount of cyclists on any one section.

KM had some concerns about the advertising of the route and wondered if it could be incorporated into the YDNPA's own publications. MBr said that this had been done in some areas and that incorporation into other publications would be welcomed.

MB asked MBr what he required from the YDAF. MBr said that he was consulting on the Trans Pennine Spur. AR explained that the Highways Authority would be consulting with the Access Committee at a later date and that the YDAF's recommendations could be part of that decision. AH suggested that YDAF members may wish to go away and think about the presentation and that a paper be taken to a future YDAF meeting on the proposals for consideration by Members.

YDAF members gave general support to the National Byway and agreed that a formal paper be presented to the YDAF at a later date.

JB and PW left the meeting at 7.00pm

11. Formal consultation with the YDAF on proposed Traffic regulation orders

MB gave a brief update on the TRO process and told members that at the last Access Committee in April 2007, the decisions that were made were in line with the recommendations made by the YDAF.

MB asked for comments.

There was some discussion with regards to paragraph 3(f) of the notice. The concern was over the use of the word 'participant' in the exemption for organised Trials Events. MP pointed out to members that the exemption was only for certain named events. AH added that the named events are those that already take place in the YDNP and have been established over a number of years and are managed well. There were still some concerns that the word 'participant' could be read to include spectators and so it was suggested that the word be changed to read 'use by officials and competitors'.

MB asked members if they had anything else to add to the response that went to the YDNPA for the first stage of consultation. It was agreed that for the second stage, the response should stay the same, save for the addition of comments made to section 3(f) of the notice.

MP declared an interest in this item as the independent chair of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group (YDGLAG) and as a member of the Access Committee. He abstained from commenting on all routes except Carlton to Middleham High Moor.

All of the members present agreed that the TROs suggested for each of the five routes should be permanent 24/7. MB to write to MA with the consultation response from the YDAF.

7. CROW Act – restrictions and Exclusions

AH presented the paper to members of the YDAF.

AH explained that on the 24 May, the Fire Severity Index (FSI) reached a level 5 and fire warning signs were put out. However, at 4.00pm on the 24th, a fire broke out on Grassington Moor. BH asked AH what the cause of the fire was. AH said that there had been no detailed investigation as yet. BH asked if the YDNPA thought that the message was delivered satisfactorily. AH thought that the process ran smoothly. He added that a small working group had been formed last year to look at the issue of moorland fires in the Yorkshire Dales (Dales Wildfire Group) and that through this group all of the major estates are being asked to draw up fire plans for their areas.

8. Cumbria Access Partnership

Maintenance Task group

MB highlighted the main issues from the Maintenance Task group.

Improvement Task Group

RM had attended his first meeting as a member of the Improvement Task Group on 2 June. The main topics for discussion were:

- The Arnside Viaduct.
- Membership to the Access for All sub group.
- Coast to Coast mountain bike route.
- Long distance routes.

Promotion Task Group

There was no representation from the YDAF on the Promotion Task Group.

Operational Steering Group

There was no representation from the YDAF at the Operational Steering Group meeting. DG asked about the comments made on page 3 under item 4. MB said that, as he was not present, he was unsure of the detail.

9. Report back from Yorkshire Dales advisory groups and other meetings

Access on Foot Advisory Group

DG presented the minutes from the Access on Foot Advisory Group.

DG said that there has been a long standing issue with access to Grimwith Reservoir and that this has not yet been resolved. AH stated that he would request Phil Richards, Area Ranger for Lower Wharfedale, to look into the issue and report back at the next AFAG Meeting.

BH asked why there were so many members of the Ramblers Association on the group. It was pointed out that this group formed before the establishment of the advisory groups. Its original intention was that it should simply be an informal meeting between the Ramblers Association and the YDNPA Rangers. It has now evolved into a formally-constituted committee, but it bears obvious marks of its origins. MB agreed that the group could afford some thinning out, and that it maybe needs greater landowner/farmer representation. He would take this suggestion to the next meeting

Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group

KM presented the minutes from the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group. He noted that there had been a number of mountain bikers present at the meeting which was very encouraging. He added that the mountain bikers would be doing a presentation at the next meeting on mountain biking in the Yorkshire Dales.

Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group

MP presented the minutes from the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group.

MP explained that this had been the last formal meeting of the group for the time being as the members had agreed to meet on a less frequent basis. He added that the membership needed to be revisited as they had lost Geoff Wilson from the group and that they needed a mountain biker for the balance.

KM asked what would be happening with the other routes that had been identified within the TRO process. MP said that of the 104 routes originally identified, only 52 were deemed either highly or moderately sensitive. The remainder of those 52 will be looked at at future meetings.

AH added that the Rangers are monitoring any potential shift in the patterns of use of recreational motor vehicles.

Access for All Advisory Group

MB presented the minutes from the Access for All Advisory Group.

MB told members of the YDAF that the process of looking at routes for all terrain wheelchairs (such as Trampers) has moved on and that a group from the Disabled Ramblers would be visiting Swaledale in July.

Water Sports Advisory Group

BH presented the minutes from the Water Sports Advisory Group.

BH asked members of the YDAF if they could think of any other water sports to be added to the list under item 5 of the minutes then they should let him or RB know. He also asked if there was anyone else that should be invited to attend the meetings.

NYCC Unsurfaced/Unclassified Roads Group

MP presented the minutes from the NYCC Unsurfaced/Unclassified Roads Group.

MP Informed members that Doug Huzzard was collecting information on problems with the unsurfaced/unclassified roads network.

10. Secretary's Report

RB presented a report of items for Members' consideration and information. These were:

- Access Committee Dates and Venues.
- Resignation of Forum Members.
- Discovering Lost Ways.
- LAF Members' Information Handbook.
- English Access Forum

12. Update on Members Activities

DG informed members that he had attended a meeting of the North Yorkshire Rights of Way Liaison Committee.

13. Future Forum Meetings

The next meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum will be held on the 23 September 2008. The meeting will be held at Clapham Village Hall and will commence at 1.15pm.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm