## NORTH YORKSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

# AGENDA

## Meeting: Local Access Forum

## Venue: To be held remotely via TEAMs

## Date: Wednesday 30 September 2020 at 10am

Pursuant to The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, this meeting will be held using video conferencing with a live broadcast to the Council's YouTube site. Further information on this is available on the committee pages on the Council website - <u>https://democracy.northyorks.gov.uk/</u>

The meeting will be available to view once the meeting commences, via the following link - <u>www.northyorks.gov.uk/livemeetings</u> Recording of previous live broadcast meetings are also available there.

#### Business

- 1. Introductions & Apologies for Absence
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2019

(Pages 5 to 8)

3. Public Questions or Statements

Members of the public may ask questions or make statements at this meeting if they have given notice to Melanie Carr of Democratic Services (see contact details at bottom of page) by midday on Friday 25 September 2020, three working days before the day of the meeting. Each speaker should limit themselves to 3 minutes on any item. Members of the public who have given notice, will be invited to speak: -

- at this point in the meeting if their questions/statements relate to matters which are not otherwise on the Agenda (subject to an overall time limit of 30 minutes);
- when the relevant Agenda item is being considered if they wish to speak on a matter which is on the Agenda for this meeting.

 if you are exercising your right to speak at this meeting, but do not wish to be recorded, please inform the Chairman who will ask anyone who may be taking a recording to cease while you speak.

#### 4. Attendance of North Yorkshire Police Representative - Jon Hunter

#### 5. Attendance of the Executive Member for Access – County Councillor Don Mackenzie

6. Secretary's Update Report – Report of the Secretary (Pages 9 to 16)

Purpose: To update LAF members on developments since the last meeting.

7. District Council & LAF Project Updates – Report of the Secretary

(Pages 17 to 20)

Purpose: An opportunity for LAF members to update the Forum on District Council liaison and other LAF representative project activity since the last meeting.

8. Forward Plan – Report of the Secretary

(Pages 21 to 22)

Purpose: To consider develop and adopt a work programme for future meetings.

9. Other business which the Chair agrees should be considered as a matter of special urgency because of special circumstances

Melanie Carr Secretary to North Yorkshire Local Access Forum County Hall Northallerton March 2020

#### NOTES

#### (a) Interests

The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007 state:-

(7) "A member of a Local Access Forum who is directly or indirectly interested in any matter brought up for consideration at a meeting of the Forum shall disclose the nature of his interest to the meeting".

Those members of the Local Access Forum who are County Councillors are also bound by the North Yorkshire County Council Members' Code of Conduct, as they serve on the Forum as County Councillors. County Councillors must, therefore, declare any interest they may have in any matter considered at a meeting and, if that interest is financial, must declare it and leave the meeting during consideration of that item.

## Local Access Forum Membership

1	CARTWRIGHT, Doug
2	COCHRANE, Janet
3	CONNOLLY, Rachel
4	HAIGH, Roma (Vice Chair)
5	HESELTINE, Robert (County Councillor)
6	JEFFELS, David (County Councillor)
7	LEPPER, David
8	MOUNTY, Barrie
9	MURRAY, Carol
10	SCARLETT, Will
11	SHEARD, Paul
12	SHERWOOD, Paul (Chair)
13	SOUTAR, Helen

## North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

Draft Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Northallerton on 20 November 2019, commencing at 10 am

**Present:** Paul Sherwood (Chair), Doug Cartwright, Rachel Connolly, Roma Haigh, County Councillor Robert Heseltine, County Councillor David Jeffels, Barrie Mounty, Carol Murray, Paul Sheard and Helen Soutar.

**Officers:** Kerry Green – Interim Countryside Access Manager (Business and Environmental Services, North Yorkshire County Council), Ben Jackson NYCC PROW Officer, Neil Leighton, and Melanie Carr (Legal & Democratic Services - Secretary to the Local Access Forum)

#### 289. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2019

In regard to Minute 288, Members reminded the Secretary to invite North Yorkshire Police to attend the next meeting.

#### **Resolved -**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2019 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### 290. Public Questions or Statements

There were no public questions or statements.

#### 291. Briefing on North Riding Unclassified Roads

A report from the Chairman of Redcar & Cleveland Local Access Forum on his extensive research on North Riding unclassified roads.

Paul Sherwood introduced John Sugden, Chairman of Redcar & Cleveland Local Access Forum and welcomed him to the meeting.

John Sugden introduced his report giving an overview of his extensive research on unclassified roads across the old North Riding., which was subsequently consumed into a number of counties - Durham, Cleveland and North Yorkshire.

Members noted:

- In 1930 the North Riding produced its first comprehensive record of unclassified roads in the form of maps and schedules
- In 1941 the record was redrafted, broken down in to 5 categories, resulting in the first record of green lanes. Those records were kept up to date with new adoptions up to 1974. Almost all of the green lanes still recorded in 1974 had been present since the original assembly of data in 1930.
- Those records were only kept for North Ridings own operational needs as there was no legal requirement for them to do more, and so the quality and quantity of the records made available by the old counties varied considerably, and some historic maps have been lost.

- 139 roads on the North Riding record have since disappeared. Some were downgraded and subsequently appeared on the Definitive Map. Others disappeared without a recorded explanation – John Sugden highlighted a couple of examples across North Yorkshire and Members discussed the possible reasons for their disappearance e.g. their suitability for motorised use, or informal agreements with farmers.
- There was no record of public paths before the introduction of the Definitive Map in 1956
- The public record of streets did not exist pre 1974 as there was no requirement for such a record.
- NYCC are obliged to maintain a public record of the streets they maintain, including public paths, but are not required to publish information on the status of those streets. They are also required to contribute to the National Street Gazetteer (NSG) which was set up in 1991 as a record of all highways, and roads giving access to more than one property.

Neil Leighton, NYCC Senior Highways Technical Officer, clarified the information currently held by NYCC and confirmed there was an ongoing project being led on by NYCC Technology & Change to add all PROW to the NSG.

In regard to the issue of the unknown status of some roads on the NSG, John Sugden argued that the classification of those roads should be based on the record of roads passed over by the North Riding in 1974, as his evidence showed that they were considered by North Riding to be vehicular highways

Members thanked John Sugden for his interesting report and his attendance at the meeting.

**Resolved -** That the report be noted

#### 292. Secretary's Update Report

Considered -

The report of the Secretary which updated on developments since the last meeting.

The Chair drew members' attention to the Regional LAF Minutes he had circulated by email on 20 September 2019, and the discussion that had taken place at that meeting about planning applications that affect public rights of way. Members also noted the correspondence received from Richmondshire Ramblers and the feedback from the Countryside Access Team (CAS).

Concern was expressed about the apparent lack of notice given to the advice provided by CAS to District Councils, and perceived lack of advice from District Council's to planning applicants where a PROW was likely to be affected. Kerry Green confirmed her intention to identify an appropriate mechanism for working with District Councils to ensure that applications to them under the TCPA had proper regard to PROW, and the measures she intended utilising in the meantime (as detailed at paragraph 3.12 of the report).

Rachel Connolly offered to provide some training at the next meeting on planning, specifically the relationship between District Councils and the LAF, and suggested the need for a stronger working relationship with NYCC to support them in objecting to planning applications.

Rachel Connolly also raised the issue of the use of countryside volunteers and Kerry Green provided an overview of how they are used at present (in part detailed at paragraph 3.11 of

the report). She also confirmed their mileage was paid by CAS and that jobs were issued in clusters in order to utilise volunteers' time effectively.

Doug Cartwright questioned whether a volunteer could remove a misleading or wrongly placed sign and agreed to pass on information on one he was aware of.

that a member of the public could report an issue either via NYCC Customer Services or via the paths email address.

Finally, Kerry Green confirmed that work was ongoing to upgrade CAMS which would provide an Improved facility for reporting issues and tracking real time updates, and mobile CAMS web capability for officers and volunteers. She agreed provide a full update at the next LAF meeting

#### Resolved - That:

- i. The update be noted.
- ii. That planning training and a CAMS update be added to the work programme for the meeting in March 2020

#### 293. District Council & LAF Project Updates

#### Considered -

The report of the Secretary giving LAF members the opportunity to update the Forum on District Council liaison and other LAF representative project activity since the last meeting.

In addition to the information provided for the report, Rachel Connolly provided a verbal update on a number of issues:

- In recent discussions with Richmondshire District Council on some forthcoming major developments in the pipeline for the Ministry of Defence, it had become apparent that Planners considered the NMU requirements secondary to the Highways mechanical requirements, and that Highways advice was often contrary to LAF advice. She also raised concern about the potential lack of conformity to the National Planning Policy Framework in regard to Access.
- In a recent discussion and site visit with Highways England there had been some acceptance of their neglect of the verges on the LAR and a proposal to invest in their improvement/management. She confirmed they had agreed to produce a list of the remedial works they were prepared to carry out and a list of some additional works they were prepared to fund.

In regard to County Councillor David Jeffels' update on the Goat Scheme, he confirmed he would provide a further update for the next meeting on a scheme in Ripon that had been derived from the original GOAT scheme idea, as he believed it might be suitable for expansion into other communities.

#### **Resolved -**

That the additional information provided at the meeting be noted alongside the written updates provided in the report.

#### 294. Forward Plan

Considered -

The Secretary drew members' attention to the draft Forward Plan provided at Appendix 1 to the report, and invited members to identify any additional items of business to be added.

Rachel Connolly referred to her previous suggestion that North Yorkshire Police be invited to attend a future meeting. She confirmed her previous conversation with an NYP representative and stressed their keenness to attend. Doug Cartwright also expressed his interest in meeting with NYP and Members agreed that they be invited to the next meeting in March 2019.

Kerry Green reiterated that March 2020 would be an appropriate time to provide an update on CAMS.

The Secretary confirmed that NYCC's corporate calendar was in the process of being finalised and that future meeting dates for 2020/21 would be circulated shortly.

The Chair suggested a change to the timetable of scheduled meetings, proposing that the three meetings held yearly be moved to May, September and January, which Members agreed would be better than having a meeting in July when there was a possibility of the meeting clashing with Members' holidays.

It was noted that the next meeting would be the first meeting for some new Members (following the completion of the current recruitment exercise) and therefore the Chair proposed that the March 2020 meeting go ahead as planned, and that a further three meetings be scheduled as per his proposal.

#### **Resolved -**

That:

- i) The following be added to the work programme for March 2020:
  - Attendance of North Yorkshire Police Representative
  - Update on CAMs
  - Update on Ripon Scheme from Councillor Jeffels
- ii) The timetable of meeting for 2020/21 be revised in line with the Chair's proposal

The meeting concluded at 12pm MLC

## North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

#### 30 September 2020

#### Secretary's Update Report

#### **1.0** Purpose of the Report

1.1 To update members of the Local Access Forum on developments since the last meeting of NYLAF.

#### 2.0 Consultation Submissions & Responses

2.1 There have been no consultation requests received or responses issued since the last meeting.

#### 3.0 Other Updates

#### 3.1 Local Development Plans

One of the key areas of involvement for the Forum is to ensure appropriate engagement in the preparation of Local Development Plans. Set out in the table below is an updated summary of the current position in relation to each District Council area, and in relation to the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan. This information is taken from the websites of the relevant authorities and correspondence received.

Authority	Status
Craven	The Local Plan was adopted in March 2019. Supplementary Planning Documents on Rural Workers' Dwellings and Flood Risk are due to be adopted in 2020.
Hambleton	The new local plan was approved by Council on 16 July 2019. The period for comments was open from 30 July 2019 to 17 September 2019. More recently, a new Local Development Scheme (LDS) setting out the timetable for production of the Local Plan was approved in December 2019 – see: www.hambleton.gov.uk/localplan/downloads/file/1/new_local_devel opment_scheme_updated_october_2017
Harrogate	The Inspector's report was issued on 31 January 2020. The report concluded that Harrogate Local Plan was sound subject to main modifications. The report and Schedule of Main Modifications can be viewed at: <u>https://www.harrogate.gov.uk/info/20101/planning_policy_and_the</u> <u>local_plan/1159/harrogate_district_local_plan_examination</u> Harrogate District's Local Plan 2014-2035 was subsequently adopted on 4 March 2020.

-
The Council is running behind with their review of their Local Plan, which was due to be circulated in the early summer. The revised Local Plan will update the policies used to consider new development across the District. A new Local Development Scheme was brought into effect in February 2020, setting out a timetable for the preparation of the Local Plan 2018-2035 documents – see: <u>https://www.richmondshire.gov.uk/media/11465/local-</u> <u>development-scheme-february-2020.pdf</u> The Ryedale Plan Local Plan Sites Document was adopted at a
meeting of full Council on the 27 June 2019. This Document was the final part of the Local Plan for the District. It identified commitments and allocations for housing, retail and employment land, and provided site specific policies, including policy for new and amended Visually Important Undeveloped Areas. The Plan covers the period 2012- 2027.
Scarborough Borough Council formally adopted their Local Plan on 3 July 2017. It will guide the future development of the borough in the period up to 2032.
A new Local Development Scheme for the period 2019 to 2023 came into effect on 17 September 2019. The scheme identified which Local Plan documents the Council would progress over the next four years, together with the programme for their preparation, and key consultation milestones. As the first stage in the process, Selby District Council ran a six- week consultation ending 6 March 2020 on the Local Plan Issues and Options. The comment received are shown as still being processed and will be made available, along with the Council's responses, on the council website in due course.
The Order of 14 May 2019 declared the Secretary of State's decision of 24 July 2018 to adopt paragraph 209(a) of the revised Framework unlawful, and quashed it. The Inspector invited the Mineral Planning Authorities and any interested parties who wished to comment on the High Court Judgement and Order and the implications for the joint plan. The documents are available to view in Examination documents at: <u>https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/minerals-and-waste-joint-planexamination</u> September 2020 - There is no further update available at this time

### 3.2 Open Access Restrictions

The Forum is consulted on a range of restrictions under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. There has been 27 notifications of a discretionary dog restriction on Colsterdale Moor, received from the Open Access Contact Centre at Natural England confirming restrictions under Section 23(1) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, since the last meeting.

3.3 There have been 36 notifications of discretionary '28 Day' restriction under Section 22 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 since the last meeting. Landowners may close their access land for up to 28 days in any one year. They are not permitted to close their land on (a) bank holidays, (b) more than 4 days in a year that are Saturdays or Sundays, (c) any Saturday between 1 June and 11 August, (d) any Sunday between 1 June and 30 September. Landowners are not obliged to tell the public about forthcoming closures, or give reasons. Their legal duty is simply to inform the relevant authority of their intentions.

#### 3.4 Rights of Way Improvement Plan

There are currently no plans to refresh the Rights of Way Improvement Plan. At a point when it is reviewed the LAF will be involved. In the meantime, the County Council has a Local Transport Plan – see: <u>www.northyorks.gov.uk/local-transport-plan</u>.

- 3.5 Rights of way are covered as a key theme in the Executive Summary, and in part 3M in more detail. There are also some links to other sections, for example, walking and cycling (3J), access to services (2C), healthier travel (2E) etc. Part 1 shows the structure of the LTP with links to the relevant sections.
- 3.6 <u>Update on the work of the Countryside Access Service during the Coronavirus</u> pandemic

Kerry Green, Interim Countryside Access Manager has provided an overview of the work of the Countryside Access Service during the coronavirus pandemic period – see Appendix A.

- 3.7 Update on Responses to Planning Applications The LAF have previously questioned how the Countryside Access Service receives and responds to Planning Applications from the seven district/borough councils. The Service receives applications in a number of different ways - some send emails of any planning applications that they think might affect a right of way; some send an email for every application and the Service has to trawl through them to see if a PROW might be affected; others rely on the Service to check the weekly lists and then decide which applications it may want to comment on.
- 3.8 In terms of applications for larger developments, the Countryside Access Service is sometimes engaged early on and can provide comment and advice on proposals. Other times the Service might only become aware when the application is on the weekly list or by email, and the opportunity to create any benefits to the PROW network are limited they can only try to ensure that any affected PROW are diverted.
- 3.9 Through the Countryside Access Service response to applications, the service 'informs' the applicant/developer of their duties and responsibilities in respect of PROW, with the district and borough councils as Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) including that Informative in the Planning Permission and explaining to the developer what that means. In the case of diversions necessary because of the planning application, these are generally carried out under the Town and Country Planning Act whilst the development is underway, but this relies on the developer making an application in the first instance. It is not possible for an LPA to impose a 'condition'

that a PROW is diverted as part of a development, as the LPA cannot impose a condition that can be remedied by other areas of law.

- 3.10 There is a cross-directorate group led by the County Council's Growth and Planning team who are actively engaging with the district and borough Planning and Economic Development teams. The aim is to work better together across the two tiers of councils, to try to get better infrastructure and developments across the area, covering things like school infrastructure, bus services, highway capability and design. The Countryside Access Service are raising some of the PROW issues within that group.
- 3.11 Whilst the Countryside Access Service have no control over how an LPA engages with developers, the service is developing plans to proactively contact developers where it is known their plans will affect a PROW. The service will either advise them how a temporary obstruction (e.g. building works on the route) might be minimised to reduce impact on the PROW, or it will advise on their TCPA diversion to get the most beneficial route to users.
- 3.12 LAF members will be aware that there are currently plans for local government reorganisation and if it proceeds this will change the approach to planning applications in the medium to long term.
- 3.13 Regional Forum

The Yorkshire Humber and North Lincolnshire Regional Access Forum last met on 9 September 2020. The Chair of NYLAF and others had significant problems trying to access the online meeting. The draft Minutes from the meeting have not been circulated.

3.14 The next meeting of the Regional Forum is on 10 March 2021 at 10am - the meeting location to be confirmed.

#### 3.15 2026 / Definitive Map

There are no changes or updates to report.

#### 4.0 Recommendation

4.1 The Local Access Forum is asked to note this update report and agree any further actions required.

#### BARRY KHAN

Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) County Hall, NORTHALLERTON

Report Author: Melanie Carr, Secretary to North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

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### North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

#### 30 September 2020

#### Update on the work of the Countryside Access Service during the Coronavirus pandemic

- Officers from the Countryside Access Team rapidly moved to working from home, like almost all of the country around the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020, and have been doing so ever since. During the lockdown period when non-essential travel restrictions were in place, no site visits took place apart from emergency ones where serious health and safety risks were suspected.
- 2. Guidance was issued on the NYCC website for landowners and users of the network as the service was being inundated with complaints from customers about landowners illegally closing public rights of way by installing barriers or erecting signage to discourage and prevent use. Conversely, there were a large number of calls from landowners requesting that the County Council close public rights of way because of the risk of transmitting coronavirus as people crossed their land. All were told that we had no powers to close the right of way and we were following Government advice which made it clear that PROW should remain open as exercise was important for people's physical and mental wellbeing.
- 3. As travel restrictions relaxed through June, staff began to schedule site visits to review maintenance issues and also site visits for PPOs or for DMMOs took place. Volunteers also began to remobilise during late-June to assist in the checking of customer reports or to resolve some issues where they could. Risk assessments and working practices have been reviewed in light of all of the Covid guidance that has been published, and are refined as new guidance emerges. We have also made arrangements so that the Definitive Map can be viewed via appointment at County Hall, although there has only been 1 request made in September to view the paper Definitive Map since lockdown restrictions were imposed.
- 4. Our real time management information system has been useful to track the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the service, and a selection of information is shown below.

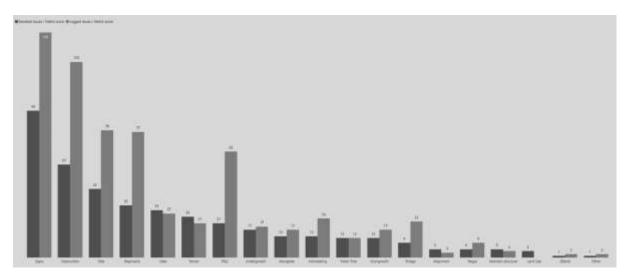


Table 1: Total Issues by Type - 23/3/2020 to 30/6/2020 (first week of lockdown plus Q1)

- 5. Table 1 above shows that from the week that lockdown started and throughout quarter 1 there was a marked increase in customer reports, most notably in reported obstructions, misleading signs, stiles, waymarks and ploughing and cropping. The green bar shows new issue reports, the brown bar shows issues resolved. The total issues logged in this period was 657; the total issues resolved in period was 393. As a comparison, for the same period in 2019, the number of new issues logged was 551, with 728 being resolved.
- 6. In Table 2 below, which covers quarter 2, you can see that the team has made great progress in resolving issues around obstructions and signage as this is what the team focussed on when travel and lockdown restrictions were relaxed. The total number of issues logged in this period was 458, with the number resolved at 463. In 2019, there were 591 logged, and 501 resolved.

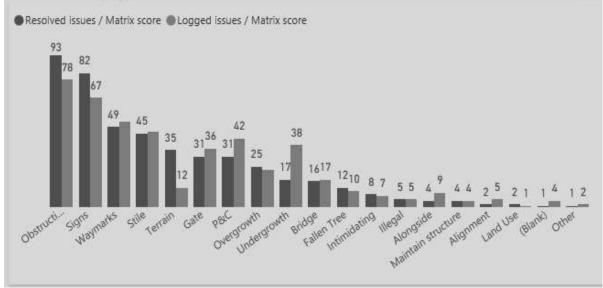
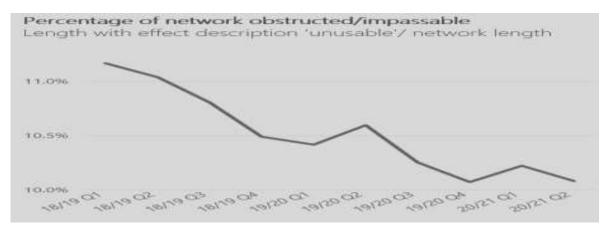


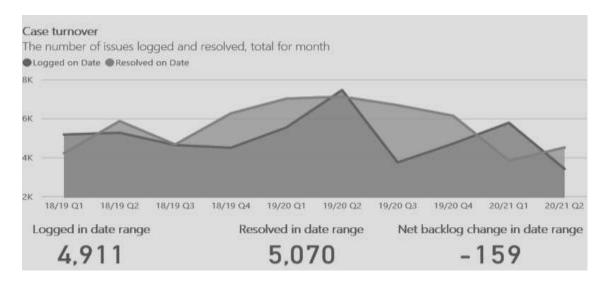
Table 2: Total Issues by Type – 01/07/2020 to 16/09/2020 (Q2)

7. Looking at the network condition (% of network obstructed), data shows that the trend has been improving in recent years, and the condition is now almost back to precovid levels. The two preceding years are shown by way of comparison.

Period	% of network obstructed
2018/19	10.49%
2019/20	10.07%
23/3/2020 - 30/6/2020 (Q1)	10.22%
1/7/2020 – 16/9/2020 (Q2)	10.08%



8. Table 3 below shows case turnover for 2018/19, 2019/20 and from 1 April 2020 to 16/9/2020. It can be seen that the CAS team have been resolving more issues than are logged in that time, with the exception of Q1 2020 when the coronavirus restrictions were in force and more issues were reported than resolved. In quarter 2, as the team adjusted to the new working practices, they were again resolving more than reported and it is anticipated that they will soon revert to pre-covid resolution levels.



#### Kerry Green

Development & Outreach Team Leader / Interim Countryside Access Manager Transport, Waste & Countryside Services

## North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

### 30 September 2020

#### District Council and LAF Project Updates

#### **Report of the Secretary**

#### 1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 An opportunity for LAF members to update the Forum on District Council liaison and other LAF representative project activity since the last meeting.

#### 2.0 Background

2.1 The LAF operates an agreed list of nominated representatives willing to act as the first point of liaison with the constituent District Councils in relation to planning and other relevant matters. Individual LAF members are also nominated from time to time to take a lead on specific projects that the LAF has an interest in or in representing the LAF on other partnership bodies. Both are represented in the table below:

Name	Representation
Vacant	Craven District
Barrie Mounty	Selby District
Rachel Connelly	Hambleton District Richmondshire District A1 & A19
Roma Haigh	Ryedale District HS2
Paul Sherwood	NYCC Countryside Access Service User Group Regional Access Forum A66
Helen Soutar	Harrogate District
County Councillor	Scarborough District
David Jeffels	Regional Access Forum
Vacant	2026

2.3 This agenda item provides an opportunity for the Forum to be updated on activity since the previous meeting.

#### 3.0 District Council Liaison

- 3.1 The following updates have been provided by Rachel Connolly:
- 3.2 <u>Richmondshire District Council</u> are running behind with their Local Plan, which was due to be circulated in the early summer. Input to Hambleton District Council's local plan was used as an example of what the Forum expected, and they were provided with the LAF training notes from Natural England. Officers are proving difficult to contact, but they do refer applications on a regular basis. However, they lack a robust stance on advice given. Prior to lockdown two meetings with heads of planning and policy departments were held.
- 3.4 <u>Hambleton District Council</u> Ongoing contact which is business-like and effective. They are aware of NMU requirements as expected in Travel Plans within the NPPF but still have a problem with effecting these owing to the many diverse demands on sec 106 agreements. Their Local Plan is now due to be 'heard' publically and the Forum was invited to send someone. It is not clear how this is to be done, and how much of the advice the Forum provided has been incorporated, is still to be checked. As always HDC are excellent to engage with, easy to contact and flag up major development and some minor controversial sites where they need the input of the Forum.

#### 4.0 LAF Projects & Other Updates

- 4.3 <u>Ministry of Defence Catterick Garrison</u> In March 2020, plans were afoot to expand and develop the garrison, but were not at the stage where the MOD was ready to engage with the LAF. Richmondshire DC was made aware that the Forum wanted to be involved at the earliest stage possible in order to be effective. Since then, major plans for development have been delayed by a lack of face-to-face discussion and the Forum has yet to be invited to comment.
- 4.4 <u>Highways England A1 Upgrade</u> It is now a year since what purported to be a most positive move by Highways England to offer some improvements for NMUs relating to the local access roads and adjacent routes. However, their convoluted procurement process for funding these proposals has dashed optimism, and there has been a lack of enthusiasm towards mitigating the way NMUs have been failed on this project. This has been a 15-year experience of frustration with a government agency with no accountability. It will be interesting to see if NYCC can now be proactive in achieving their proposals, although to date there is no evidence of effective engagement. Highways England, operating on behalf of the DfT now have an Accessibility Statement for NMUs, which is inclusive, and are now official agents for Sustrans.
- 4.5 Nominated representatives are invited to report verbally on any other activity undertaken since the last meeting.

#### 5.0 Recommendation

#### 5.1 That members:

- i) Note the updates;
- ii) Agree any further actions required

BARRY KHAN Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) County Hall NORTHALLERTON

Report Author: Melanie Carr, Secretary to North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

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## North Yorkshire Local Access Forum 30 September 2020

#### **Forward Plan Report**

#### **1.0** Purpose of the Report

1.1 To consider, develop and adopt a Forward Plan of items of business for future meetings.

#### 2.0 Background

- 2.1 The 'Guidance on Local Access Forums in England' published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) strongly recommends that forums prepare a forward work programme which sets out the forum's priorities and special areas of interest.
- 2.2 This can play an important role in helping the forum to:
  - Ensure a focus on issues which are the most relevant for the area
  - Clarify the issues on which the County Council or other section 94(4) bodies would benefit from receiving advice
  - Timetable when specific matters are likely to be considered
  - Inform the public about the forum's work
  - Identify training needs
  - Review effectiveness and prepare an annual report.

#### 3.0 Forward Plan

- 3.1 The work programme template is attached at Appendix A, which lists the agreed meeting dates for the coming municipal year.
- 3.2 The Forum meets three times a calendar year but may choose to agree further meeting dates (based on need), and may set up sub-groups to progress specific pieces of work outside of the formal meetings.

#### 4.0 Recommendation

4.1 Forum members are asked to identify and agree future items of business for the remaining meeting in 2020/21.

BARRY KHAN Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) County Hall NORTHALLERTON

Report Author: Melanie Carr, Secretary to North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

Annex A – Work Programme 2020/21

Appendix A

## NORTH YORKSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

### Draft Forward Plan 2020/21

Date of Meeting	
Standing items 20 May 2020	<ul> <li>Minutes</li> <li>Matters Arising</li> <li>Public Questions and Statements</li> <li>Consultations</li> <li>Secretary's Update Report</li> <li>District Council &amp; Project Updates</li> <li>Forward Plan</li> <li>Meeting Cancelled due to COVID</li> </ul>
30 September 2020	<ul> <li>Attendance of North Yorkshire Police Representative – Jon Hunter</li> <li>Attendance of Executive Member for Access – Cllr Don Mackenzie</li> </ul>
27 January 2021	
Suggested Future Items	<ul> <li>North Yorkshire Joint Health &amp; Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2020</li> <li>Rights of Way Improvement Plan</li> <li>In-depth discussion on Reinstatement</li> <li>Proposed joint working with Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors Local Access Forums</li> <li>Draft NYCC Active Travel Strategy</li> </ul>