

NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

WEDNESDAY 5th JUNE 2013

LAF PRINCIPLES

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report sets out the current LAF principles with a view to consideration of the necessity of a review.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The LAF have historically set out and maintained a list of core principles aimed at guiding its work and the advice it issues.

2.2 It is now some time since the principles were last considered and membership has changed in the meantime.

3.0 PRINCIPLES

3.1 The current list of principles is attached at Appendix 1.

3.2 Members are asked to consider whether or not the principles should be reviewed.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 It is recommended that members consider the principles and come to a view on the necessity of reviewing them.

4.2 If a review is deemed necessary it is recommended that members agree on a mechanism for the review.

Contact:

John Taylor
Chairman

Local Access Forum Principles

When considering access matters the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum works to the following principles:-

1. All rights of way should be maintained to the standard required and where appropriate upgraded physically and legally to a higher standard.
2. The Forum will work to see rights of way developed to redress the fragmentation of the network, connect communities and improve links to places of demand.
3. Any new access should be at the highest rights practicable.
4. The Forum will work to develop more access opportunities to include the widest possible range of users, especially families, children, minority groups and the less able.
5. The Forum seeks the establishment of an annual budget to fund the fulfilling of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP).
6. Whilst the creation of all access is welcomed, the Forum stresses that permissive (temporary) access does not equate with the public benefit of definitive (permanent) access.
7. The Forum wishes to raise awareness of how different users can enjoy responsible sharing of routes, whilst supporting appropriate challenges to illegal use.
8. The Forum recognises the establishment and challenges of new initiatives such as coastal access, access to water, access to woodland and dedication of land for public access.
9. The Forum supports the continuation of Best Value Performance Indicator for rights of way (BVPI 178) to measure the ease of use of rights of way in the county.