

N.Y.C.C. LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE IMPROVING RIGHTS OF WAY SUB-GROUP

THURSDAY 22ND JANUARY 2009

Present: Alan Aspden, Paul Chapman, Rachel Connolly, David Gibson, Tony Martin, Stephen Ramsden, John Taylor and Tony Turner.

Also Penny Noake, Joanna Coote and Nick Atkinson from NYCC definitive map team

Alan Aspden led the group and Rachel Connolly took notes.

The thrust of the meeting was to discuss the proposal from the NYCC definitive map team present to alter their way of working. Since 2003 the Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO's) have been taken in date order, and progress is not as fast as those coming in for decision. However, partly due to staff constraints the Rights of Way Improvement Plan is not being implemented as such, only by chance when a DMMO matches a highlighted improvement. It is suggested it would be more effective if the DMMO's were re-prioritised according to their resulting benefit, which would mean that some might be fast-forwarded and others slip back even further.

It was pointed out that the backlog in NYCC was notoriously long and this approach would inevitably make it even longer, so many DMMO's would miss the 2026 cut-off date.

The team acknowledged that this would be so, but it was still felt to be a justified approach, and the team asked for the support of the meeting. It was suggested that more robust effort should be made to supplement some of the routine archival research required for DMMO's by volunteer help, and once a system was working this could remedy the slip-back.

The meeting generally warmed to the suggestions and agreed to take it to the full LAF for further discussion, if necessary, and hopefully approval.

Finally, Rachel Connolly said she had heard a disturbing report that the government is planning to restrict horse riding on beaches in England. Future access is proposed to be by negotiated permission or paid permit only. This is in spite of existing use in many places and bridleways that lead to the foreshore. She had received a 33 page report and would try and summarise it as briefly as possible for the LAF, and inquire whether it was too late to make representation to Natural England who are the architects of the scheme.