

CALDERDALE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MEETING - TOWN HALL, HALIFAX THURSDAY 18TH AUGUST 2016

PRESENT

Julie Swift (CMBC)
Sarah Whiteley (Chair)
Graham Ramsden
Sara Talbot-Greaves
David Wakeford
Sarah Ramsden
David Austin
Peter Erhardt
Councillor Graham Hall (part attendance)

APOLOGIES

Corrine Keilty
Eleanor Green
Councillor James Baker
Chipps Chippendale
Peter Stubbs
Moy Cash

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Sarah Whiteley opened the meeting, welcomed attendees - introductions ensued

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Agreed

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

Norland Moor: JS: Robin Dalton (CMBC Area Countryside Officer) will present an update at our next meeting in November.

ROW: Peter Stubbs – Improvement plan needed updating and he will give us the update at the November meeting with the Rights of Way improvement plan which is about trying to make the network better for all users

4. FACEBOOK UPDATE FROM DAVID AUSTEN

David Austen gave a demonstration of Group Facebook page.

5. RECRUITMENT POSTER

Julie Swift had done a draft poster and felt we need a logo so ideas invited on what sort of logo would represent all users – ideas/suggestions welcome.

6. THE FUTURE – RECRUITMENT, PRIORITIES, ETC.

JS: Highways and Engineering have secured some funding to repair the Highways network following the floods, some of which will be used to improve the Rights of Way network. Discussions took place on bridleways and how they benefit users.

There is a statutory duty to maintain Rights of Way: Priorities will be identified when the Rights of Way Improvement Plan is updated in 2017 and the Access Forum will have input into the update.

More Councillor representation needed. The reason there is a Local Access Forum is to act as a critical friend and be able to put pressure on people to improve access. Group should bring these things to the Councillors' attention. Discussion on encouraging more Councillor attendance; Sarah going to write to Councillors to encourage this.

ACTION SW

7. RYBURN VALLEY GREENWAY

Item postponed – Corrine Kielty will update L.A.F. when she has information available.

8. UPDATES FROM MEMBERS

Network Rail Crossings: Network Rail is looking at closing some crossings in Calderdale and further afield to improve safety. Where possible they are installing alternative ways of crossing the lines.

SW: People across the country are worried about decisions to close these crossings and it is going to cause difficulties to people who use them and for whom they are critical. Telephones on some points to make crossing the lines safer. On some crossings, gates lock automatically.

DW – One in Todmorden where Calderdale Way crosses is now a footbridge and therefore there is no disabled access.

Peter E - e-mail forwarded was document from the National Ramblers Association, Norfolk but the work extends throughout the country. Alarming thing is consultation; Network Rail defined that as “contacting 100 houses in the vicinity” meaning many users of a crossing do not get a say.

Meeting date for Yorkshire & Humber Regional Access Forum Date changed to 28th September; SW may attend.

Calderdale Way – discussions re 2017 being the 40th Birthday of The Calderdale Way.

GR: Has tried to get people to adopt stretches and keep in order. Contact for the Calderdale Way Association is Peter Manning. Work carried out on way markers checked/replaced – joint effort between CROWS and CMBC Countryside and Woodlands Service. The route is also being surveyed to identify work needed with a view to carrying out any necessary improvements in the near future.

Councillor Graham Hall joined the meeting at this juncture: apologised for late arrival due to prior commitment. Will try to attend whenever he can.

Wellholme Park Project: JS: Robin Dalton has nearly finished risk assessments, should be done by end of September. Also got funding for some signage at the entrance to the park to highlight Code of Conduct. When safety inspection of the routes completed, needs to run things past our Legal Department but what is proposed at the moment is to allow horse riders access by key – available on payment of a cash deposit. Reason being it is a very steep bank and there are worries about horses and cyclists colliding and the safety implications of having both groups of users on the path.

Are keys just for horse riders – yes. Walkers can access without a key. SW: commented that it would be good to have a route for cyclists to keep them off the road.

JS: We have recently got funding from Yorkshire Water, with the help of a group called Experience Community based in Huddersfield, for funding for new kissing gates for Ogden Water; one from the Visitor Centre, one from the car park and one at the far end of the dam. The new gates can be unlocked with a Radar Key and allow access for larger motorised wheelchairs, Trampers etc. Experience

Community (www.experiencecommunity.co.uk) are leading a guided walk in the Walking Festival for September allowing people with disabilities access into the woodlands. The group are going to produce a video so people can decide if the route at Ogden Water is suitable for them.

JS: We are hoping that some of the money from the Flood Recovery fund will be able to be used at Ogden to improve the footpaths which have suffered damage following recent storms.

9. PROPOSED FOOTPATH DIVERSIONS

None received.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

GR: Rishworth Moor/Turvin Moor – got digital download – Moors for the Future available from <http://www.moorsforthefuture.org.uk/moorlife-audio-trails>

Diversion by the Lightcliffe Golf Club and network rail. Trying to divert as they come through the tunnel.

Other issue has been with the council for 3 – 4 years, footpath closed off the A58 towards Norwood Green. The land was bought up by company who have blocked off the footpath and residents have sent evidence in for Council action. It has been used for many years by residents and they feel it should be re-opened and apply for a diversion the future if needed.

PE: bridle way behind his house which owner closed and still not dealt with.

Discussion on inordinate length of time taken to resolve ROW issues with some ongoing for many years.

Problem on land following a landslide going from Hinchcliffe Arms – near to Withens Clough Reservoir; GR: said Yorkshire Water remit, the route is one of their permissive paths; JS: Will contact Yorkshire Water to see what they are planning to do.

Councillor Hall asked if the LAF might like to be represented on Scrutiny Group

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING (AGM and general meeting)

Tuesday 15th November – 6.15pm Town Hall, Meeting Room A