

North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting held in Meeting Room 3, County Hall, Northallerton on 12 February 2013, commencing at 10.00 am.

Present:-

John Taylor in the Chair.

David Barraclough, Rachel Connolly, Leo Crone, Edward Dennison, County Councillor John Fort, David Gibson, John Gibson, Roma Haigh, Tom Halstead, County Councillors Robert Heseltine, and David Jeffels, Tony Martin and Pat Whelan.

Officers:- Aidan Rayner and Penny Noake (NYCC Waste and Countryside Services) Doug Huzzard (NYCC Highways) and Jane Wilkinson (Legal and Democratic Services).

Apologies for absence were received from Alan Littlewood.

In attendance one member of the public.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

185. Minutes

Resolved –

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2012, be agreed as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman subject to the inclusion of David Gibson being added to the list of those present at the meeting.

186. Matters Arising

There were none.

187. Public Questions or Statements

The clerk indicated that Mr Michael Bartholomew, Chairman of the Green Lanes Alliance had given notice of his intention to speak at the meeting. The Green Lanes Alliance Group was campaigning to exclude recreational motor vehicles from so called "green lanes".

Mr Bartholomew addressed the meeting. He tabled a sketch map of a track between Middlesmoor in Nidderdale and Arkleside in Coverdale via Scar House. Part of the route was known as Deadman's Hill. Mr Bartholomew said he was concerned about the future management of the route. Part of the route (Deadman's Hill) was subject to a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order (TTRO) that prohibited the use of mechanically propelled vehicles. The TTRO was due to expire in August 2013. It was his strongly held view that motor vehicles should be excluded from the whole of the route and not just part. The route was out of repair and in any event was not capable of sustaining regular use by motor vehicles.

Mr Bartholomew argued that the use of motor vehicles in a protected landscape was wrong. He referred Members to the reverse of the sketch map he had tabled which

listed the conditions that had to be met if a TRO was to be made. He contended that all six reasons listed had been met with regard to the route in question. Mr Bartholomew urged the Forum to recommend to the County Council that a permanent TRO was made on the whole of the route with effect from August 2013 when the current temporary TRO was due to expire.

In response Doug Huzzard said that the documented position of the County Council was that the Temporary TRO was necessary in order to undertake various maintenance works which included drainage and 'surface' improvement works. Those works were scheduled for completion, subject to weather conditions over the course of the next few months and would overlap the current and next financial year. The route would then be re-opened to motor vehicles and the volume of traffic closely monitored. Only then would a decision about the future management of the route be taken.

Leo Crone asked whether the County Council had considered a seasonal ban to prohibit motor vehicles from using the route during the winter. He said that the presence of a nearby commercial operator, who used convoys of vehicles on the route made it highly unlikely that it would be capable of sustaining anticipated vehicle numbers. He also suggested the use of a weight limit as another means of mitigating damage.

After some debate the majority of Forum Members supported the County Council's approach.

The Forum was advised that post August 2013 vehicle loggers would be used to monitor number of vehicles using the route. PRoW Volunteers would also carry out routine inspections and alert the County Council to any accelerated damage.

It was pointed out that the section of the route known as Moor Lane was also in poor condition and Members sought confirmation of the status of the entire route. The Forum was advised that the northern section which included Deadman's Hill was an Unsurfaced, Unclassified Road whilst the southern section effectively Moor Lane to Middlesmoor was a Bridleway. With regard to the southern section a Definitive Map Modification Order had been lodged to have it upgraded to a Byway Open To All Traffic.

Tom Halstead said the route should be managed holistically and that he was sceptical it could be made sustainable. He supported a total ban of all motor vehicles on the route and asked that this be recorded in the Minutes.

The Chairman said it was clearly an emotive subject and that the Forum would watch with interest what happened during the summer. The Forum's Principles supported the retention of the highest level of rights on all routes and in view of the discussion that day perhaps there was a need for them to be reviewed.

In response to questions, Doug Huzzard advised on the question of whether or not the County Council would seek an extension of the TTRO, in the first instance that no it would not but he also confirmed that in the event of the County Council making such a request that it would in all probability be declined by the Secretary of State.

Members requested an update report be added to the Forum's future work programme. After some discussion it was agreed that it would be appropriate for the report to be referred to the November meeting as this would allow the Forum to be presented with the results of vehicle monitoring.

The Chairman thanked Mr Bartholmew for bringing the matter to the attention of the Forum and invited him to attend the November meeting.

Resolved –

That an update report on the management of the route between Middlesmoor in Nidderdale and Arkleside, Coverdale in particular Deadman's Hill be referred to the November meeting of the Forum.

188. Record of Actions

Considered –

The report of the Chairman listing actions completed by him on behalf of the Forum following the meeting of the Forum held in November 2012.

The Chairman announced that he had received an invite to attend the Highway Agency's public exhibition at Catterick on 15/17 February on the A1 Leeming–Barton Improvement. The Chairman said that he planned to attend and hoped that other Members of the Forum would be able to do so as well. It was agreed that any comments Members may have after attending the exhibition were forwarded to the Chairman who would then draft a formal response.

NOTED

189. Unsurfaced, Unclassified Roads

Considered –

The report of Doug Huzzard, NYCC Highways Asset Manager informing the Forum of the response to consultation on the County Council's proposals for a "Policy on the Use and Management of routes currently recorded as Unsurfaced Unclassified Roads in North Yorkshire".

Also included in the report was an amended management and maintenance proposal involving the PRow service and a transfer of maintenance and management arrangements for urban PRow.

The meeting was attended by Doug Huzzard who said that there were approximately a thousand UUR routes in North Yorkshire making it the biggest UUR network in the UK. Approximately 350 of those routes were registered on either the List of Streets or the Definitive Map. He described the proposals for future maintenance and management of routes and explained why Area 3 had been chosen to pilot the process.

For clarification Members were advised that it was a statutory requirement for the County Council to produce a List of Streets which were highways maintainable at public expense. However the legislation was not prescriptive about its content which meant there was significant variation between different highway authorities. What was clear was that the List of Streets did not define the status of any route it included.

Leo Crone referred to the proposed sub-categories for UURs in paragraph 5.1 of the report and said that as a motorised user himself and on behalf of motorised user groups suggested that as a means of avoiding unnecessary confrontation between user groups vehicle rights on routes within sub-categories "e,f,g & h" be suspended until evidence to the contrary was produced as these routes were of little or no

interest to motorised users. This suggestion also had the benefit of enabling the County Council to focus its maintenance liability on frequently used routes.

Doug Huzzard replied saying that in order to carry out his suggestion a separate legal application for each route would have to be instigated that would be the subject of consultation. This would be both time consuming and expensive. The Chairman pointed out that the County Council already had a substantial backlog of DMMOs applications waiting to be processed.

Members debated at length the suggestion put forward by Leo Crone. During the debate conflicting views were expressed. Members finally agreed to await the outcome of monitoring of the pilot in Area 3 before making a final decision.

Resolved –

That a further report be referred to the November meeting.

190. Access to Open Access Land

Considered –

The progress report of Aidan Rayner, Public Rights of Way Team Leader briefing the Forum on issues surrounding the accessibility of Open Access land within North Yorkshire.

The report quoted a total figure of 1.5Ha of land that was difficult to access. It was pointed out that this figure was incorrect. Whilst this was acknowledged Aidan Rayner said that the scale of the problem in North Yorkshire remained small. The land in question comprised of mainly small parcels and fell broadly into two distinct types namely:-

- Moorland where access was not completely “land-locked” and
- The Wolds where parcels of land in the bottom of the valleys were “landlocked”

The Forum supported the proposal that a small work programme be undertaken in 2013/14 to assess feasibility and take forward access improvements to priority areas of Open Access Land.

Officers said they were unable to state with any certainty the number of parcels of land that were affected. Defra had initially attempted to collect this data on a national basis but this work had now stalled and was unlikely to be progressed in the immediate future.

Members welcomed the commencement of the work outlined in the report and requested that an update report be added to the Forum’s future work programme

Resolved –

That a progress report on Access To Open Access Land be referred to the November meeting.

191. Public Path Order and Definitive Map Modification Order Applications Update

Considered –

The report of the Definitive Map Team Leader, briefing Members on progress processing Definitive Map Modification Order and Public Path Order applications since February 2012. Attached to the report were a number of schedules containing details of the applications referred to in the report.

The report was presented by Penny Noake who said that in total 36 applications had been fully completed. Output levels had been affected as a result of the departure of two members of staff. A replacement to one of the vacancies had been appointed and was due to start work on 11 March 2013. With regard to the other vacancy, the dissolution of the agency agreement with the Yorkshire Dales National Park meant that a member of their staff would transfer to the County Council under TUPE regulations. The number of new applications had fallen to 22 and Members commented that the anticipated increase in DMMO activity expected to arise following introduction of the 2026 cut-off date in the CROW Act was not evident.

A detailed explanation of use of linestyles arising from the Folkton bridleway application was given to Members. As a result of advice issued by the Secretary of State Members were assured that steps had been taken to ensure that all future applications would comply with the Regulations.

Members sought clarification of the status of the application for Moor Lane, Middlesmoor the subject of discussion earlier in the meeting. Members were advised that the route was a bridleway and an application for the route to be a BOAT had been received before the cut-off date imposed by the NERC Act. An Order had been made and was at confirmation stage.

In response to enquiries from Members the Forum was advised that work recording RT routes was on-going but that as it was not a priority progress had been slow.

Resolved –

That the content of the report and the information provided at the meeting be noted.

192. Forward Plan

Considered –

A report setting out possible future agenda items.

The following items were added to the agenda of future meetings:-

5 June 2013

Review of the Forum's Principles

20 November 2013

Access To Open Access Land

Deadmans Hill

Unsurfaced, Unclassified Roads

It was pointed that changes to the Environmental Stewardship Scheme meant that grant monies previously awarded to landowners to establish permissive routes had now been withdrawn. The Public Rights of Way Team Leader suggested that Philip Robinson from Natural England be invited to attend the June meeting to explain the background to these changes. Members supported his suggestion.

Rachel Connolly reported that Richmondshire District Council had recently published its Core Strategy document. The Core Strategy had been the subject of public

consultation. Unfortunately the district council was not legally obliged to consult the Forum even though Local Access Forums had statutory powers that enabled them to provide Section 94(4) bodies that included local authorities with advice. Rachel Connolly was disappointed that the Forum had missed the opportunity to comment on the Core Strategy. In order to prevent similar occurrences in the future she suggested that the Forum renew its relationship with local Section 94(4) bodies. She also sought the support of the Forum to write to Richmondshire District Council to offer site specific comments on its Core Strategy.

The Chairman invited Rachel Connolly to send him her comments on Richmondshire District Council's Core Strategy document which he would incorporate into a letter and send on behalf of the Forum.

A discussion took place in respect of Local Access Forum Members' involvement in the "Huddle".

Resolved –

That the content of the Forward Plan be noted and approved and the suggestions made during the meeting and recorded in the Minutes are added.

193. Date of Next Meeting

Resolved –

That the next meeting date of the Forum is 5 June 2013 commencing at 10.00 am at County Hall, Northallerton.

The meeting concluded at 12.50 pm.

JW/ALJ



North York Moors

Local Access Forum

North York Moors National Park Authority, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate,
Helmsley, York, YO62 5BP

Public Minutes of the meeting held at The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on Tuesday 4 December 2012.

Present: Mr S Borman, Mrs C Cook, Mrs C Cussons, Mrs J King, Lady E Kirk, Mrs M Mitchell, Mr P Hay, Ms A Peacock

Apologies: Mr G Dawson, Mr S Scoffin, Mr B Briggs, Mr G Winn Darley.

Officers in Attendance: R Gunton (Director of Park Services), K Gerhardsen (Head of Recreation and Access), M Hodgson (National Trails Officer), C McLees (Head of Promotion and Tourism), J McLinden (Administration Assistant).

Copies of All Documents Considered are in the Minute Book

34/12 Election of Chairman

Resolved:

That Catriona Cook be elected Chair of the Local Access Forum, to take office until the next Annual General Meeting of the Local Access Forum.

35/12 Election of Deputy Chairman

Resolved:

That Muriel Mitchell be elected Deputy Chair of the Local Access Forum, to take office until the next Annual General Meeting of the Local Access Forum.

36/12 Minutes

- Mrs Catriona Cook noted she was not at the last meeting.

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 11 September 2012 having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

37/12 Matters Arising

- **Paths for Communities – Dalby Beck.**

Resolved:

Defra is advising that express dedication at common law may be a useful means of securing new public rights of way.

38/12 Topics for Discussion

RHG updated the meeting as follows:

- The format for this meeting is slightly different than usual. The role of the Forum is to provide advice on key issues relating to access. It is hoped that by asking direct questions relating to key issues and having a facilitated discussion on each question would assist the Forum in providing clear and focussed advice. Officers would like feedback as to whether this is a good way of working.
- Several LAF members attended the Authority's new Awareness, Recreation and Business forum meeting. Feedback has been positive with good discussion and points emerging for future work.

39/12 How can we best measure our performance on managing rights of way?

A PowerPoint presentation was given by K Gerhardsen, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

Members made comments or asked questions as follows:

- Acknowledgement that Rights of Way management remains a statutory duty but that surveying in May and November misses vegetation obstructions particularly bracken.
Why not change our inspections to April and August?
- The national method developed for eastern England would not work for this national park as the landscapes are entirely different. Management of people's expectation is important – we need to direct users to the right path for them and educate people in map reading and navigation skills.
- Most people walk on green lines, (not dots) so if it's not a green line on an OS map it's irrelevant. Reports which highlight problems are important. Trip Advisor or something similar could be used to capture online recommendations where people have had a good experience using paths.
- Monitoring of public rights of way important, but open access land less so.
- Why not offer the quarterly report to not just to the Cleveland Ramblers but also to cyclists, horse-riders and southern area Ramblers.
- How about advertising in the Press and encouraging those groups who use the national park to report back on state of paths twice a year? Feedback would be both negative and positive. It would be good to gain feedback from a wide range of people including regular visitors and residents. Norfolk CC is developing a mobile app which helps with this. Survey monkeys could also be used for returns for Moors Messenger, instead of five year face to face public perception survey.

- When recording data, we should place more emphasis on public perception of the quality of the rights of way resource i.e. we should be more interested in the experience, thoughts and feelings of users rather than the scientific survey of paths.
- An annual path perception all user survey could be conducted and the physical path condition survey conducted once in every three years.

40/12 **How can we ensure that any growth in the number of visitors to the North York Moors is sustainable?**

The National Park Management Plan contains an aspiration to increase the number of visitor days spent in the National Park. What are the most effective ways of ensuring that this does not have an adverse impact on the National Park's special qualities?

A brief introduction to the topic was given by C McLees.

Members made comments or asked questions as follows:

- An increase in number of walkers, cyclists etc, in winter could have an adverse impact on Rights of Way and so important to get Rights of Way management right.
- Some impact from an increase in visitor numbers is unavoidable. Finding an acceptable level of impact is crucial.
- Focus on honeypots as arrival points and concentrate on management of these.
- Educate families on using the National Park e.g. Success of the Coast Alive National Trail Tracker Packs. Spread the use of these to other areas, especially the southern parts of the National Park e.g. Hackness.
- Provide a weather forecast on the National Park website but not necessarily the Metrological Office. Mountain Weather Information Service (MWIS) is more accurate (but doesn't cover the North York Moors). Weather Forecast for UK – www.yr.no also a good site.
- We need to be better at promoting the National Park on a national level.
- The sustainability assessment in the recreation strategy is still relevant and worth considering again.
- There will be some visitors who are seeking a quiet and remote experience. We need to tell them where they can get this.
- Following on from interest generated in the Olympics we should promote cycling and horse riding for beginners.
- Consideration given to new audiences e.g. families with babies. Off road buggies which go over bumps and through mud are available.
- Be mindful not to lose focus on those visitors who have less money and who are not in high spend brackets.

41/12 **What does the introduction of Coastal Access mean for the North York Moors?**

A powerpoint presentation was given by M Hodgson, a copy of which appears in the minute book.

Members made comments or asked questions as follows:

- Any negative impacts of access on spreading room could be minimised through the way the vegetation itself was managed.
- Concern voiced over loss of Common Law rights of horse riders to use beaches due to access denial under Coastal Access. Recommendation that a record is made of all beaches along the Coast where horse riders currently enjoy Common Law Access.
- Potential for higher rights to be developed along the coast path at Scalby end where there are greater widths.
- Coastal Access should not lead to more coastal fencing as there would not be a great deal of inland spreading room. There should be resistance to more fencing and unnecessary signing where not needed.
- Recognition of the importance of not damaging wildlife sites was noted. To date there are no recommendations for exclusions as a result of potential damage to wildlife sites. This is based upon the stretches for which Natural England have draft proposals at Durham, Cumbria, Norfolk and Weymouth.
- Believed that there would be a negative impact on landowners due to the lack of availability of compensation. Not all landowners are expected to have issues with Coastal access given that most will be following the existing Cleveland way. Opportunities for mitigation may exist through the provision of gates etc.
- Education of users should also be an important tool in combatting any negative impacts.
- Commercial opportunities should be taken wherever possible such as caravan sites.
- Given access rights already in place, there would not be a huge impact on residents. Where such rights do not exist e.g. in areas such as the area south of Filey, impact would be greater.

42/12 **Huddle**

Discussion took place and members' questions and comments were as follows:

- Are there any higher rights opportunities in National Nature Reserves such as Forge Valley?
- Are there other national nature reserves across the National Park?
- Consultation exercise with Natural England – Can we dedicate rights?

43/12 **Paths for Communities (Catriona Cook)**

The Chair updated members on scheme and following comments were noted:

- No bridleway network because of express trails route. National British Horse riding Society told bridleway groups that they will provide up-front funding which is helpful.
- Guisborough group talking with Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council about better links there and landowners may be receptive.
- An expression of interest has been made by Forestry Commission for a route at Dalby Beck, Ellerburn. There are concerns regarding the project because of potentially high costs of future maintenance being the responsibility of the NPA as managers of the Rights of Way network.

44/12 **Report back from the National Park Authority**

The Director of Park Services updated Members as follows:

- **60th Anniversary Celebrations**
Momentous week as the National Park celebrated its 60th Anniversary. Part of celebrations included music and storytelling events for children at the Moors Centre. The level of understanding of the moorland experience was impressive and celebrated young people's talent.
- **National Park Management Plan**
This has just been launched. A summary is available which highlights key policies and the full plan is available on the website. A full plan will be arranged for LAF members. Thank you for individual and forum contributions. The plan focuses on what benefits a wider society and is readable and beautifully presented. People are being asked to support it by signing up via Facebook, Twitter or email.
- **Ash Die Back**
This disease has not yet been confirmed in the National Park though there are some confirmed cases in the near vicinity. Advice for the public is on the Forestry Commission website.
- **York Potash**
A detailed plan of the proposed pipeline is now in, whilst the planning application for the mine itself is yet to be submitted. The process will include an assessment of potential impacts on tourism and enjoyment of the National Park, but we need to wait for clarity of application before we can assess and propose ways of overcoming impacts. Any thoughts are gratefully received and LAF will be kept informed of the progression of the application.
- **Awards**
The National Park Visitor Centres have won the Yorkshire White Rose awards. Highly ranked in the region and voted fifth best facility of its kind in the country. High praise also for the apprenticeship scheme which falls within the top 100 in the country. We have been named best employer in the region for apprentices.

Resolved:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That Forum Members commented regarding the matters set out in the report.

45/12 **Items for Future Meetings**

- Removal of barriers to access.
- Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 11 June 2013.

DRAFT

46/12 Other Business

The Chairman ruled that the following items should be considered:

- a) Members could be updated on the Buddy System – One day's instruction from NP staff is not enough for Members to talk about Rights of Way issues.
- b) Offer the opportunity to spend one day at least with a Ranger or Rights of Way team.
- c) Paper copies are available of 'Making Ways for Horses'.
- d) Adopting single status for bridleways is not popular with everyone. Right of responsible access – One of forty different proposals. Needs a response from the Local Access Forum. Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Upgrading of Landrover Tracks to bridleways. Not radical, relatively painless and little cost involved.
- e) Encouragement of new members to join the forum including those with interests in Mountain Bikes, Game Keeping, Land Management and Forestry Commission. The Forum is intended to consist of seven people with an access user interest, seven with a land management interest, six people with a wider (health, education, community, etc) interest and one National Park Authority member. There are currently four vacancies which will be advertised.



Annual General Meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum
Held on Tuesday 26 February 2013
Yoredale, Bainbridge

Present: Jon Beavan (JB), Andrew Colley (AC), David Gibson (DG), Neil Heseltine (NH), Kevin Lancaster (KL), Alex Law (AL), Jocelyn Manners-Armstrong (JMA), Ken Miller (KM), Stuart Monk (SM), Jerry Pearlman (JP), John Richardson (JR), Jonathan Smith (JS), Sara Spillett (SS), Heather Thomas-Smith (HTS), Alistair Thompson (AT), Nick Thwaite (NT), Pat Whelan (PWh), Phillip Woodyer (PW).

YDNPA Officers present: Alan Hulme (AH), Rachel Briggs (RB) – LAF Secretary, Julie Barker (JMB), Mark Allum (MA), Ann Williams (AW), Cathy Bradley (CB).

Natural England Officers present: Chris Pope (CP)

The meeting started at 1.15pm.

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

JMB began the meeting by explaining the process for the election of a Chair.

KM proposed PW. No further nominations were received.

PW was elected as Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum for a year.

2. Election of Vice Chair

PW asked for nominations for Vice Chair.

JR nominated DG. No further nominations were received.

DG was elected as Vice Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum for a year.

3. Welcome

PW welcomed Nick Thwaite (NT), Kevin Lancaster (KL) and Jonathan Smith (JS) to the meeting, as new members of the YDAF. He also welcomed Chris Pope from Natural England.

Everyone round the table introduced themselves for the benefit of the new members.

4. Apologies

There were no apologies.

5. Approval of Minutes

Page 4: JP asked for the minutes to be changed to read 'JP asked for this point to be clarified as he felt that the fence could be removed after a set period of time for access purposes'.

Page 4: AL explained that the Forestry Commission checklist for applicants has an option for the applicant to keep 20% clear. This isn't compulsory.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record of the meeting.

6. Public Question Time

There were no public questions.

7. Future Forum Meetings

Dates of meetings

The next meeting of the YDAF will be on 18 June 2013

Future Agenda Items

Suggested future agenda items put forward by members include:

- Results from the Stepping Forward report.
- Definitive map for North Yorkshire – October meeting.

8. Review of nominated LAF members on groups linked to the Forum

PW went through each of the groups listed in the report and the YDAF reviewed the representatives for each group in turn.

Access on Foot Advisory Group

Members kept the current membership of NH, HTS and AT representing the YDAF on the Access on Foot Advisory Group.

Access for All Advisory Group

SS expressed an interest in the work of the Access for All Advisory Group and it was agreed that her input would be useful.

PW, AC, PWh and SS to represent the YDAF on the Access for All Advisory Group.

Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group

HTS asked to be removed from the membership of the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group.

KM, PWh, and AL to represent the YDAF on the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group.

Air Sports Advisory Group

There was some discussion as to whether the Air Sports Advisory Group should continue since they have only met once. It was agreed to keep the group going to meet as and when an issue arises.

Members kept the current membership of SS and JB representing the YDAF on the Air Sports Advisory Group.

Water Sports Advisory Group

KM suggested this group meet again considering the recent floods and canoeing accidents. MA said that it was not the YDNPA's role to deal with accidents on rivers.

JB advised keeping the group as it is and meeting if and when an issue arises that can be dealt with by the group. All agreed that this was a sensible approach.

JMB suggested having someone come to a future YDAF meeting to give a presentation on water sports.

Members kept the current membership AC and PW representing the YDAF on the Water Sports Advisory Group.

Caves and Crag Access Advisory Group

JB suggested broadening the interest of the group to include more caving and mine exploration.

SS questioned whether or not the group needed to meet once a year and wondered if meeting when required would be sufficient. MA said that he would prefer to keep the current meeting arrangement.

Members kept the current membership of SS and JB representing the YDAF on the Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group.

Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group

JR expressed an interest in joining the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group. However, it was explained that the membership is currently very balanced and until a vacancy arises, there was no scope for new members.

Members kept the current membership of PWh, JB, KM and DG to represent the YDAF on the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group, as well as their individual interests.

Dales Tourism Steering Group

JMB explained the remit and membership of the Dales Tourism Steering Group to members. JS expressed an interest in the group and agreed to attend on behalf of the YDAF.

JS to represent the YDAF on the Dales Tourism Steering Group.

9. Report back from the Yorkshire Dales Advisory Groups

Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group

SS presented the minutes of the Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group.

Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group

JP asked about item 4 of the minutes which was a revision of the Green Lanes Management Framework. MA said this work had been carried out and that a link to the document would be circulated to members.

RB to circulate a link to the revised Green Lanes Management Framework document to members.

JP enquired about the North Yorkshire County Councils' (NYCC) policy on the management of unsurfaced unclassified roads (UUR). DG said that a feedback report had been produced and that it had been to the North Yorkshire LAF. RB said she would circulate the document to members.

RB to circulate the NYCC document on the management of UURs.

10. Dedication of National Nature Reserves

Chris Pope (CP), lead Adviser from Natural England (NE), gave a very informative presentation on the dedication of National Nature Reserves (NNR) by Natural England, and in particular the three within the Yorkshire Dales National Park:

Scoska Wood

CP said that the NE assessment showed that patterns of use were not expected to change with the dedication.

JB asked whether higher rights had been considered for caving. JP said that caving was not considered to be higher rights as it was access on foot. MA agreed with this and added that it would be the removal of a restriction. CP said that caving had not been considered but that all comments would be taken back to NE.

DG asked about the access to the access land and whether there was provision along the proposed dedicated area (south west boundary) to allow users access to the existing Open Access land.

AH also stated that the Authority had raised this point during consultations on the proposed designation of Scoska Wood as Open Access land.

AC asked if there would be sufficient on site signage. CP said that it would depend on each individual site manager and the remaining budget.

Ling Gill

CP said that the NE assessment showed that patterns of use were not expected to change with the dedication.

JB informed CP of a popular caving trip which comes out in Ling Gill and which may increase in popularity with the dedication. SS agreed with this.

Ingleborough Reserve

CP said that the dedication was only on a small area of the Ingleborough reserve not already in open access and that the NE assessment showed that patterns of use were not expected to change with the dedication.

JB said that the area is very popular for caving and pot holing and thought that this activity would increase. He also asked if NE could look at the current permit requirement for caving on the reserve (from NE).

DG asked if the dedications were subject to any bylaws. CP said that there are no bylaws.

AC asked AH if the YDNPA had any concerns with the increased usage of any of these areas. AH had been consulted and agreed there wouldn't be any issues apart from a slight increase in use at the Ingleborough reserve.

AC asked about the effect on ground nesting birds. CP said this would be considered in the management of the reserve by the reserve manager.

PW thanked CP for her presentation.

11. Yorkshire Dales Management Plan

Ann Williams (AW), PA to the Director of Conservation and Community, gave a well informed presentation on the Yorkshire Dales Management Plan, which was well received.

KM had a question with regards to the objective 'Maintaining 90% of public rights of way so they are easy to use'. AW explained that this objective had since changed to incorporate national trails and regional routes. AH said that the objective was based on an 'ease of use' survey and that he could present the methodology to the next meeting of the YDAF. Member agreed this was a good idea.

AH to give a presentation on the 'ease of use' survey at next meeting of the YDAF
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AW was thanked for her presentation.

12. Review of Open Access information

Cathy Bradley (CB), Access Technician, presented the paper to members and asked for comments.

AT asked if there had been any consideration to changing the negative access symbol. CB explained that there wasn't enough money in the budget to change the symbol. AH added that they are only used where they are really necessary.

JB said he agreed with the proposals set out in the paper. However, he felt that the text on the boards which were scheduled for removal was still relevant and wondered if the text could be printed out on A3 and given to local tourist information centres/cafes e.g. the Ingleton Community Centre. DG supported this idea and added that he would wish to see the boards replaced if the budget is ever increased.

CB was thanked for her report.

13. Cumbria Countryside Access Strategy

RB presented the draft document 'Strategic Framework for Management and Improvement of Countryside Access and Recreation in Cumbria and the Lake District' to members and asked for comments.

HTS felt that 'getting there' was missing from the document i.e. transport as well as car parking.

RB thanked members for their comments.

14. Secretary's report

RB presented a report of items for Members' consideration and information. These were:

- Authority Meeting Dates and Venues.
- Yorkshire Dales Access Forum membership.
 - RB welcomed the two new members as well as SM, KM and NH who had been reappointed for a further three years. Unfortunately, Michael Stephenson was not successful in his application to continue on the YDAF. He has been thanked for his input on behalf of the YDAF and the YDNPA.
- Meeting of the Yorkshire and Humberside Regional LAF.
 - RB asked for two members to attend the meeting in Leeds on 2 March. DG and JR agreed to represent the YDAF.
- National Conference for LAFs.
- Proposed extensions to the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks.
 - RB said that an invite had arrived for a representative of the YDAF to attend a seminar on the boundary review. She added that officers from the YDNPA would be attending. JB thought that it was only necessary for a member of the YDAF to attend if LAF members were attending from Cumbria and the Lake District. PW added that he could attend if necessary.

RB to find out if LAF members from Cumbria and the Lake District were planning on attending the boundary review seminar.

- North Yorkshire County Council's policy on Unsurfaced, Unclassified Roads.
- North Yorkshire Wildfire Report.
- Tour de France.
- Cycling funding.
 - MA informed members that the £12m funding, from the Department for Transport, available to National Parks for cycle improvements was only for three projects and that 30% of match funding was required. He added that the deadline was the end of April and that he would keep members informed.
- Cam Woodland
 - AH gave a presentation to members on the Cam Woodland planning application and how members came to the decision to approve the application.

JB thought there would, potentially, be a large amount of recreational conflict and asked whether there would be a register of complaints and what the YDNPA will do if any conflict can't be resolved. AH said that complaints will be managed by the YDNPA complaints procedure and that the Authority would have to look at how recreation is managed if the impact is too big. JB expressed concern that comments from the YDAF were not listed within the planning report that went to Planning Committee. As a statutory body to advise the YDNPA on access issues, members felt that they should have been consulted directly and that their comments should have been noted. RB explained that LAFs are not statutory consultees on planning applications and so the YDAF were therefore not listed in the official comments list within the report. However, member's comments were noted. JP felt this was not

adequate and asked that PW call a meeting with the Chief Executive of the YDNPA to look at how they can be consulted on various matter in the future.

RB to arrange a meeting between PW and David Butterworth to discuss how the YDAF are consulted.

15. Update on members activities

DG asked members to respond to consultations when they are sent round between meetings. A simple email to say that members agree/disagree with the proposal would be enough.

JR is now on Huddle.

The meeting closed at 4.40pm

NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

WEDNESDAY 5th JUNE 2013

RECORD OF ACTIONS

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 This report contains a record of those actions completed following the November meeting of the Forum.

2.0 ACTIONS COMPLETED

- 2.1 Consultation meetings undertaken with the Highways Agency on the Leeming to Barton A1 upgrade
- 2.2 A1 Upgrade to Motorway Dishforth To Leeming, North Yorkshire – Non Motorised Users Provision. Chair passed concerns expressed by LAF to David Bowe. These comments were forwarded to the Highway Agency and its response is still awaited.

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

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

Contact:

John Taylor
Chairman

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.

NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

WEDNESDAY 5th JUNE 2013

HIGH SPEED 2

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report sets out the likely impact of the High Speed 2 (HS2) rail project on rights of way and access in North Yorkshire.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.2 High Speed 2 (HS2) is a project which will create a new high speed rail link between London and Birmingham and between Birmingham and both Leeds and Manchester.

2.1 The preferred HS2 route was recently published allowing an assessment of likely impacts on the rights of way network to be undertaken.

3.0 IMPACTS

3.1 The preferred section of route to Leeds will connect back into the existing rail network between Leeds and York, meaning that a small part of North Yorkshire will be impacted.

3.2 The route will cross the parishes of Huddleston with Newthorpe, Barkston Ash and Sherburn in Elmet within Selby District.

3.3 Within those parishes one length of public footpath (35.4/5/2) and one length of Unsurfaced Unclassified Road (U866/2/70) will be impacted and there will be a requirement to divert the section of public footpath.

3.4 Overall the impact on the rights of way network is very small.

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

4.1 It is recommended that members receive this report for information.

Contact:

Aidan Rayner
PRoW Team Leader
01609 533077

NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

WEDNESDAY 5TH JUNE 2013

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY MAINTENANCE UPDATE

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on maintenance work undertaken in the 2012/13 financial year.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report covers the period 1 April 2012 to 31 March 2013.

3.0 FIGURES

- 3.1 The Following table shows the number of issues handled:

	Issues Logged	Issues Resolved
Total	2812	2636

- 3.2 The figures represent an increased in backlog over the year of 176 issues, the total number of outstanding issues at 22nd May 2013 is 9021. The total number of issues resolved was lower than in previous years as a result of restructuring the team within the year and long term absence of staff.

- 3.3 Work within particular workstreams has continued and is detailed below:

4.0 BRIDGES

- 4.1 In addition to 29 repairs, the following bridges were replaced:

Asset No.	Path Status	District	Parish	Grid Ref
10.76/7960	BW	Hambleton	Kepwick	44563 49111
10.70/631	FP	Hambleton	Husthwaite	45099 47269
10.103/519	FP	Hambleton	Newburgh	45456 47683
15.7/7569	FP	Harrogate	Azerley	42680 47325
05.8/1506	FP	Craven	Broughton	39155 45187
15.29/7036	FP	Harrogate	Dacre	42045 46006
10.102/7947	FP	Hambleton	Nether Silton	44510 49128
25.40/4307	FP	Ryedale	Gilling East	45889 47700
20.62/6974	FP	Richmondshire	St. Martins	41822 49969
15.130/9429	FP	Harrogate	Thornthwaite	41789 45905
15.9/253	FP	Harrogate	Bewerley	41534 46430

4.2 The following bridges are scheduled for replacement in 2013/14:

Asset No.		District	Parish	Grid Ref
05.25/3290	FP	Craven	Hellifield	38527 45634
10.13/6807	FP	Hambleton	Birdforth	44830 47484
10.014/7029	BW	Hambleton	Birkby	42621 46241
10.19/8035	FP	Hambleton	Brompton	43876 49743
10.118/4189	FP	Hambleton	Potto	44753 50535
30301	FP	Hambleton	Romanby	43897 49217
10.175/19/1	FP	Hambleton	Yearsley	45630 47370
10.176/812	FP	Hambleton	Youlton	44970 46370
15.6/243	FP	Harrogate	Askwith	41795 45229
15.22/277	FP	Harrogate	Clint	42621 46241
15.22/275	FP	Harrogate	Clint cum Hamlets	42701 46219
15.50/307	FP	Harrogate	Great Timble	41787 45258
15.89/3225	FP	Harrogate	Masham	42240 48200
10452	FP	Harrogate	Stean	41026 47298
15.122/8967	FP	Harrogate	Stockeld	43799 45052
15.130/045	FP	Harrogate	Thornthwaite with Padsid	41789 45905
15.50/5251	FP	Harrogate	Timble	41746 45403
20.016/1064	FP	Richmondshire	Constable Burton	41750 49057
20.44/6625	FP	Richmondshire	Thorndale	42117 50797
25.49/4101	FP	Ryedale	Hovingham	46765 47736
25.50/791	FP	Ryedale	Howsham	47372 46128

5.0 PLOUGHING AND CROPPING

- 5.1 The process of bi annual surveys continues into its sixth year. Volunteers continue to undertake the initial survey with follow up by Rangers where failures are identified.
- 5.2 Following the dire weather conditions experienced in late Autumn and through winter, the November survey was postponed and was completed in March. A number of routes were added to the programme and the breakdown by district follows:

District	No. Routes Surveyed	Pass	Fail	Pass Rate (%)
Craven	2	1	1	50
Harrogate	49	17	32	35
Hambleton	91	11	80	12
Selby	73	29	44	40
Richmond	43	11	32	26
Ryedale	65	14	51	22
Scarborough	5	0	5	0

5.3 Landowners for those routes which failed have been written to and required to reinstate the routes to an acceptable standard, follow up inspections will be undertaken to ensure compliance before the end of June.

5.4 The poor reinstatement rates are attributed to the earlier than usual survey (the survey at this time of year is historically carried out in April/May) and adverse ground conditions leading to a later cropping cycle.

6.0 PROJECTS

6.1 A number of significant projects were also completed during the year.

6.2 Working in partnership with Highways Asset management the rights of way team took the lead in carrying out initial repairs to the Unsurfaced Unclassified Road over Dead Man's Hill in Nidderdale.

6.3 Working with volunteers the Centenary Way promoted route guide has been rewritten and will be relaunched shortly, it is hoped this will bring the same economic benefits to the Ryedale & Scarborough areas as seen in Nidderdale following the launch of the 6 Dales Trail.

6.3 In pursuance of meeting our statutory duty to signpost all routes from the roadside, a further 302 signposts were installed.

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 This work contributes to the enjoyment of our network and the improvement is highlighted in the following powerpoint presentation.

8.2 It is recommended that members receive this report for information.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Aidan Rayner

PRoW Team Leader

01609 533077

**NORTH YORKSHIRE
LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
FORWARD PLAN**

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 will then agree a Forward Plan at each meeting covering the year ahead.

Wednesday 21st August 2013 – County Hall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors LAF • Report of Sub Groups • Definitive Map update report • Unsurfaced, Unclassified Roads (Including Dead Man’s Hill update)
Wednesday 20th November 2013 – County Hall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors LAF • Report of Sub Groups • PRow Maintenance report • Access to Open Access Land
February 2014 – County Hall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors LAF • Report of Sub Groups • Definitive Map update report
May 2014 – County Hall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minutes of Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors LAF • Report of Sub Groups • Definitive Map update report