

NYCC LAF Sub Group Meeting held on Monday 28th June at County Hall

Present: Rachel Connolly (Chair 2nd half of meeting), Janet Dowling, Tom Halstead, Tony Martin, Hugh Spencer, John Taylor (Chair 1st half of meeting), Martin Wiles

Apologies: Leo Crone, David Gibson

Also in attendance for part of the time: Penny Noake NYCC

MATTERS DISCUSSED.

1. LAF response to NYCC Minerals & Waste Core Strategy Consultation. Tony Martin to draft our reply for circulation to all attending members for any further comment. John Taylor will pass this to appropriate department.
2. Explore with Aidan Rayner the worth and possibility of merging the North Yorkshire Rights of Way Liaison Group with the LAF. Members felt there were obvious areas of duplicated interest running parallel with our own work and objectives. John Taylor to progress as we see practical and financial benefits available from this idea in the current climate of cost savings.
3. Rural Payments Agency - Martin Wiles advised that RoWs are not currently recorded on farm maps used by farmers and the agency. He will draft a letter to the RPA highlighting this omission and our wish to see this info shown. This has cross-compliance implications which require identification. MW to submit this to John Taylor for onward transmission to the appropriate RPA office .
4. UURs - no progress here as we await report on this topic from Leo Crone. John Taylor to urge his early response.
5. LAF to further encourage establishment of public RoWs to Open Access land. Janet Dowling identified at least 2 places in south Nidderdale where this is an issue; she , in conjunction with Tom Halstead , will provide further evidence of this and any other locations similarly affected . Once this info is to hand, the forum will ask NYCC what steps it is taking to deal with existing access problems and its proposals to eliminate such difficulties in any other location. JD & TH to report back.
6. R T Routes - Penny Noake illustrated the importance of these and gave an example to show how priorities had been set. There are 17 crucial routes bridleways and footpaths (row) but the full list is greater and does not include unclassified roads, or RT routes that are already on the map as definitive rights of way. The LAF wanted to see all RT routes put on the map clearly. Penny Noake will keep the LAF advised of progress in handling the 17 priorities, and its plans to deal with the remainder
7. Rachel Connolly advised that the former LAF chair, Tony Turner, was continuing to develop the Schools Initiative Programme and hopes to be in touch with Janet Dowling in due course.

8. Rachel Connolly expressed her concerns about NY Police re-action to the proposal for a lights-controlled crossing for walkers, cyclists & riders on the proposed Bedale / Leeming Bar by-pass - NYP are not at all keen! Members felt it was not appropriate to pursue this further at this stage but to try to ensure the LAF involvement in this type of project at an earlier stage when more flexibility would be available.

9. LTP 3 - The LAF recommends that much greater emphasis is embodied in the plan to high-light the existence of ROWs and that walking , cycling & riding should be clearly seen as desirable and worthwhile activities . This should be included under the plan heading: "Safety & Healthier Travel Objective ". To achieve our input to support this members will individually complete the LTP 3 Questionnaire on P 58 of the LAF Agenda for 20-05-2010 and forward their replies to John Taylor in good time for him to make a LAF response before the consultation dead-line of FRI 23 JULY .