

North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

25 March 2020

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. 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. Both are represented in the table below:

Name	Representation
Vacant	Craven District
Barrie Mouny	Selby District
Rachel Connelly	Hambleton District Richmondshire District A1 & A19
Roma Haigh	Ryedale District HS2
Paul Sherwood	NYCC Countryside Access Service User Group Regional Access Forum A66
Helen Soutar	Harrogate District
County Councillor David Jeffels	Scarborough District Regional Access Forum
Vacant	2026

- 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 The following updates have been provided by Rachel Connolly:
- 3.2 Catterick Garrison - Plans are afoot to expand and develop the garrison, but are not at the stage where the MOD is ready to engage with the LAF. I have made RDC aware that the Forum would like to be involved at the earliest stage possible in order to be effective, and wait for news.
- 3.3 Richmond District Council - Held a meeting with the head of planning and senior planning officer. However, I feel that they are too easily swayed by threats of appeal to permit development at any price and do not use the advice clout of the Forum or the 'rules' of the National Planning Policy Framework to strengthen cases for refusal or revised plans. As with all district councillors, knowledge about rights of way is very limited, so the Forum cannot expect support from this source, not even from the chair of the planning committee. RDC has a disappointing lack of robust attitude to rights of way. The revised advice note devised by NYCC regarding rights of way is not over-helpful, but I understand this may be reviewed and prove more effective.
- 3.4 Hambleton District Council - Ongoing contact which is business-like and effective. They are aware of NMU requirements as expected in Travel Plans within the NPPF but still have a problem with effecting these owing to the many diverse demands on sec 106 agreements. As with most other district councils plans for under 80 dwellings, highway matters are responded to by the district highways officer not by County Hall who deal with the major developments where there are more strategic matters. In this respect I have raised the desirability of including issues of NMU travel in their reports, alongside matters of lighting, surface materials, drainage etc. as they are rarely mentioned. It is interesting to report that Hambleton, in recognition of the fact that they cannot enforce householders to use their garages for cars, are now expecting developers to provide their 'ration' of car parking within each curtilage to reduce street parking that has become endemic to the detriment of NMU's. The North Northallerton 'village' of 1000 new houses is a project in progress, but from the NMU perspective illustrates the current lack of joined-up thinking. Whilst each block of housing is expected to meet the requirements for NMU travel within the estate (NPPF guideline), this is not going to result in modal shift because there is no onward safe cycling provision into Northallerton. The problem is the same for the new 1,000 dwelling development in Knaresborough for instance. The infrastructure isn't there, and the NYCC cycling and walking policy which intends to concentrate on a few major towns will not benefit Northallerton and Knaresborough or sizeable villages like Bedale and Easingwold.

4.0 LAF Projects & Other Updates

- 4.3 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

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