

NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

THURSDAY 18th NOVEMBER 2010

ANNUAL REPORT 2009/10

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 There is a duty to produce an annual report on the business of the Local Access Forum. The draft annual report for 2009/10 is presented here.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Forum approve the draft annual report with or without amendments.

Contact Officer:
Aidan Rayner
Public Rights of Way Team Leader
01609 533077

North Yorkshire

Local Access Forum

ANNUAL REPORT 2009/2010

**NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009

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Introduction

The North Yorkshire Local Access Forum is an independent advisory body set up by North Yorkshire County Council under sections 94 & 95 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The Forum covers the area of North Yorkshire outwith the two national Parks.

Role and Responsibilities

Section 94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a statutory duty on the County Council, as highway authority, to establish a Local Access Forum. The primary purpose of the Local Access Forum is to provide advice to North Yorkshire County Council on how to make the countryside more accessible for open air recreation. Key functions include providing advice on:

- The development of access strategies, including the Rights of Way Improvement Plan;
- Improving the rights of way network; and
- The implementation, management and review of the statutory right of access to open countryside.

Membership of the Forum

During 2009/2010 membership of the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum was as follows:

Name	District	Term of office to	Interest Group
Tom Halstead	Ryedale	2012	Users
Leo Crone	Darlington	2012	
David Gibson	Craven	2011	
Rachel Connolly	Richmonshire	2010	
Paul Chapman*	Hambleton	2011	
Ian Jakulis	Hambleton	2011	
Janet Dowling	Harrogate	2012	
Hugh Spencer	Ryedale	2012	
Terry Williams*	Ryedale	2012	
Edward Dennison	Hambleton	2011	
Stephen Ramsden (Chair)*	Harrogate (AONB)	2010	
Anthony Martin	Harrogate	2011	
David Shaftoe	Harrogate	2011	Other interests
Co Cllr John Fort	Harrogate	2012	
Co.Cllr Michael Knaggs	Ryedale	2012	
Co.Cllr Robert Heseltine	Selby	2012	
John Taylor	Selby	2012	
Martin Whiles	Selby	2012	

*Left the Forum during 2009/2010

The County Council is grateful to all members of the Local Access Forum for their very valuable contribution to its work over the course of the past year.

Member Profiles

Tom Halstead

TBC

Janet Dowling

TBC

Hugh Spencer

TBC

Terry Williams

TBC

Paul Chapman

Paul lives in Topcliffe near Thirsk and works as a Project Manager for the UK's largest retailer of Canoes and Kayaks, owns a small business delivering outdoor activity courses and is the Duke of Edinburgh Award Coordinator at Ripon Youth Centre. He is a keen outdoor enthusiast enjoying mountaineering, canoeing and mountain biking and holds a range of National Governing Body qualifications from the Mountain Leader Training Board and the British Canoe Union.

Rachel Connolly

Rachel lives north of Scotch Corner and enjoys all aspects of the countryside. She walks regularly, birdwatches and dowses! As a retired access volunteer she understands the needs of landowners as well as users and is enthusiastic to make improvements in the network.

Leo Crone

Leo lives in Darlington. He is a member of the North Yorkshire County Council Rights of Way Liaison Group and sits on the North York Moors anti social behaviour group. He is a primary contact on vehicular access to the countryside with the Durham and Cleveland Police Forces. He was previously on Sports Council regional forums and the North York Moors National Park Rights of Way Committee. He aims to represent the views and aspirations of vehicle user groups and has a large network of contacts.

Edward Dennison

Edward is a farmer and landowner from Thornton-le-Beans near Northallerton, where he is a Parish Councillor. A former NFU County chairman and is knowledgeable about the countryside and wildlife He is interested in seeking a balance between protection of the environment, access and the rights of owners and occupiers.

John Fort

John Fort is North Yorkshire County Councillor for Pateley Bridge and lives at Dacre in the Nidderdale AONB. He is a retired police officer with an interest in country pursuits and is the County Council's Executive Member for community services.

David Gibson

David is a retired solicitor and justices clerk from Burton-in Lonsdale in Craven. He is a founder trustee and former Chairman of North Lancaster Victim Support, a charity working with victims of crime. He is a keen walker with an interest in history and archaeology. He is Access Officer for West Riding Ramblers Association, Footpath Officer for Craven Ramblers Association and a member of the Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum.

Ian Jakulis

TBC

Michael Knaggs

Michael is County Councillor for Malton and chairs the Ryedale Area Committee. He is a retired farm machinery salesman, former president of Malton Agricultural Show and member and former President of Malton Rugby Club. Over the years he has developed a wide range of contacts across the county and an understanding of the needs of a range of user groups.

Tony Martin

Tony has been a Parish Councillor at Follifoot with Plompton Parish Council (between Harrogate & Wetherby) for several years . He is also on Follifoot Village Hall Management Committee and is co-ordinator of the local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme . His broad interest in rural affairs is lifelong together with an active involvement in field sports . He is particularly keen to develop a greater understanding between landowners and the public wishing to access the countryside . As a result of his parish council service he wants to help forge a strong , effective , ongoing and sustainable relationship between the L A F , NYCC and the various parish councils within the county to resolve outstanding issues and generally improve access for all members of the community .

Stephen Ramsden

Stephen is a farmer and landowner from Middlesmoor in the Nidderdale AONB. He is a Parish Councillor for Upper Nidderdale and serves on a committee for Moors/Dales training for land-based industries. Living and working on the moors, he can provide the Forum with first hand knowledge of day to day countryside issues, local farming contacts and advice on how to manage an increase in visitors.

David Shaftoe

David lives in Starbeck and is Project Officer with 'Open Country', a countryside charity for people with disabilities. A keen, if inept, Morris Dancer, his other countryside interests include tandem cycling and dragging his reluctant children up hills. He is keen to see 'access for all' issues kept high on the PROW agenda.

John Taylor

John lives in Bolton Percy near Tadcaster and has spent his working life in the oil industry. He enjoys the countryside and is keen to see a balance between the needs of both land owners and those who want to share the pleasures of our landscape. He believes that it is important when encouraging access to emphasise the responsibility to protect our natural heritage.

Robert Heseltine

TBC

Martin Whiles

TBC

Meetings of the Forum

Meetings of the Forum are advertised in the local press and are open to the public, who are always made very welcome. An opportunity will be provided for any member of the public who attends to ask questions or to make a statement should they wish to do so. Wherever possible, meetings are held at locations relevant to the business under discussion.

Business of the Forum

The agenda and minutes of the quarterly meetings, and a copy of the most recent Annual Report, are available for inspection on the North Yorkshire County Council website at www.northyorks.gov.uk.

The principle agenda items at each of the regular quarterly meetings during 2009/2010 were as follows:

14th May 2009 County Hall - Northallerton

- Business of the Yorkshire & Humber Regional LAF
- Business of the England Access Forum

20th August 2009 County Hall - Northallerton

- Response to Local Transport Plan 3 consultation

29th November 2009 County Hall - Northallerton

- Consultation On Proposals To Amend The Crow Act 2000 For Coastal Land
- Consultation on the proposed Bedale & Leeming Bypass

25th February 2010, County Hall, Northallerton

- Local Development Framework priorities
- DEFRA Consultation on the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and Structures on Rights of Way
- DEFRA Consultation on the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and Structures on Rights of Way
- Sustainable Community Strategy Consultation

Forward Plan for 2010/2011

Members are asked to consider future agenda items in advance and to discuss these with the Chair prior to each meeting of the LAF. The LAF then agrees a Forward Plan at each meeting covering the following year.

20th MAY 2010 – County Hall, Northallerton
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unsurfaced Unclassified Roads• LTP3• RT Roads• PRow Maintenance update
19th AUGUST 2010 - County Hall, Northallerton
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Processes for LAF Communication• DEFRA Consultation on the Nature of England• Definitive Map update
18th NOVEMBER 2010 – County Hall, Northallerton
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual report• PRow maintenance update• Open Access Land
FEBRUARY 2011 – County Hall, Northallerton
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• TBC

Contacts

Information on the work of the Forum can be obtained from the following County Council staff:

Countryside Service Officers:

Countryside Service, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall,
Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD

Aidan Rayner Public Rights of Way Team Leader
Penny Noake Definitive Map Team Leader

e-mail: paths@northyorks.gov.uk

Local Access Forum Secretariat:

Committee Services, North Yorkshire County Council, County Hall,
Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL7 8AD

Jane Wilkinson Local Access Forum Secretary

e-mail: Committee@northyorks.gov.uk

NYCC telephone: 01609 780780
NYCC website: www.northyorks.gov.uk