

North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting held in The Grand Meeting Room, County Hall, Northallerton on 4 December 2015, commencing at 11 am

Present

John Ainsworth, David Barraclough, Michael Bartholomew, George Bateman, Doug Cartwright, Rachel Connolly, Edward Dennison, John Fort BEM, David Gibson, Roma Haigh, Tom Halstead, County Councillor Robert Heseltine, Paul Sherwood, Richard Smith and John Taylor

Officers: Andrew Bainbridge, Ian Fielding, Ian Kelly, Allan McVeigh, Brian Mullins, Rachel Pillar (Business and Environmental Services) and Kate Arscott (Legal and Democratic Services, Secretary to the Local Access Forum)

98 Appointment of Members

The Secretary reported the appointment of the following members to fill vacancies on the Forum:

John Ainsworth, Michael Bartholomew, David Gibson, Barrie Mounty, Sue Raper and Richard Smith

99 Election of Chair

Resolved - That Rachel Connolly be elected Chair of the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum for one year.

Rachel Connolly took the Chair

100 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor David Jeffels, Barrie Mounty and Sue Raper.

101 Election of Vice-Chair

Resolved - That Roma Haigh be elected as Vice-Chair of the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum for one year.

102 Minutes

Resolved – (a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2015 be agreed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

(b) That future agendas include an item for matters arising from the minutes that are not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

(c) that action boxes be used in the minutes.

103 Public Questions or Statements

There were no questions or statements from members of the public.

104 Local Transport Plan 4 Consultation

The Forum considered a report of the Secretary advising Members of the current consultation on the North Yorkshire Local Transport Plan and inviting the Forum to consider whether it wished to respond to the consultation. It was noted that the public

consultation period had ended, but that it had been confirmed that a late response would be accepted due to the timing of the Forum meeting.

Andrew Bainbridge, Team Leader - Local Transport Plan, and Allan McVeigh, Network Strategy Manager, attended the meeting to provide background information on the consultation and answer Forum members' questions. In particular they outlined the change in emphasis of government guidance governing the production of the Plan, and the levels of capital and revenue funding that are expected to be available. It was also clarified that the section on Rights of Way was intended to demonstrate the links into transport policy, rather than being a statement of Council Rights of Way policy.

The main issues raised in discussion for inclusion in the formal response to the consultation were:

- That the draft Plan was generally welcomed, acknowledging the prominence given in Section 3i to Rights of Way
- The suggestion that the Plan could include a stronger emphasis on health, economic growth and tourism benefits associated with Rights of Way
- Strong encouragement for the authority to honour the commitment to equality of funding set out in Section 3i
- The Forum's concerns at the ongoing separation of local management arrangements between highways and countryside services and a desire to see specific reference to Green Lanes within the Plan
- Support for the commitment to strive to record all active rights of way on the definitive map by 2026
- The need for a more robust prioritisation of non-motorised users, especially in relation to new development, and the need for them to be given greater prominence in highway planning
- Concerns about road safety, particularly for non-motorised users
- The protection of safe walking routes between villages
- Passing places and damage to kerbs on narrow lanes

A number of other issues were also raised with officers:

- That the consultation would have been easier to navigate and respond to with page and paragraph numbering
- General concern about the quality of maintenance

• A perceived historical lack of interest in motorcyclists as a user group, and the potential for user groups to contribute funding to repairs. Doug Cartwright agreed to speak to Highways Officers further outside the meeting.

- Confirmation that the developer would need to produce a Travel Plan in relation to the North Northallerton development
- A commitment from Highways and Transportation to operate in future according to the consultation protocol previously agreed with the Local Access Forum

Resolved – (a) That the Secretary draft a summary of the Forum's views based on the discussion and circulate it by email for members' comments prior to submission on behalf of the Forum.

(b) That Richard Smith be asked to add any additional issues arising from the consultation documents, on behalf of the Forum, for inclusion in the Secretary's draft.

105 Scarborough Borough Local Plan Consultation

The Forum considered a report of the Secretary advising Members of the current consultation on the Proposed Submission Scarborough Borough Local Plan and inviting the Forum to consider whether it wished to respond to the consultation.

Resolved – That Roma Haigh draft a response on behalf of the Local Access Forum and circulate it by email for Forum members' comments, prior to submission by the Secretary on behalf of the Forum to meet the deadline of 18 December 2015.

106 Minerals and Waste Joint Plan - Preferred Options Consultation

Edward Dennison declared an interest in this item as a landowner in relation to sites covered in the consultation.

The Forum considered a report of the Secretary advising of the current consultation on the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan - Preferred Options and inviting the Forum to consider whether it wished to respond to the consultation.

Rachel Pillar, Senior Planning Policy Officer, attended the meeting to provide background information on the consultation and answer Forum members' questions. She highlighted that there would be a further round of consultation in 2016 before the draft Plan was submitted for external examination. She particularly encouraged the Forum to comment on the selection of sites, including the identification of sites as preferred but also those discounted. The main issues raised in discussion were:

- That the consultation website is helpfully presented
- Concern that the proposed Development Management Policy D02 on local amenity and cumulative impacts is not as strong in relation to Rights of Way as the previous policies that it would replace
- That the Forum would like to see more specific reference in Policy D02 to access issues, for example a recognition of the contribution of access to the economy
- That the previous Plan identified key issues that a developer needed to consider in bringing forward specific site proposals, prior to submitting an application, and that it would be helpful for this still to be the case
- That if the Forum wishes to re-submit its previous comments, particularly in relation to individual sites, it would be helpful if these were reviewed to reflect details as published in this consultation document
- That the Forum may wish to support the discounting of specific sites which are felt to raise access issues
- That some members would like to be notified regularly of any new planning applications received by North Yorkshire County Council

Resolved – (a) That Rachel Connolly draft a response on behalf of the Local Access Forum, incorporating the Forum's views raised in discussion, and circulate it by email for Forum members' comments, prior to submission by the Secretary on behalf of the Forum to meet the deadline of 15 January 2016.

(b) That the Secretary investigate a mechanism for providing regular notification of County Council planning applications to interested LAF members.

107 Countryside Access Service Review

The Forum considered a report of the Corporate Director - Business and Environmental Services informing them of the current review of NYCC's Countryside Access Service, and suggesting how Local Access Forum members might provide practical advice and support within that review.

Ian Kelly, Countryside Access Manager, explained that the restructured service had been launched in October and was now undertaking a comprehensive service review. He invited members of the LAF to work with officers on consultation proposals for the future, particularly in relation to prioritising the Public Rights of Way network and prioritisation of maintenance and improvement works.

As members had provided the service with suggestions from a sub-group previously, it was agreed that Ian Kelly should report back at the next meeting on how the department had received the Forum's comments, as there was no point in reinventing the wheel with endless revisiting of this subject.

In response to a question from a Forum member, Ian Kelly also confirmed that it was still planned to progress the North York Moors pilot in relation to Unsurfaced Uncategorised Roads, but that this had unfortunately been delayed.

Resolved – (a) That the service review proposals be included as a major item of business on the February agenda.

(b) That a copy of the new team structure be circulated to Forum members.

108 Forward Plan

The Forum considered a report of the Secretary inviting members to identify items of business for future meetings.

The following items were identified for the Forward Plan

- Countryside Access Service Review (February 2016)
- Schools and Education project
- Rail Crossings

David Barraclough reported on the current position regarding the Scotch Corner retail plan.

Resolved – (a) That the suggestions made during the meeting and recorded in the minutes be incorporated into the Forum's Forward Plan.

(b) That the Chair discuss the Schools and Education project further with Ian Kelly outside the meeting.

109 Date of Next Meeting

Resolved - That the next meeting of the Local Access Forum be held on Thursday 4 February 2015 at 10 am.

The meeting concluded at 1.05pm.

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