

# CALDERDALE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

## TOWN HALL, HALIFAX

### THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2016

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#### **PRESENT**

Julie Swift (CMBC)  
Sarah Whiteley (Chair)  
Graham Ramsden  
Sam Moore  
Sarah Talbot-Greaves  
David Wakeford  
David Austin  
Robin Dalton (CMBC)  
Councillor Barry Collins  
Rodney Collinge  
Jan Gibson (CMBC)

#### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Sarah Whiteley opened the meeting, welcomed attendees - introductions ensued

#### **2. APOLOGIES**

Moy Cash, Peter Stubbs, Chipps Chippendale

#### **3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

Accepted

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MINUTES**

None

## 5. FLOOD RECOVERY IMPROVEMENTS TO NETWORK (Jan Gibson)

Presentation given by Jan Gibson (Engineer – CMBC Highway Management). Jan outlined the idea of using appropriate areas of the Rights of Way network as 'shared use paths' (with landowners consent) enabling horse riders and cyclists to use suitable public footpaths to access the countryside.

The floods in 2015 caused a tremendous amount of damage to the network. Money has been secured to reinstate damaged routes and work is underway. Work carried out will try to make routes more sustainable by choosing appropriate materials and to try to lower the impact of future floods by slowing down the flow of water off Rights of Way.

Countryside Access Management System (CAMS) records problems with network and the system is used to prioritise work needed. Jan asked people to get in touch if there were any areas they found needing attention; already 45 schemes funded through Flood Alleviation monies. E-mail any problems to [Highways&Engineering@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:Highways&Engineering@calderdale.gov.uk)

Calderdale Way 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the horizon and we are undertaking survey of that route with intention of getting it up to speed. Also doing work on the Norland Moor front. Working with the National Trust on Hardcastle Crags which also suffered a lot of damage.

JG showed Powerpoint presentation of an area of flood damage where significant and costly works, approx. £22,000, needed to be carried out to prevent road collapse. Work is carried out by employing contractors for large scale work. Smaller work is carried out by working in partnership with the Countryside and Woodlands team and their volunteers and by working with community groups such as CROWS. JG: Invited questions

GR The work needed at Stoodley Pike is stretching flood damage! JG – The money wasn't just for flood damaged routes, it was wider than that. JS My understanding was that some of the money is to encourage tourists to visit Calderdale so general improvements to the network were covered by the grant. JG - Exactly right, draw people back in.

GR all needs maintenance. Everything mentions beautiful countryside but all needs maintaining and it is no good promoting it if we have not money to look after it.

JG: We are looking at more sustainable routes and doing work that will last. There are lots of other routes which will require continuous maintenance. We do not have a dedicated ROW section anymore so it is a challenge.

D W: Does clearing up leaves fall to your remit? JG: leaves on adopted highway cleared by us: (through Safer, Cleaner, Greener Service), gullies cleared by Amey on behalf of Highways. Adopted Highway routinely visited by Safer, Cleaner, Greener Service for sweeping with different frequencies for type of road. Gullies cleaned routinely by Amey.

Cllr BC: Passionate about ROW but important to remember the context of all this. Council has lost £90m through cuts and is to lose another £13m, in all amounting to loss of 40 -50% of the entire Council budget. This affects really important areas such as vulnerable children, so the fact that the council put £500,000 into ROW speaks for itself. The value of the Rights of Way network is widely recognised but there is just not enough money to go round.

Jan Gibson was thanked for his attendance and interesting presentation.

## 6. NORLAND MOOR UPDATE (Robin Dalton)

Robin Dalton asked whether the Local Access Forum would consider helping out with some of the issues related to Norland Moor. The moor is facing quite a few pressures which have been building up over the years such as:

- changing recreational dynamics
- climate issues
- Habitat management issues

Trees becoming dominant and need managing, if not we will lose one of the key assets.... experiencing open moor.

Climate - atmospheric nitrogen will impact on the soil and health of the heather; health of Moorland ecosystem reflected in the invertebrates and birds. Heather requires active management.

Another issue which came out of this year's survey is path erosion due to footfall, cycle tyres, increased use; some areas muddy/eroded so routes extended as people detour/create alternatives.

Unfortunately Norland through open access has been inflicted with numerous desire lines, increasing disturbance of and affecting moor's ability to hold, breeding birds.

Large majority of cyclists and walkers appear content to co-exist. However, there is a conflict between a minority of users.

No legal right of access for cyclists on the Moor as it stands.

Since June we have been drawing up an appraisal of the management options for the Moor, around which to develop the management plan.

The document will discuss:

- Options for habitat management
- Options for public access
- Options for paths/routes

Purpose of this information is to inform on how management plan derived and be open about the process.

Request that LAF consider establishing an advisory sub-group to consider and propose their preferred access options for the Moor. Robin left this possibility with Sarah for progression/discussion. **Action: SW**

Should be an effective and consolidated Management Plan which will be an accessible document and available on the internet next year. That is the ultimate goal.

RD: There is no friends group on Norland Moor, just a community of people who are interested, not a constituted group. GR: Would all definitive user groups be involved? RD: Yes, it is very much about engaging with all different users. Survey did demonstrate the power of social media. DW: when you have the management plan sorted out will it be competing for ROW funding. Yes. The moor is also important in flood management so there will be funding attached to that.

## 7. CALDERDALE WAY UPDATE

JS: Calderdale Way: Whole of the network has now been surveyed. Countryside and Woodland Team did the east of Calderdale and CROWS did the Upper Valley around Hebden Bridge, Todmorden etc. JG: Co-ordinating what bit of network needs repairs/signage and then we can begin to make improvements to the route. RD: We will be able to provide signs at fairly low cost to the Council using recently purchased routing machine; A lot of way markers and signs have come to the end of their life. DW suggested that signage cross reference to the guide book.

D Austin any changes to the Calderdale Way route?

JS Don't know but will try and find out

**ACTION JS**

Discussion took place regarding The Calderdale Way Association which it is believed has funds in place, but not aware of any plans to use those monies towards improvements for the anniversary.

SM: Need to check the mileage as it can be grossly out if the guide book is to be updated. JS: Calderdale Way Ass still has lots of the old guide in stock so unlikely to happen in near future. 2018 is its birthday and there will be a celebration. Links to the tourist agenda so well worthwhile doing.

## **8. UPDATES FROM MEMBERS**

R Collinge: Enquired about P Stubbs improvement Plan. JS: Moved to February meeting. It is a requirement that it is updated in 2017.

## **9. FOOTPATH DIVERSIONS**

**Lightcliffe Wyke level crossing – proposed closure:** Please forward comments to Phil Champion (Planning)

## **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

DW: Still has unresolved problem found on a walk; e-mail details/map reference to [jan.gibson@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:jan.gibson@calderdale.gov.uk) - he will follow up: **ACTION DW/ JG**

**British Horse Society:** JS had an e-mail asking for the local access forum to update list of streets. It is up to us to decide whether we should be involved; Jan Gibson said that as far as he is aware the list of streets is updated regularly. e-mail JS/SW if you have comments.

**Ogden Water:** features on BBC's Country File on Sunday.

### **Bridleway across Copley bridge**

Cllr BC: Bridge badly damaged in the floods. It is a bridleway and as such can be used by pedestrians, cyclists and horses. Council has never been able to establish who owns the bridge. On the land registry documents show the Council do not own it but it is obviously important so Council are going to repair it at a cost of £2m but this will not cater for motor vehicles as that would double the cost.

**11.DATE OF NEXT MEETING: To be arranged at the AGM which follows this meeting.** (now confirmed as: Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 6.15pm Halifax Town Hall meeting room A).