

North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

10 april 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 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 the short amount of time between the meetings. However, some work has been undertaken.
- 4.2 A meeting of the Highways England Trans-Pennine A66 Route Non-Motorised User Group was held 13 March 2019. Minutes of the meeting are shown at Annex A.
- 4.3 At the last meeting of NYLAF, members received information on the possible blocking of a public rights of way at Summerstone Estate in Upper Nidderdale as a result of a woodland planting scheme. It was agreed that Richard Smith would investigate the issue further and feedback to the LAF in due course. Copies of the correspondence to date is shown at Annex B.
- 4.4 In 2015 NYLAF working with the Outdoor Learning Service carried out a Schools & Education Project called Getting Out and About (GOAT) which led to the drafting of

a worksheet for primary schools. The proposal was that the worksheet would be circulated to all primary schools together with a copy of the relevant Ordnance Survey map. Work on the GOAT Scheme continued throughout 2016, and In November 2016, County Councillor David Jeffels was tasked with identifying potential community funding sources for its development.

- 4.5 At the same time NYLAF was made aware of a wide range of work already underway within the Authority to encourage young people to get out and about. As a result of that other work, a decision was later taken by the Countryside Access Manager not to proceed with the GOAT scheme. Members should note that it was not within the gift of the LAF to proceed with the scheme, it could only make a recommendation to NYCC.
- 4.6 In July 2018 the GOAT Scheme was raised again by Rachel Connelly in response to an update on the Pathways to Health Programme. At that meeting Ian Kelly confirmed his previous decision not to proceed with the scheme but he did concede that if the scheme were re-submitted, he would consider it once again. It was thus agreed that County Councillor David Jeffels and Rachel Connelly would prepare/ revise the scheme for re-submission.
- 4.7 An update provided by County Councillor David Jeffels in regard to the GOAT Scheme will be tabled at the meeting.
- 4.8 In addition, 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

Background Documents: None

Annex A – Minutes of the meeting of the Highways England Trans-Pennine A66 Route Non-Motorised User Group held 13 March 2019.

Annex B – Update on the public rights of way issue at Summerstone Estate in Upper Nidderdale

**Highways England
Trans-Pennine A66 Route
Non-Motorised User Group Meeting - 'Stage 2',
Holiday Inn, Scotch Corner, 1530hrs 13th March 2019**

Pre-amble (of particular use to new LAF members)

I have issued previous reports on this long term project (anticipated completion 2028) these being:-

18th October 2017 Dolphin Centre, Darlington - full 'Stage 1' meeting.

16th February 2018 Mercure Hotel, Darlington - first NMU (sub-group) meeting.

3rd July 2018 Mercure Hotel, Darlington - second NMU (sub-group) meeting.

25th September 2018 Mercure Hotel, Darlington - second full 'Stage 1' meeting.

These reports detailed the 'past history', anticipated time-scale, poor safety record, unreliable journey times, design criteria and resilience for the entire fifty-mile £1B upgrade project.

I produced a spread sheet that was issued, dated October 2017 identifying relevant crossing points which may be contentious on the two short sections (totalling about six-kilometre) of the A66 in North Yorkshire. There are many more in County Durham & Cumbria with the same issues.

The purpose of the A66 Northern Trans-Pennine Project Non-Motorised User Group (NMU) is to help Highways England identify and review the relevant non-motorised user issues with respect to the A66 project. This early engagement hopes to seek to help identify options that may result in a better quality, more sensitive development.

13th March Meeting

This was a two day series of sub-group meetings, others entering into discussion are:- Business, Ports & Freight Groups, Devolved Administrations, Environmental Interests, Emergency Services, Local Authorities, Non-Motorised User Groups, Statutory Environmental Bodies and Project Sponsors & Partners.

Organisations Invited to Attend the NMU sub-group meeting

- Appleby Travellers
- British Horse Society [Caroline Bradley]
- Cycling UK [Terry Ratcliffe]
- Cycling Forum - Richmondshire
- Highways England [Matt Townsend + 5?]
- Cumbria & Lake District National Park Local Access Forum [Charles Ecroyd]
- Durham Local Access Forum [David Maughan]
- North Yorkshire Local Access Forum [Paul Sherwood]
- North Yorkshire County Council [Andrew Brown]
- Ramblers Association [George Bateman]
- Sustrans

Report (this is not chronological or in 'minutes' format)

This was a fairly informal meeting lasting about two hours, with general discussion as to what Highways England had achieved since the last series of sub-group meetings and what the delegates of the various organisations hoped for, based on suggestions already given. At this early stage Highways England continues to want discussions to be very broad based, and not case specific, as it will be several years before an actual defined route proposal is in place. They are currently still looking at the options for either an "on-line" improvement (basically widen the existing) or an "off-line" improvement (new road) or indeed a mixture. Last autumn we were advised by Highways England that the non-statutory public consultation would commence in spring 2019. These dates have now been finalised and a copy of the leaflet is attached. Please try to attend any local venue, and participate.

However, at this stage I can not tell you about detailed provisional plans, as a lot of the actual route discussions are commercially sensitive and are embargoed until the non-statutory public consultation process begins in spring this year. No matter what options and routes are selected there are very many footpaths/bridleways etc that ideally need to be able to cross, and not terminate on the A66 corridor. See the spread sheet referred to above for details of routes in North Yorkshire. We were advised that a 'spade' will not touch the ground before 2024.

Obviously financial constraints are of critical consideration as are the recommendations from "Transport for the North" & "Northern Powerhouse" in their aims to improve road communications and economic development in the North of England. It gives NMU groups a bit of hope when one of the 'presentation' slides quoted; "Seek to improve NMU provision across the route."

There appears to be plenty of out of date information on how much use the NMU routes have had in the past, but history changes the future use, if a path has gone, or is difficult to use people will eventually adapt to other more convenient & safer routes, we need to look at anticipated future use. Personal opinion is that once this project gets into the non-statutory public consultation arena, more accurate usage data, based on actual 'sightings' may come from local residents and land owners than from anyone else with dated historic facts.

Current evidence based statistical data is needed to support requests for bridges, underpasses, re-alignment etc. With clear evidence-based data outlining the 'benefits' obtained by doing the work.

Highways England raised the point of the financial implications as there are literally dozens of contentious crossing points for walkers, horses, cyclists over the fifty-mile route of the A66. If two crossings are fairly close it is unrealistic to cater for both NMU routes.

A further user group meeting is scheduled for later in the year.

Paul A. Sherwood...
27th March 2019



We want your views on the future of the A66

At Highways England we believe in a connected country and our network makes these connections happen. We strive to improve our major roads and motorways - engineering the future to keep people moving today and moving better tomorrow. We want to make sure all our major roads are more dependable, durable and, most importantly, safe.

We have been commissioned by the Department for Transport (DfT) to investigate the potential to improve the A66 between the M6 junction 40 at Penrith and the A1(M) at Scotch Corner to address the east/west connectivity across the Pennines in the north of England.

We are proposing to invest more than a billion pounds to dual the remaining six single carriageway sections of the A66. This will significantly improve journeys and connectivity, which is great news for the local, regional and national economy.

We are holding a series of consultation events to explain our proposals and seek your views.

For further information please visit

www.highwaysengland.co.uk/A66TransPennine

Event venues, dates and times

- **Penrith Parish Centre**
14 May 2019, 11am – 7pm
15 May 2019, 10am – 2pm
- **Penrith Rugby Club, Winters Park**
17 May 2019, 11am – 7pm
18 May 2019, 10am – 2pm
- **Gilling West Hall, Richmond**
22 May 2019, 11am – 7pm
23 May 2019, 11am – 7pm
- **The Appleby Hub**
29 May 2019, 11am – 7pm
30 May 2019, 10am – 3pm
31 May 2019, 11am – 7pm
1 June 2019, 10am – 2pm
- **Penrith Parish Centre**
4 June 2019, 11am – 7pm
5 June 2019, 10am – 2pm
6 June 2019, 10am – 2pm
- **The Witham, Barnard Castle**
12 June 2019, 11am – 7pm
13 June 2019, 11am – 7pm
14 June 2019, 11am – 7pm
15 June 2019, 10am – 2pm
- **The Station, Richmond**
21 June 2019, 11am – 7pm
22 June 2019, noon – 4pm



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From: Thomas Richard Smith [<mailto:tomrichsmith@gmail.com>]
Sent: 16 March 2019 06:49
To: Cooper, Sam
Cc: Melanie Carr1
Subject: Obstruction of Footpaths

For the Attention of
Sam Cooper
Field Manager
Forestry Commission England,
Foss House,
Kings Pool
1-2 Peaseholme Green
York
YO17PX

Ref
Woodland Creation Scheme, Summerstone Estate, Upper Nidderdale

Date
March 16th 2019.

Dear Mr Cooper,

I have been asked by the members of the North Yorkshire Local Access Forum to contact you in respect of the tree planting as part of the Woodland Creation Scheme, Summerstone Estate, Upper Nidderdale.

The North Yorkshire Local Access Forum has been contacted by a member of the public who claims that the planting of trees as part of this scheme has blocked two rights of way. The rights of way on question are:-

- Footpath 15.126/10/1 is claimed to be obstructed by the new tree planting between SE0931377000 and SE0926377053 (where a stile has been provided in the new fence).
- Footpath 15.44/7/1 is claimed to be obstructed by new tree planting at SE1037075957.

I would be obliged if you let me know if, when undertaking the tree planting, due regard was taken to ensuring that these footpaths (rights of way) were not obstructed and that clear, well signed rights of way were maintained and ensured following that planting.

I look forward to receiving your response and I will relay that response to the next meeting of the North Yorkshire Access Forum,

Yours faithfully,

Richard Smith
(On behalf of the North Yorkshire Access Forum)

Response received on 19 March 2019

Dear Richard Smith

Thank you for your enquiry relating to possible obstruction of PROW at Summerstone Estate.

I can confirm there is a Countryside Stewardship agreement for creating new woodland on land at the locations referenced in your enquiry. I have requested clarification from the estate's Forestry Agent (Tilhill) to confirm that there are no obstructions affecting public rights of way at these locations.

At this stage I'm not proposing to undertake a site visit, subject to an appropriate response from either the estate / their managing agent. I have copied in Joost van Schijndel the Woodland Officer covering Harrogate (not available this week). I would not anticipate any intentional obstructions affecting a PROW as I understood these to have been taken into account in the planning and delivery of the tree planting scheme. I note reference, in your enquiry, to use of a stile which should overcome the obstruction created by a stock fence at the first of the referenced locations.

I will provide you with a more comprehensive response in due course. In the meantime if you have any further queries, please feel free to contact me.

Kind regards
Sam

Sam Cooper

Field Manager
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