

North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Northallerton on 6 April 2017, commencing at 10 am

Present

Roma Haigh, David Barraclough, Doug Cartwright, Edward Dennison, Tom Halstead, Sue Raper, Paul Sherwood and Richard Smith

Officers: Andrew Bainbridge, Ian Kelly and Neil Leighton (Business and Environmental Services) and Kate Arscott (Legal and Democratic Services, Secretary to the Local Access Forum)

163 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Michael Bartholomew, George Bateman, Rachel Connolly, County Councillor John Fort BEM, County Councillor David Jeffels and Barrie Mouny.

164 Minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2017

Resolved – That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2017 be agreed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

165 Matters Arising from the minutes

The majority of the actions identified in the minutes of the previous meeting had been completed or were included elsewhere on the agenda.

Members agreed that the approach adopted following the last meeting to co-ordinate the response to the Public Rights of Way consultation had been very effective.

Resolved – That the LAF records its thanks to David Barraclough and the Secretary for co-ordinating the formal response to the Public Rights of Way consultation.

166 Public Questions or Statements

There were no public questions or statements.

167 Start Time and Location of Future Meetings

Resolved – (a) That the start time for meetings of the Local Access Forum remains 10.00am.

(b) That at least one meeting of the Local Access Forum each year is held at a venue other than County Hall.

168 A59 Kex Gill Realignment – Development Update

The Forum considered a report of the Corporate Director of Business & Environmental Services regarding the development of proposals for the alignment of the A59 between Harrogate and Skipton at Kex Gill. Andrew Bainbridge, Team

Leader Local Transport Plan, attended the meeting to present the report and respond to Members' questions.

Andrew Bainbridge explained that the A59 is a key Trans Pennine route between Skipton and Harrogate, and improvements to the route are part of a wider long term package of interventions aimed at improving east west connectivity between the East Coast and Humber Ports to Lancashire.

There was a long history of land instability and movement of the land above the A59 to the west of Blubberhouses at Kex Gill, resulting in a number of landslips and closures. Whilst short to medium term management measures have been undertaken, there was a need to develop a permanent solution.

A number of options for the realignment of the road were being considered and further detail would be brought to the Local Access Forum in due course. However, officers wanted to alert the LAF to the matter at this early stage. There were a number of Rights of Way in the area that would need to be taken into consideration in the development of detailed proposals.

Some members of the LAF expressed disappointment that it was not considered possible to convert the existing line of the A59 to a right of way once the realignment was in place, due to the existing safety concerns about the route.

The Chair welcomed early notice of the proposals and confirmed that the LAF would like to be involved as the proposals develop. She requested that budgetary provision for Rights of Way was included within the project from the outset.

Resolved – (a) That officers be thanked for bringing this initial report to the Forum at an early stage of the development process.

(b) That the Secretary liaises with Andrew Bainbridge to schedule a further report to the July or October meeting, at the next appropriate stage of the process.

169 Update on Working with Third Party Volunteer Groups to Assist with the Delivery of the Countryside Access Service

The Forum considered an update on the pilot project to enable local volunteer groups to carry out work on the network. Ian Kelly, Countryside Access Manager, attended the meeting to present the briefing note and respond to Members' questions.

He outlined progress with the Lower Wharfedale Ramblers and a second pilot with Burton in Lonsdale Parish Council. Initial discussions were also taking place with Potto Parish Council, with further interested groups to be contacted over the next quarter. A full review of the pilot was about to begin.

Members of the LAF reiterated that various external stakeholders, including the Trail Riders Fellowship, remained keen to extend this method of service delivery to UURs.

Members were very keen to see as much progress made as possible as quickly as possible using volunteer resources. They asked for a report in the next 3-6 months to provide data on the work carried out by volunteers.

Resolved – (a) That the update be noted

(b) That the Forum receives a report in 3-6 months providing data on the work carried out by volunteers.

170 Auditing the List of Streets

The Forum considered a report of the Secretary, presenting a list of questions raised by the British Horse Society regarding auditing the List of Streets, which it had suggested that Local Access Forums may wish to raise with their local Highway Authority.

Neil Leighton, Team Leader, Network Management, attended the meeting and responded to Members' questions. He reminded members of the remit of the List of Streets, with reference to the report provided to the LAF in July 2016. Whilst members were pleased to receive reassurance that North Yorkshire County Council was not seeking to remove highways from the list of streets, they suggested that this should be formalised in line with the proposals set out in point 9 of the British Horse Society's document.

Resolved – (a) That the Forum welcomes the reassurance provided by officers with regard to removal of highways from the List of Streets.

(b) That, as part of the current review of the protocol for amending the List of Streets, the Forum recommends that North Yorkshire County Council considers adopting the following standard for the future as a safeguard:

“No highway (or part highway) should be removed from the list of streets, other than pursuant to a legal event, unless to correct a mistake where there has been consultation with local interests (such as the local access forum and parish council), the correction is fully documented for archiving and indexation, and the decision is taken transparently within the authority on the basis of a report by officers (eg by a committee or by the executive).”

171 2026

This item had been added as a standing item on the agenda at Members' request, to enable the LAF to discuss any new information regarding the 2026 cut-off date for the recording of public rights of way within the Definitive Map and Statement.

There was no new information to report on this occasion.

172 District Council Updates

The Forum considered a report of the Secretary providing an update on liaison with District Councils, including a summary of the work undertaken by Rachel Connolly with regard to the A1 project.

David Barraclough reported that he was following up the Scotch Corner development highways arrangements directly with Richmondshire District Council in the light of the advice from North Yorkshire County Council that it would not be appropriate for it to consult the Forum on any proposals referred to them by the District Council.

Roma Haigh noted that fracking was a significant issue in Ryedale. Doug Cartwright reported that he was getting to grips with the role of representative for the Scarborough area. Tom Halstead reported that he and Barrie Mounty were still awaiting a date to meet with the new lead Planning Officer in Selby.

Resolved – That the updates on liaison with District Councils be noted.

173 National Conference and Regional Access Forum

Members considered a report regarding attendance at the forthcoming LAF national conference and reporting back on the Regional Access Forum meeting on 8 March 2017.

Resolved – (a) That Roma Haigh will email Stephen Smith at HS2 to make him aware of the LAF's local representatives for the Selby area.

(b) That Roma Haigh will contact Catriona Cook of the North York Moors LAF to understand better the issues she is currently raising with North Yorkshire County Council, in case there is anything of relevance to the Forum.

(c) That Roma Haigh will attend the next Regional Access Forum meeting on 26 September 2017 in Bradford.

(d) That, subject to confirmation of his availability, Paul Sherwood will represent the LAF at the national conference in Birmingham on 21 June 2017.

174 Secretary's Update Report

Members noted a report from the Secretary updating the meeting on activity since the last meeting. The report covered the following items:

- Consultation responses – North Yorkshire County Council's Executive considered the Joint Minerals and Waste Plan on 7 March 2017. All consultation responses were reported and noted, including those from the LAF.
- An update on the current position regarding the current status of Local Development Plans for each District Council area
- A proposal for the development of a web presence for the Forum
- Confirmation that no new Open Access restrictions had been notified by Natural England since the previous meeting

Paul Sherwood circulated an update on the Teesdale Way Project which had currently stalled.

Resolved – (a) That the report be noted.

(b) That the relevant District Council liaison representative be authorised to work with the Chair and the Secretary of the Forum to prepare a draft response on behalf of the LAF to any Local Development Plan consultations with a closing date before the next meeting of the LAF on 12 July 2017. This would then be circulated for consultation by the Secretary and a formal LAF response submitted by the Secretary to meet the deadline for each consultation.

(c) That the Forum agrees to the drafting of a webpage to be added to the North Yorkshire Partnerships website. Paul Sherwood to work with the Secretary to prepare this.

(d) That the update on the Teesdale Way Project provided by Paul Sherwood be noted and that Paul be thanked for continuing to monitor progress.

175 Forward Plan

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

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

(b) That the Forum requests that the final model adopted following the Public Rights of Way consultation is circulated to members when it is available.

176 Dates of Next Meetings

The next meetings of the Local Access Forum will be held at 10am on
Wednesday 12 July 2017 Wednesday 17 January 2018
Wednesday 11 October 2017 Wednesday 11 April 2018

177 Any Other Business

Resolved – (a) That the Forum asks the County Council to note its concern about signs being left behind following roadwork activities.

(b) That the Forum notes and deplores the 325 dog attacks on livestock recently reported by North Yorkshire Police to the Country Landowners' Association meeting.

The meeting concluded at 12.05pm.

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