

North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting held in Meeting Room 3, County Hall, Northallerton on 21 November 2012, commencing at 10.00 am.

Present:-

John Taylor in the Chair.

Les Atkinson, David Barraclough, George Bateman, Rachel Connolly, Edward Dennison, County Councillor John Fort, John Gibson, Roma Haigh, Tom Halstead, County Councillor Robert Heseltine, and Pat Whelan.

Officers:- Aidan Rayner (Waste and Countryside Services) and Jane Wilkinson (Legal and Democratic Services).

Two members of the public.

Apologies for absence were received from Tony Martin and Leo Crone.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

178. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 24 October 2012, be agreed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

179. Matters Arising

Minute Number 171 – Record of Actions

In addition to the response of the Highways Agency the Chairman agreed to obtain and circulate the written response of the County Council's Business and Environmental Services Directorate to the Forum's concerns in respect of the A1 Upgrade to Motorway, Dishforth to , North Yorkshire.

Minute Number 173 – Unsurfaced Unclassified Roads and their Future in the Rights of Way Hierachy

It was reported that the Transport, Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee had at its meeting on 7 November 2012 received the outcome of public consultation on a proposal to ascribe status to unsurfaced, unclassified roads in North Yorkshire. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee accepted the report findings that there was no public appetite to migrate towards a network based on sustainability. The policy proposal had subsequently been amended, to route management to be determined on an individual basis.. This revised UUR Management strategy and service delivery strategy would be the subject of a three month pilot scheme.

The Public Rights of Way Team Leader confirmed that Doug Huzzard was due to attend the next meeting of the Forum to update Members on the current position.

Minute Number 174 – Re-organisation of the Public Rights of Way Maintenance Team

The Public Rights of Way Team Leader confirmed that the next round of local liaison meetings was scheduled for January 2013.

Minute Number 176 – Forward Plan

Rachel Connolly referred to the disposal of open space land by Richmondshire District Council as reported at the previous meeting. Research had revealed that the purpose was to enable purchasers (Parish Councils) to access funding streams currently not available to the District Council so as to maintain the land in question. As a consequence the Forum had no concerns regarding the disposals.

180. Public Questions or Statements

There were no questions or statements from members of the public concerning issues not listed on the agenda.

Resolved-

That those members of the public present at the meeting who wish to speak on items listed on the agenda will be invited to do so during consideration of the relevant items.

181. Review of Existing Non-Motorised User Facilities Meeting or Crossing the A1 Between Leeming and Barton

Considered –

The covering report of the Public Rights of Way Team Leader inviting the Forum to submit a response to the consultation on arrangements for non-motorised users using existing public rights of way that meet or cross the A1 between Leeming Bar and Barton Interchanges. Attached to the report was a map of the 16 locations where public rights of way and non-motorised facilities met or crossed the A1.

At the previous meeting Halcrow and A1 Plus had presented to the Forum initial scheme options which included stopping up existing Public Rights of Way and discouraging the use of at grade crossings. Following that meeting Halcrow and A1 Plus had undertaken a further review of the seven kilometre section of the A1 between Leeming Bar and Barton to determine the location of all infrastructure that could be used by non motorised users together with an indication of associated usage. The results of that survey were tabled at the meeting.

In addition, a joint written statement from the British Horse Society and Cycle Touring Club was tabled at the meeting in which they strongly objected to proposals to stop up eight public rights of way.

The Chairman said that the decision to postpone the upgrade of the A1 meant that there was a small amount of money available to improve existing facilities. Whilst it seemed almost inevitable that at some point the A1 would be upgraded, which would undoubtedly include provision for non-motorised users, it was in the meantime important that the Forum responded to the current proposals.

The Chairman then adjourned the meeting for five minutes to allow Members to read the two documents that had been tabled.

The Chairman then invited Mr Terry Ratcliffe to address the Forum on behalf of the British Horse Society and Cycle Touring Club.

Mr Ratcliffe referred Members to the tabled submission from the British Horse Society and the Cycle Touring Club and summarised the reasons why both organisations were opposed to what had been proposed. Mr Ratcliffe sought the support of the Local Access Forum in opposing the proposals and approving the recommendations at the conclusion of the tabled report.

After a lengthy debate Members concluded that they needed to be realistic and that any interim improvements they sought should not be too costly. Members were opposed to existing rights being revoked as they did not believe they would be reinstated when approval was granted for the A1 to be upgraded. Instead Members favoured improvements that sought to restore the connectivity of the network and that would support dedicated non-motorised user routes parallel to the A1.

County Councillor John Fort was in favour of the County Council seeking a single combination order on the grounds of cost as opposed to multiple individual orders. The Public Rights of Way Team Leader said as there were a number of rights of way in the vicinity that would be affected and that Members should perhaps request a further report on what was feasible with the monies that were available.

The Chairman referred Members back to the outline proposals in the report and sought their response to paragraphs 4.2, 4.3 and 4.4.

Members responded as follows:-

Paragraph 4.2

- Fort Bridge (A6136 Catterick Road) was in a dangerous condition. The route was popular with horse riders and the height of the parapet needed to be raised to 1.8 metres with infill. Pat Whelan was in favour of the height of the parapet being in excess of 1.8 metres and requested that her opposition to 1.8m was recorded in the Minutes.
- A 3m path of compacted quarry waste or similar material needed to link Fort Bridge to multi-user facilities using the railway bridge
- Catterick South Interchange - height of bridge parapet to be raised to 1.8m with infill (this is not critical as per other requests).
- Manor House Farm accommodation bridge – would prefer height of parapet to be raised to 1.8m but accept that in this instance this is not critical
- Scotch Corner interchange – junction not user friendly and general layout in need of major reconfiguration. Request that the needs of non-motorised users and the need for alternative provision be considered as part of any planned improvement works. Any improvements to be bear in mind the large influx of horse drawn vehicles every May
- Kneeton Hall – The footpath is obstructed. Members supported the route being diverted to bypass a farmyard and Kneeton Hall provided the line of the diverted route followed as closely as possible the delineated line. The bridge was in need of replacement in order to avoid diverting the route through villages and to maintain the connectivity of the route to Scotch Corner.

Paragraph 4.3

Agreed that improvements were not necessary with the exception that remedial work to the Coast to Coast footpath (River Swale, southern bank) was carried out

Paragraph 4.4

Members did not support the extinguishment of the seven routes identified in paragraph 4.4 of the report and would instead prefer to see an investigation into connectivity of routes both in the short and long term using parallel routes and crossing points on the A1 that could be used by non motorised users.

The Chairman thanked everyone for their contribution and agreed to circulate a copy of the draft response to Members for comment before submitting a final response.

Resolved –

That the Chairman be authorised to draft a response on behalf of the Forum to the consultation on the arrangements for non motorised users using existing public rights of way that meet or cross the A1 between Leeming Bar and Barton interchanges based on the comments made during the meeting and recorded in the preamble to this minute.

182. Defence Infrastructure Organisation - Consultation on Indefinite Directions

Considered –

The report of the Public Rights of Way Team Leader seeking the response of the Forum to a consultation issued by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation in respect of three sites of which only one was in North Yorkshire. The consultation sought to renew existing restrictions that limited public access to sensitive sites on the grounds of public safety. A location plan showing the context of all three sites was appended to the report.

The Public Rights of Way Team Leader reported that the County Council had no objection to the proposals.

It was reported that the Ramblers Association had no objection to the proposals with regard to the site in North Yorkshire.

Members were appreciative of their views being sought and had no objections to what was being proposed.

Resolved –

- (i) That the Chairman be delegated authority to respond on behalf of the Local Access Forum to the consultations issued by the Defence Infrastructure Organisation in respect of Section 28 Indefinite Directions.
- (ii) That the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum offers no objection to the proposals on sites at Feldom Ranges, and Battle Hill Range, Catterick, and Bowes Moor.

183. A684 Bedale, Aiskew and Leeming Bypass and Side Road Orders

Considered –

The report of the Public Rights of Way Team Leader presenting to the Forum copies of the recently published side road orders. A copy of the formal notice and copies of the side road orders were appended to the report.

Members referred to discussions at previous meetings and their request for a non motorised user route on the north side of the bypass to link the under-pass on the A1 to the road to the next roundabout and asked if this had been progressed as promised.

The Public Rights of Way Team Leader replied that progression of the route was dependent upon consent of adjacent landowners being obtained and as far as he was aware this was still work in progress. The establishment of the route did not

form part of the package that was being presented to Members that day and if necessary could be secured by a creation order.

Members said if the route was not secured, the scheme failed to meet the requirements of non motorised users and discussed whether they could approve the side orders without a creation order being made.

After some debated Members agreed to request that further investigations be carried out into the request for a Bridleway in line with what had been agreed at previous meetings.

Resolved –

- (i) That the content of the report be noted.
- (ii) That an update report on the Forum's request for a Bridleway be referred to a future meeting.

184. Future Meeting Date

Resolved –

That the next meeting date of the Forum is 12 February 2013 commencing at 10.00 am at County Hall, Northallerton.

The meeting concluded at 12.45 pm.

JW/ALJ