

North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Northallerton on 5 March 2019, commencing at 1:30pm

Present

Geoff Fell (Chair), Doug Cartwright, Rachel Connolly, Roma Haigh, County Councillor Robert Heseltine, Carol Murray, Paul Sheard, Paul Sherwood, Richard Smith, Helen Soutar and Judith Turner.

Apologies: County Councillor David Jeffels & Michael Bartholomew

Officers: Ian Kelly, Countryside Access Manager (Business and Environmental Services, North Yorkshire County Council) and Melanie Carr (Legal & Democratic Services - Secretary to the Local Access Forum)

262 Election of a Chair

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

Geoff Fell took the Chair

263 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor David Jeffels and Michael Bartholomew.

264 Election of a Vice-Chair & District Council Liaison Representatives

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

A number of the returning members present, who had previously held a role of District Council Liaison Representative or Project Lead agreed to continue in their role, as follows:

- Richard Smith – Harrogate District Council, & 2026
- Rachel Connelly – Hambleton District Council, A1 & A19
- Paul Sherwood – A66

Other members indicated they would be willing to take on new roles:

- Doug Cartwright – Richmondshire District Council
- Geoff Fell – Scarborough District Council
- Paul Sherwood – LAF Representative on NYCC Countryside Access Service User Group

It was agreed that representation on the following would be agreed at a later date:

- Selby District Council
- Craven District Council
- Ryedale District Council
- Regional Access Forum

265 Minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2018

In considering the draft Minutes, members identified a number of errors:

In regard to Minute 258 – resolution (ii) it was clarified that it was Roma Haigh who had agreed to support the work on Yorkshire Wold Way and Cleveland Way.

In regard to Minute No. 259, resolution (iii) and Minute No. 261– both should have referenced the next LAF meeting in ‘January 2019’ It was noted that the planned January meeting had subsequently been deferred to March 2019.

Resolved -

That subject to the above changes, the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2018 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

266 Public Questions or Statements

There were no public questions or statements.

267 Attendance of Highways England Representative

Ben Dobson, A19 Contract Manager from Highways England attended the meeting to give a presentation that updated the Forum on confirmed works for 2019/20 and Highways England plans for 2020 onwards. He briefed the Forum on:

- The work that had been undertaken along the North Yorkshire section of the A19
- The planned closure of Stony Lane access – a decision taken as a result of a number of incidences. He confirmed there would still be a physical break in the road to enable pedestrians to cross.
- Planned work at Elwick & Dalton Piercy, Mount Grace Priory and Norton to Wynyard
- Other pieces of maintenance work planned throughout the year

He went on to highlight the planned areas of work from 2020 onwards which included improving lining, signage and junctions and undertaking gap closures. He confirmed that Improvement works would be initiated following consideration of the most cost effective options. Also that Highways England already had funding in place to carry out some preliminary design work but further national funding would be required for any major junction improvement works.

Following a query from Members, Ben Dobson outlined the approximate costs involved in introducing a NMU bridge, and confirmed that bridges were cheaper than tunnels. He also defined the type of evidence required to justify the expense.

In regard to Stony Lane, Ben Dobson confirmed the only objection received had come from North Yorkshire Local Access Forum, and that whilst the objection had been received after the close of the consultation period, it had led to the decision to introduce a gap.

Members raised the issue of assessing suppressed demand and questioned how it was evaluated. Ben Dobson confirmed that Highways England used a number of formulas to assess suppressed demand, and that data was added to assess potential demand at the strategic planning stage.

In regard to assessing use of routes, Ben Dobson confirmed NMU surveys, user groups and physically sitting and watching users, were all methods undertaken.

Finally, a question was raised whether a Public Space Protection Order could be used instead of a Traffic Regulation Order. Ian Kelly agreed to investigate and provide feedback.

The Forum thanked Ben Dobson for his update and requested a further update in 12 months' time.

Resolved -

That:

- i. The update be noted
- ii. A further update be provided in 12 months' time.

268 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.

It was confirmed that County Councillor David Jeffels was continuing his work on the GOAT Scheme (Going Out & About), and would be providing a written report to a later meeting.

Rachel Connolly gave a verbal overview of two draft responses on two Hambleton District Council planning applications she had produced for the LAF's consideration.

Roma Haigh confirmed that her work on the NYLAF webpage had been paused since the previous meeting of the Forum in October 2018, and that now the LAF was up and running again, the work would be progressed.

Members also noted:

- The comments provided by Michael Bartholomew to the public consultation on the proposed main modifications to Craven District Council's Local Plan.
- The update from Rachel Connolly on the final meeting of the A1 NMU Stakeholders held on 30 October 2018.

Finally, Roma Haigh agreed to forward her consultation feedback on the Howardian Hills Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB) Management Plan Review to the Secretary for circulation to all members.

Resolved -

That:

- i. The updates on the various projects be noted.
- ii. That an update on GOAT be provided at the next meeting of the LAF in April 2019
- iii. The draft responses on the two Hambleton District Council planning applications be submitted by the Secretary, on behalf of the LAF.
- iv. Roma Haigh to provide feedback on the Howardian Hills AONB Review for circulation to Forum members.

269 Secretary's Update Report

Considered -

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

Forum members noted the update on the consultation submissions and notifications received since the last meeting.

The Chair queried why some of the issues identified within the report had been brought to the Forum's attention as he was of the view that they were outside of the forum's remit. In particular he referenced the open access land issue in Nidderdale, shown at Annex D to the report. The Secretary confirmed that the Forum had previously been consulted on a similar planning scheme by the Forestry Commission but not on the site in question. She questioned whether this was indicative of a lack of appropriate consultation by the Forestry Commission. Members discussed the submission and Richard Smith agreed to contact the Forestry Commission to seek further clarity on any obstruction of PROW in that area.

In regard to the request from Natural England for feedback on both the continued delay implementation of the Deregulation Act measures, and the fast approaching 2026 cut-off and the establishment of TROs, Forum members considered the draft responses provided by a number of forum members shown at Annex C to the report, and agreed its formal response for submission.

In regard to the Bedale & Leeming By-pass, Ian Kelly confirmed it was unlikely that NYCC would proceed with a Creation Order if a Creation Agreement was not successful in securing an NMU route. He also confirmed he was in the process of replying to the BHS contact who was pursuing the matter on behalf of NMUs.

In regard to the LAF's remit, the Secretary provided an update on the work of the sub-group set up at the last meeting to consider Terms of Reference (ToR) in place elsewhere, with the intention of revising if appropriate the LAF principles for this Forum. The Secretary confirmed that no consensus had been reached by the sub-group and in light of the training provided earlier, suggested that she draft a ToR that incorporated the principles and advice currently in place, for consideration by all Forum members at the forthcoming meeting in April 2019.

Resolved -

That:

- i. The update report be noted.
- ii. Richard Smith investigate further the issues in Upper Nidderdale and feedback to the LAF in due course.
- iii. The Secretary to submit NYLAFs responses on Natural England Policies to the Regional Access Forum.
- iv. The Secretary draft Terms of Reference for the LAF that incorporate the current LAF Principles and Advice documents, for consideration at the next LAF meeting in April 2019.

270 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.

Members suggested the future attendance of representatives from Section 94 Bodies, and Ian Kelly confirmed that an update on UUR Management would be provided at the next meeting.

Resolved -

That:

- i. The Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary meet to consider and update the Forward Plan for 2019, for presentation at the forthcoming meeting in April 2019

The meeting concluded at 3:40pm
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