

Dear

Duty to consult with North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

You will already be aware that there is a duty under Section 94(4), Countryside and Rights of Way, 2000 (CROW) to consult with the Local Access Forum (LAF) regarding matters affecting public rights of way and access to the countryside.

Although set up and funded by North Yorkshire County Council the North Yorkshire Access Forum NYLAF is independent and North Yorkshire is one of the bodies statutorily required to consult the Forum. The area of the Forum is the County of North Yorkshire outside the National Parks who have their own LAFs.

The 15 members of NYLAF represent a wide range of people one third of who represent users of the rights of way and access land, one third other users or persons having interests in the countryside and one third landowners. In addition three county councillors are members of the forum.

Following the publication of North Yorkshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) and its incorporation into the County's Local Transport Plan 3, the Forum wishes to draw your attention to the attached sheet, which gives some principles on the method of the LAF operation.

We believe it will be helpful if all key personnel and departments in your organisation are reminded of this duty to consult.

From experience we have found that many planning matters, government initiatives relating to local delivery, developments in tourism and recreation and parish development can involve issues related to rights of way and access to the countryside. These are all areas where consultation with a LAF would be either necessary or, where a statutory duty isn't essential, at least useful.

If you require any further information regarding this letter or wish to initiate a consultation please contact Ms Kate Gray of Countryside Services, at County Hall, Northallerton, DL7 8AD or email kate.gray@northyorks.gov.uk , or telephone 08458 72 73 74. The matter will then be passed to the Forum chairman. Letters should specifically mention the Local Access Forum or they may be dealt with as Rights of Way Section correspondence.

Please note that the Forum only meets 4 times a year normally in February, May, August and November. Consultations received between meetings will either be dealt at the next meeting or if of extreme urgency a special meeting will be held. If you would like to address the Forum and present your consultation in person we would be pleased to consider it.

Yours sincerely

John Taylor
Vice Chairman North Yorkshire Local Access Forum