

North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

30 September 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 Richmondshire District Council are running behind with their Local Plan, which was due to be circulated in the early summer. Input to Hambleton District Council's local plan was used as an example of what the Forum expected, and they were provided with the LAF training notes from Natural England. Officers are proving difficult to contact, but they do refer applications on a regular basis. However, they lack a robust stance on advice given. Prior to lockdown two meetings with heads of planning and policy departments were held.
- 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. Their Local Plan is now due to be 'heard' publically and the Forum was invited to send someone. It is not clear how this is to be done, and how much of the advice the Forum provided has been incorporated, is still to be checked. As always HDC are excellent to engage with, easy to contact and flag up major development and some minor controversial sites where they need the input of the Forum.

4.0 LAF Projects & Other Updates

- 4.3 Ministry of Defence - Catterick Garrison – In March 2020, plans were afoot to expand and develop the garrison, but were not at the stage where the MOD was ready to engage with the LAF. Richmondshire DC was made aware that the Forum wanted to be involved at the earliest stage possible in order to be effective. Since then, major plans for development have been delayed by a lack of face-to-face discussion and the Forum has yet to be invited to comment.
- 4.4 Highways England - A1 Upgrade - It is now a year since what purported to be a most positive move by Highways England to offer some improvements for NMUs relating to the local access roads and adjacent routes. However, their convoluted procurement process for funding these proposals has dashed optimism, and there has been a lack of enthusiasm towards mitigating the way NMUs have been failed on this project. This has been a 15-year experience of frustration with a government agency with no accountability. It will be interesting to see if NYCC can now be proactive in achieving their proposals, although to date there is no evidence of effective engagement. Highways England, operating on behalf of the DfT now have an Accessibility Statement for NMUs, which is inclusive, and are now official agents for Sustrans.
- 4.5 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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