

WEST YORKSHIRE PENNINE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

MEETING HELD ON 9TH JULY 2009 AT TOWN HALL, HALIFAX

PRESENT:

Members:

Mr D Nortcliffe (Chair)
Mr R Gibbon
Mr T Norris
Mr G Ramsden
Mr R Hindley
Mr I Condliffe

In Attendance:

Mr D Jackson (Bradford)
Ms S Leffman (Calderdale)
Mr A Gardner (Kirklees)
Mr S Woodhead
Ms S Hogg (on behalf of Didy Metcalfe)

Apologies: Ms P Ashton, Ms P Sheridan, Mr R Malkin, Mr A Fowler, Mr E Bromet, Ms D Metcalfe

David Nortcliffe welcomed all to the meeting.

1 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16TH APRIL 2009

IT WAS AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2009 be approved as a correct record.

2 MATTERS ARISING

Entry Points on to Access Land

Minute Number 40 – Entry Points on to Access Land – Sue Leffman to draft a response to the letter previously received from Councillor David Sheard, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Transportation at Kirklees Council, to be signed by David Nortcliffe, expressing this Forum's concerns.

Hard Surfacing of Bridleways

Sue Leffman advised that the response from Calderdale Planning Department was that planning permission was required for the hard surfacing of Bridleways and it had been left with the Rights of Way Department to assess what constituted "hard surface" and what metre-age was required before planning could be enforced. A written reply had not yet been received from Kirklees Council.

The Forum expressed the need to have a "Bridleway Protection Policy" and Sue Leffman advised that she was to attend a meeting with Calderdale Members to discuss strategy on Bridleways.

IT WAS AGREED that

(a) a reminder letter be sent to Kirklees to request a response on their planning permission requirements; and

(b) Sue Leffman to report the feelings of this Forum to the meeting of the Calderdale Members.

Update on Robin Dalton's Survey Project

IT WAS AGREED that as Robin Dalton was unable to attend this meeting, this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Forum.

Fencing on Rishworth Moor

Further to Yorkshire Water attending a previous meeting, Sue Leffman advised that Yorkshire Water had been in touch with her and had consulted on each process. The Forum was impressed with Yorkshire Water's response to the issues raised.

Access Land at Deer Hill

David Nortcliffe advised that the decision had been made by the powers that be and "we lost", they had now got a five year licence to keep this closed and there was no prospect of doing anything about this one.

HLS Letter

Minute Number 47 – Consultation on Higher Levels Stewardship Application on Dean Head Moor – Sue Leffman agreed to draft a letter to be signed by David Nortcliffe, which expresses the Forum's disquiet that this involves another proposal for more fencing on Pennine moorlands.

3 NATIONAL AND REGIONAL ISSUES

NE Consultation re Proposed Amendments to Restrictions on Access Land

This item was already discussed under "Matters Arising – Entry Points on to Access Land".

DLW – Raised at Regional Meeting

Nothing was received from the regional meeting. The Stakeholder Working Group replaced "Discovering Lost Ways". The Forum was advised that a paper was due out for consultation for feedback on the future options proposed.

IT WAS AGREED that when the consultation document with preferred options was available, it was to be circulated to all Members of the Forum and if members felt that an extra meeting was required to discuss options, this could be arranged.

4 LOCAL ISSUES

A local landowner raised an issue directly with David Nortcliffe about horse-riding on urban common and the impact this was having on "nesting birds". Sue Hogg agreed to raise this issue nationally. The Forum was advised that there was a loophole in the Crow Act to restrict access for a period for nesting birds, but stressed that most horse-riders do not usually go off the path. It was suggested that a simple sign could be erected at access points saying "Nesting birds – Please take care not to disturb".

IT WAS AGREED that

- (a) next Spring notices be put at strategic points warning of “Nesting Birds”;
- (b) a note to be circulated to local bridle groups and clubs saying “Nesting birds – please take care not to disturb”;
- (c) David Nortcliffe to respond direct to the local landowner; and
- (d) this issue be added to the agenda for the January meeting of this Forum.

Membership Renewal and Appointment of Chair

David Nortcliffe requested Members to consider whether they wished to continue their membership and if they had any new nominations, to submit them to the three Authorities. David Nortcliffe advised that he wished to continue as a member of the Forum, but opted out of being the Chair, the new Chair and membership would need to be appointed at the next meeting.

It was suggested that when the letter goes out looking for new nominations, could it be ensured that the people can attend most of the meetings, as recent attendance had been quite low. Could a member from an off road user group be invited to be a member of the Forum?

IT WAS AGREED that

- (a) the three Authorities invite nominations for membership and submit the list for agreement at the October meeting; and
- (b) appointment of the new Chair to be agreed at the October meeting.

Site Visit to Black Hill

The Peak District Forum were arranging a site visit to Black Hill to be arranged in mid September, date still to be confirmed, and have invited any member of this Forum to join them on this site visit. David Nortcliffe expressed an interest in attending the site visit.

IT WAS AGREED that once the date had been agreed for the site visit it was to be circulated to all members.

Update from the Three Authorities Regarding Current Projects

Bradford Authority advised the following projects:

- (i) Off road motorcycling – the parking area at the Flappits in Denholme had now been closed and West Yorkshire Police have agreed to enforce parking restrictions;
- (ii) A Fire Operations Group had now been set up and were equipped and resourced to fight moorland fires. Fire plans were being produced. Risk mapping was being done;
- (iii) Due to pressures in the present economic climate, Planning Services were in difficulty, Countryside and Rights of Way recruitment had been

frozen, and the colleague dealing with definitive mapping had left and would not be replaced.

The question was raised about what was happening with “Burley Bridge”, in response Officers advised that they had met with a ramblers’ representative on site. A new design had now been submitted.

Members commented that it was nice to see the improved disabled access on Ilkley Moor.

Calderdale Authority advised the following projects:

- (i) Application to repower Ovenden Wind Farm – an opportunity had been taken to do a “Section 106” application to try to get footpath Halifax 4 which runs close to the proposed new turbines, flagged to improve access and reduce damage to the peat.
- (ii) Internal project – Calderdale had now bought a mapping system called “CAMS” – and had raised the money for the entire network to be surveyed and put on the CAMS system.
- (iii) Bridleway Strategy or Policy.
- (iv) Board Walk – Stoodley Pike, Pennine Way – still waiting for quotes to improve access across standing water pools.
- (v) Rake Bark – had got some funding through Section 106 applications and were getting quotes for a new path.
- (vi) Drainage problems on paths – now have an annual budget to do works on drainage problems and water running down paths.

Kirklees Authority advised the following projects:

- (i) Castle Hill Path – work on DDA accessibilities now complete.
- (ii) Cupwith – DDA path now incorporated with Huck Hill Lane into Pennine Prospects Watershed Landscapes HLF bid.
- (iii) Countryside Unit and Yorkshire Water all PROW input looking to encourage walking with significant capital input at Scammonden.
- (iv) Walkers are welcome – two groups in Marsden and Kirkburton, are aiming to join WRW group. This is a community based accreditation scheme aiming to promote and support walking in accredited towns.

5 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Items suggested for future agendas:

- (i) Kirklees RoWIP for the October meeting.
- (ii) How other authorities were getting on with RoWIPs – update useful.

- (iii) Enforcement Policy.
- (iv) Agricultural cross compliance.
- (v) “Definitive Map Modification Orders” – a list of dates of applications and progress on Orders.

6 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next meeting will be held in Kirklees Thursday, 22nd October 2009.