

North York Moors National Park

c/o Local Access Forum Secretary,
North York Moors National Park
The Old Vicarage, Bondgate, Helmsley, YORK
YO62 5BP

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on 2 September 2008.

Present:

Derek Hanson in the Chair.

Mr J Cavana, Mr P Cody, Mrs C Cussons, Mr G Dawson, Mr D Hanson, Mr P Hay, Mr B James, Mrs J King, Mr M Knaggs, Dr D Leyshon, Mrs M Mitchell, Mrs N Taylor

Apologies: Mr B Briggs, Mrs C Cook, Lady E Kirk, Mr G Winn-Darley

In attendance: Richard Gunton (Director of Recreation and Park Management), Karl Gerhardsen (Recreation & Access Officer), Sarah Blakemore (Access Officer), Sarah Morris (Member Services Officer).

Copies of all Documents Considered are in the Minute Book

22/08 **Minutes**

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2008, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

23/08 **Matters Arising**

a) Letter to Natural England on Lost Ways – Members received a copy.

b) List of Streets – Members were advised of the website link for North Yorkshire County Council's List of Streets. A Forum Member advised that not all of the routes on the 1932 handover map had been included on the County's List of Streets.

In response to a question from a Forum Member the Director of Recreation and Park Management explained that the Authority's resources were dedicated to resolving issues on the Definitive Map.

Resolved:

That:

- a) Forum Members who had knowledge of routes which were not on the List of Streets should advise officers who would pass the information to the County Council: and
- b) the Recreation and Access Officer would provide an extract from the 1932 handover map and the County's List of Streets at the next meeting.

c) LAF Response to the Marine Bill – Coastal Access – Members received a copy of the Forum's response to Natural England.

d) Natural England – A Sense of Freedom – copies of the publication were made available to Members.

e) Pockley Moor – Following a query from a Member, the Director of Recreation and Park Management reported that the Authority had been advised that a permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) would be confirmed at the end of August. Officers had not yet received confirmation that the permanent TRO had been put in place. Some restoration work had already been carried out and further work was scheduled to take place once the TRO was in place.

Resolved:

That the Director of Recreation and Park Management would update Members on the progress of the TRO at the next meeting.

24/08 Accessing the National Park

Resolved:

That the presentation was deferred until the next meeting.

25/08 Access to Nature Grant Scheme

Following a request from a Member that consideration be given to the Access to Nature Grant scheme in order to provide assistance in researching unrecorded rights of way, the Director of Recreation and Park Management thanked the Member for the suggestion and reported that the Authority would take into account the suitability of the grant scheme when considering a project to discover unrecorded rights of way during the next Business Plan period.

26/08 Natural England Local Access Forum Handbook / Information Source

Members were advised of the link for the handbook which was only published electronically.

27/08 Update on Moorland Access Issues

Considered:

The report of the Access Officer.

The Recreation and Access Officer updated Members on work which had taken place since the report was written. 2 further stiles had been installed next to open access land at Sneaton Corner and north of Kirkmoor Beck on Fylingdales Moor and 1 stile had been installed on the east side of Scaling Dam onto the adjoining open access land. Stiles had been fitted rather than gates in order to keep the sheep in. He reiterated the balance to be struck between ensuring Rights of way were identifiable and useable whilst not cluttering the landscape with signs.

The Rangers were keen to do further mowing of paths and work had recently taken place at Laskill. A new flail mower which fitted onto a quad bike had been purchased in order to assist with this task. Further sites for mowing had been identified at Roxby Moor, the south side of Scaling Dam and next to the roadside verge at Sleights Moor.

Members raised the following points in discussion:

- Members were supportive of further mowing of Rights of Way particularly where nearby or adjoining estate roads could cause confusion.
- The requirement for marker posts in certain locations where grazing or burning regimes made identification of the route difficult.
- Heather that had been baled was marketable and was used in filtration systems.

In response to a question from a Member the Recreation and Access Officer explained that where estate tracks were subject to repair and maintenance planning permission was not required, however, for repairs which required engineering works or for new roads planning permission was required. He went on to say that there had been some retrospective planning applications submitted and prosecutions had been carried out.

In relation to the proposed promoted route at Fen Moor the Recreation and Access Officer advised Members that a footbridge was required but due to the span and cost this would be made of steel rather than wood. He added that this is to be a promoted route on open access land and not a Public Right of Way.

Resolved:

That Members note the report.

28/08 **Report Back from the National Park Authority**

The Director of Recreation and Park Management advised Members that a final draft of the Recreation and Access Strategy had been received and would be reported to Members at the full Authority meeting on 29 September 2008.

The Director of Recreation and Park Management gave a presentation on the Draft Business Plan priorities, a copy of which appears in the minute book. He ran through each of the priorities in turn.

Members raised the following points in relation to the Business Plan priorities:

- The opposition to the elements of the Marine Bill such as compensation arrangements for landowners.
- The monitoring of Moorsbus figures and targets.
- Connections for Moorsbus including other bus services and the North York Moors Railway.
- Pressure from bus operators due to increased fuel costs.
- Continued improvements to the Rights of Way network.
- Provision of funding for discovering unrecorded Rights of Way.

In response to a question from a Member about the provision of adventure sports and particularly promotion of climbing the Director of Recreation and Park Management explained that a working group had been established led by the Yorkshire Dales NPA to develop 'a year of adventure in North Yorkshire', a web based service promoting outdoor adventure and detailing 52 different activities taking place in North Yorkshire.

A Forum Member was keen to see how disadvantaged young people were being targeted. In reply the Director of Recreation and Park Management gave details of the Heritage Connections Project which was based predominantly in Teesside and targeting young people and disadvantaged groups through schools, community groups and community champions.

Resolved:

That the Heritage Connections Project Officer should be invited to a future meeting to give a presentation on the work the project,

29/08 Items for Future Meetings

Update on Pockley Moor Traffic Regulation Order.
Presentation of the Recreation and Access Strategy.
Presentation on Access to the National Park (Moorsbus) -deferred from this meeting.
Presentation on the Heritage Connections Project.