

NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

THURSDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2010

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN PROGRESS

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Following the November meeting of the Forum, a report was requested on progress in implementing the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan. This report provides an update on progress covering the current financial year.

2.0 ROWIP IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 A requirement in producing the Plan was the inclusion of a statement of action, which identified specific actions contributing to the achievement of the 9 long term objectives.

2.2 Day to day maintenance and improvement works on the network have been built around the objectives of the plan and the following table maps achievements this year against the statement of action.

Action No.	Action	Priority	NYCC Outputs 2009/10
AC1	Increase the number of routes which link people with goods, services and recreational opportunities.	*	
AC2	Promote rights of way with a range of partners, enabling access to goods, services and recreational opportunities so that people with a range of expectations, interests and levels of ability are aware of and can use them.	*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following training undertaken with Open Country, Access Audit of 16 Service Centres to inform programme of barrier reduction was undertaken with custom survey form. This will inform a targeted programme of key network improvements • 6 walks have been published in the NY Times at Settrington, Great Ayton, Gargrave, Kirkham and Birstwith.
AC3	Initiate a pilot doorstep walks scheme to accompany people and familiarise them with local rights of way.	PPP	
AC4	Increase the number of routes available for people with mobility, sight impairments or other disabilities.	*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Improvement of riverside footpath at Settle – removal of barriers and resurfacing to allow access by cycles and mobility scooters • 81 surfaces upgraded to improve accessibility • Footbridge replacement programme undertaken – 20 bridges replaced with accessible 1.2m wide footbridges • Training in needs of less able users undertaken with Open Country and least restrictive option is now used in all furniture

			<p>maintenance work. Success depends upon landowner consent. Of the 283 stile issues resolved this year an estimated 50% (142) were upgraded to gates.</p>
AC5	Increase the number of higher status routes available to a wider range of non-motorised users.	*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New multi user bridleway bridge installed at Helmsley to replace ford
AC6	Progressively roll out signage to indicate, routes with barrier reduction, access for all, local circular routes, destination and distance between places and authority logo and contact details.	*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft signposting policy currently in consultation aiming to improve information and interpretation
AC7	Increase signage in areas of high actual or potential demand to meet the needs of people with a range of expectations, interests and levels of ability that need additional way-marking to increase their confidence.	*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instigation of major signpost replacement programme – gaps in signage identified and programme of works commenced to replace all missing signposts in the county – 431 signposts installed in 09/10 YTD • Provision of further waymarking of specific routes where there is a local request.
AC8	Work to make the Definitive Map for the whole of North Yorkshire available on the internet in a way which helps people to plan a trip in advance and which can link with other electronic information systems.	P Phased roll out by 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently in technical consultation phase.
AC9	Target promotion of the network to engage with potential and low users including young and old people, people with disabilities, families and people with other expectations, interests and abilities, including those which	PP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NY Times walks publicised monthly

	are accessible from home or using public transport.		
AC10	Standardise the inspection of network assets and establish standard service levels for responding to maintenance issues across North Yorkshire, integrating this into the development of the Transport Asset Management Plan.	PP	
AC11	Improve overall ease of use as measured by BVPI 178 to meet a wider range of needs and strive to raise standards.	*	
AC12	Work with Defra to produce an information leaflet for landowners outlining responsibilities, where enforcement action will be taken and how to assist in improving the network.	PP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landowners duties & Responsibilities leaflet produced – included in warning letters and circulated to NFU & CLA
AC13	Produce collaborative communications to convey key messages during each year, from responsibilities regarding ploughing and cropping to user responsibilities to keep dogs on leads during lambing.	*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fire exclusion notices erected on Open Access land
AC14	Develop a sponsorship scheme to support rights of way improvements including investment in infrastructure, joint route promotion and advertising opportunities which are appropriate.	PP	
AC15	Improve access to tourist attractions by local rights of way.	*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resurfacing scheme completed at Sheriff Hutton Castle making the attraction accessible all year round.
AC16	Work to promote rights of way through local events from festivals to shows which bring visitor spend and increase awareness of and participation in the network.	*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stand held at 4 agricultural shows with information and range of activities aimed at all age groups
AC17	Actively seek planning gain by working closely with developers and planners at project	*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £20 000 secured for improvement of public footpath through new

	conception and attach conditions to planning approval to ensure the network is unaffected or improved as a result of development.		<p>development in Northallerton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 bridleways being created at Scorton in liaison with quarry operator, Tarmac Ltd • Creation of a bridleway keeping horses off the busy road at Greenhow Quarry by liaison with quarry company.
AC18	Produce a developers/planners pack for use across North Yorkshire indicating network priorities	PPP	
AC19	Increase the availability of circular routes, routes which link communities together and routes which link to attractive areas for non-motorised users, especially aiming to join key missing links.	*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current reprioritisation of applications for Definitive Map modifications and Diversion Order to give priority to those applications which will help to create links and circular walks.
AC20	Develop the creation of strategic multi user non-motorised rights of way linking service centres together, service centres with recreational centres and service centres to peripheral settlements.	*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership with Bellerby PC and Sustrans we funding a feasibility study to create a multi-user off road link between Bellerby and Leyburn.
AC21	Produce a standard scheme to reduce the cost to the applicant of a diversion which is in the public interest.	PP	
AC22	Promote, educate and encourage a switch to more sustainable modes of transport using rights of way, integrating as appropriate with public transport, reducing the need to travel by private motorised transport to access goods, services and recreational opportunities.	PP	
AC23	Promote codes of conduct such as the Countryside and/or Moorland Codes in communications with different classes of user as well as	*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Volunteer Open Access Patrollers engage in face to face advice and education with users on

	working with external promoters to do the same.		a weekly basis. 160 volunteer patrol days undertaken YTD
AC24	Incorporate information about rights of way into the County Council Bus Information Strategy.	PP	
AC25	Promote physical activity using rights of way to reduce health inequality and improve well-being, increasing participation in sport.	PP	
AC26	Produce a schools pack to help young people discover the network.	PPP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation has been undertaken with adjoining authorities to assist with the development of a schools pack.
AC27	Widen accessibility to volunteering opportunities which improve the physical and mental well-being of people with a range of expectations, interests and levels of ability.	PP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity monitoring undertaken on current volunteer base which will inform future recruitment activity
AC28	Create safe routes to school, employment, local goods, services and recreational opportunities by diverting rights of way to over/underpasses creating new access alongside carriageways, using verges and hard and soft engineering as part of the development of an integrated highway network.	*	
AC29	Raise awareness of how different classes of user can enjoy sharing routes with other users in a responsible way.	*	
AC30	Install new bridges (future proofed) to connect routes over rivers, roads and railways subject to available funding.	*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridge installation programme in effect on prioritised basis – 27 bridges installed YTD
AC31	Where appropriate (regulations prohibit) negotiate access to use available verge.	*	
AC32	Actively seek partners to deliver the plan, from Government departments and other public sector organisations, private businesses, groups and	PP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £250 000 obtained in external funding from Yorkshire Forward and Aggregates Levy Scheme

	individuals, whether this is through funding or other resource to achieve the aims of the plan.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> £30 000 funding obtained through Natural England for Improvement of National trails
AC33	Encourage people to put something back into the rights of way network by setting up schemes such as 'adopt a route' which would enable local communities/groups/individuals to look after their local rights of way resource.	PP	

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 It is recommended that members receive this report for information

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