

# North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

5 March 2019

## 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.
- 2.2 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
- 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 Annex A summarises activity reported to the Secretary.
- Draft Craven Local Plan Modifications
  - A1
- 3.2 Nominated representatives are invited to report verbally at the meeting on any other activity undertaken.

#### **4.0 LAF projects**

- 4.1 Project work has been minimal since the last meeting as a result of time taken to renew the Forum membership. However, some work has been undertaken to reconsider both the GOAT Scheme, and the Forum's principles and advice. The Forum members involved will provide a verbal update at the meeting.
- 4.2 In addition, nominated representatives are invited to report verbally on any other activity undertaken.

## 5.0 Countryside Access Service (CAS) User Group

- 5.1 In October 2018 a decision was taken to combine the two Local Liaison Groups into one Countryside Access Service (CAS) User Group. This decision was taken in order to ensure the most efficient use of a limited staff resource and to ensure the provision of a consistent response to issues raised.

In regard to the meetings, it was agreed more time would be given to the Members' Forum and less time reading through officer reports. With that in mind, it was agreed that ahead of each meeting, reports would be circulated and read in advance and any specific questions forwarded to the Countryside Access Team.

The first meeting of the new CAS User Group was held on 15 November 2019, and on this occasion no key issues or items of interest have been provided for inclusion in this report.

## 6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 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

**Background Documents:** None

**Public Consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications to the Publication Draft  
Craven Local Plan from Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> February to Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019**

Draft Response to Proposed Main Modifications to the Publication Draft Craven Local Plan:  
Craven District Council's commitment to protect existing rights of way, create a few new ones, and open up green spaces with public access, meets our remit.

Most of the revisions to the draft Local Plan are beyond the remit of the LAF. They concern such things as housing density and design, and the need for flood protection surveys. The LAF's concerns arise in those modifications to the Plan that deal with green spaces and rights of way. Most of the sections describing green spaces have been strengthened to protect public access. In one case a brand new right of way is proposed.

Overall, the Plan exhibits a genuine concern for the protection of green spaces and the historic built environment, even though the Plan envisages substantial, unavoidable, growth in new housing. As the plan rolls out over the coming years, the LAF might have issues with the way in which the development of particular aspects of the plan impinge on our concerns for public access to land for the purpose of open-air recreation, but I don't think that we need to make a submission about the overall strategic goals of the plan, which seem to me to be sound.

Michael Bartholomew  
19 February 2019

## A1 Update

The final meeting of the A1 NMU stakeholders was held on 30 October 2018 to discuss the NMU Audit which had been carried out on the Local Access Roads (LARs) and associated rights of way within the scheme. The meeting was also attended by the design team, NYCC highways, NYCC rights of way and one local rider.

The audit had been quite thorough albeit with a couple of misunderstandings about route details. Issues were raised regarding:

- Footpaths;
- the lack of promised safe margins;
- the lack of approved safe surfaces for horses;
- the need for NYCC to co-operate by mowing the verges where necessary

It was disappointing that Highways England (HE) still defended their reduction of safety on the LARs ( by the reduced margins for horses and cyclists) on the need to meet budget constraints after plans had been agreed, even though the result does not meet standards laid down by HE themselves.

It is shocking that safety can be sacrificed by HE's demand to 'depart from standards'. Had the NMU stakeholders been consulted on this, objections would have been raised, but there was no consultation.

There are numerous matters which need to be addressed coming from this Audit, and HE have promised a time-line for the work to be done. Some will be undertaken by NYCC and paid for by HE.

Although there will be no more meetings, dialogue and site inspections will continue until the work is complete. George and I will continue to monitor progress.

A Road Safety audit on each section of the Local Access Roads has been carried out, but in the one section I was allowed to read there is a total lack of the NMU safety shortcomings, which is disappointing, and I don't know to whose attention to bring this. HE seems untouchable and unaccountable.

Rachel Connelly  
30 October 2018