

North Yorkshire
Local Access Forum
4 December 2015
Forward Plan
Report of the Secretary

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To invite members of the Local Access Forum to consider items of business for future meetings and to consider how they wish to manage their business between formal 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 Local Access Forum is scheduled to meet three times per year. Future meeting dates are:

- February 2016
- 6 July 2016
- 12 October 2016
- 11 January 2017
- 6 April 2017

Meetings are scheduled to start at 10.00am.

- 3.2 The Forum will need to consider items of business for future meetings. The Secretary will then draw up a rolling forward plan to be reported as a regular item at future meetings.

- 3.3 The Forum is expected to prepare an annual report on its activity and this will need to be scheduled into the forward plan at an appropriate time in the year.
- 3.4 Rachel Connolly, former Chair of the Forum, has provided the attached summary of recent relevant activity (Appendix 1). Members may find this useful in identifying potential items for the forward plan. She has also raised the Schools and Education Project as a potential future item of business.
- 3.5 Members may also want to consider how they wish to manage their business between formal meetings. For example, the previous agenda item proposed the establishment of a small working group in relation to the Countryside Access Service Review.

4.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 That the Local Access Forum considers items of business for future meetings.

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NORTHALLERTON

Report author: Kate Arscott, Secretary to North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

Background Documents: None

Around and About during the LAF lapse

David Barraclough was contacted about the Scotch Corner Retail plan which was called in by the SoS, and gave advice.

Roma Haigh was contacted by Ryedale and Scarborough about their local plans, and has got tabs on them

Rachel Connolly asked Rishi Sunak, Richmond MP, to support the Outdoor Recreation Bill and explained the importance of diversification to the rural economy. However, it turned out to be a Westminster Hall debate, not new legislation, but Mr. Sunak responded positively with a clear understanding.

Hambleton District Council has had many large planning applications in which Rachel Connolly has been involved, but was required to give a statement on the North Northallerton plan in a personal capacity because, as NYCC was anxious to point out, the LAF was not in existence at the time of her advice.

Rachel has been to a small safety site meeting and three general meetings since April for NMU issues on the A1 upgrade. However, there is a lack of joined up thinking between the construction team and Highways England, and a sense of frustration at the lack of fair or sympathetic attitude to NMU needs from all parties, even NYCC.

There was a regional meeting of the LAFs, but we were not eligible to attend. However, the minutes are available if anyone would like to see them afterwards. The next regional meeting is in February in Hull.

National Rail are planning to replace many of their pedestrian crossings with bridges including steps, so we are informed. This is of concern to LAFs as it will disadvantage those with pushchairs, pushing cycles or in wheelchairs. Inquiries are being made as to the proposals for our area, but pinning someone down for an answer is proving hard.