

WEST YORKSHIRE PENNINE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

MEETING HELD ON 9TH OCTOBER 2008 AT FLINT STREET OFFICES,
HUDDERSFIELD

RESENT:

Members:

Mr D Nortcliffe (Chair)
Ms P Sheridan
Mr R Gibbon
Mr A Fowles
Mr T Norris
Mr G Ramsden
Mr R Hindley

In Attendance:

Mr D Jackson (Bradford)
Ms S Leffman (Calderdale)
Mr R Malkin (Kirklees)
Ms K Windett
Mrs D Chapman

Apologies:

Councillor M Wallis, Councillor D Kirton, Mr E Bromet, Ms J Turner,
Ms Pam Ashton, Mr Ian Condliffe, Ms D Metcalfe

David Nortcliffe welcomed all to the meeting

13 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18TH JULY 2008

IT WAS AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2008 be approved as a correct record.

14 MATTERS ARISING

Minute No. 4 – paragraph 3, Terry Norris agreed to circulate the paper on Cheshire's Definitive Maps, Rights of Way and White Roads and the overlay system to define lost ways.

15 DISCOVERING LOST WAYS – UPDATE

DN advised that working groups are being set up and was due to have their first meeting in September 2008.

IT WAS AGREED that this item would be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.

16 RISHWORTH MOOR FENCING

The Forum was advised that the information sent to the Spring Meeting was incorrect. There will be a large fence around parts of the moor, intending to be there for several years, possibly up to 30 years. Members were aggrieved that there had been no proper consultation.

SL advised that she attended a meeting at Boothwood Reservoir, but there was a poor turnout. Yorkshire Water was intending to put up 17 kilometres of fence on the urban common and Rishworth Moor and this had been approved by the Secretary of State, in order to prevent livestock accessing the common, particularly in winter, to try to regenerate growth. SL advised that permission was needed to put gates in the fence on public rights of way, to be obtained from the Right of Way team.

A further issue was raised about land in the top of the Holme Valley, where access is said to be being denied.

IT WAS AGREED that DN would write a letter to Yorkshire Water to express the Forum's concerns and would invite a senior person from Yorkshire Water to the next meeting.

17 PROJECTS ON ACCESS LAND WHICH CAN'T BE FUNDED

DN advised that no money had been given by Central Government to maintain or repair access land. Erosion and Paths were starting to appear where none were before. There is a lot of access land and the Forum need to put together a portfolio of things that need doing to manage it. Once a list has been prepared the Forum could then put it to the Regional Group and onto the National Forum.

DJ advised that approximated £50,000 from the Regional Forum needed to be spent by March, so needs to know of any urgent areas, but need to be aware that the criteria is for match funding.

IT WAS AGREED that all three authorities would prepare a list of all areas that require attention urgently and forward their list to the secretariat.

18 WYPLAF WEBPAGES – PROGRESS REPORT

SL advised that Calderdale now have a Web page on the CMBC website under 'Public Rights of Way' and her colleague has editing rites to add things to this page. It would be useful to post Minutes and list Members of the WYPLAF on the website, instead of circulating them.

DN asked if Bradford and Kirklees could provide links to the Calderdale page. Officers responded that they thought this would be possible.

IT WAS AGREED to keep this item on the next agenda.

NATIONAL & REGIONAL ISSUES

19 MEETING OF REGIONAL ACCESS FORUM

DN advised that there is a meeting in Wakefield on 22nd October 2008 and requested volunteers to attend. KW agreed to attend with DN.

The Forum were advised the England Access had a meeting to sort out the fine detail of the constitution, but nothing much to report on Access.

IT WAS AGREED to keep this item on the next agenda.

LOCAL ISSUES

20 CALDERDALE LTP MONEY

DN composed a letter to the Chief Executive of Calderdale following the last meeting... As a result CMBC promised £25,000 for 2008/2009 and a further £25,000 for FY 2009/2010 to be used for RoW work. A new LTP is being drawn up by METRO so it is not possible to know what will happen after then. SL thanked all for this progress, the letter triggered the right action and although only a modest sum it will be extremely useful.

21 KIRKLEES MAPS ONLINE

RM gave a presentation on the Kirklees maps online. Highlighting how easy the mapping system is to use and that when live it would not be more than 24 hours out of date.

DN asked what the timescale was for completion of this. RM responded that the target is January 09.

TN expressed thanks to Officers in Kirklees as they had been very responsive to requests and noted that this is the best online RoW mapping and data system of any he had seen. There is a good amount of information and it is user friendly.

IT WAS AGREED that Kirklees were to be congratulated.

22 HARD-SURFACING OF BRIDLEWAYS

Issues were raised that some of Calderdale's bridleways were getting hard-surfaced. PS advised that she had managed to get a person from Calderdale on site and on a horse and sent him on a concrete track in order to highlight the problems for horse riders.

It was agreed that all members are conscious of the facts, but not sure if there is anything this Forum can do in practical terms.

TN suggested that the crucial question is, do they need planning permission to do this? If planning permission is required it may help to control hard surfacing. TN also suggested that Authorities could write to landowners to remind them of planning and highways roles.

IT WAS AGREED that

(a) British Horse Society be approached to ask what they found out from their Lawyers and also whether they have a design guide for bridleway surfacing; and

(b) DN would send a letter to the three planning departments, to ask how they view hard-surfacing of bridleways. Do they see it as 'permitted development' or not?

23 ENCOURAGING USE OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT FOR RECREATIONAL USE

It was agreed that this is a good idea, but bus operators were so fragmented which makes it very difficult.

DN suggested that we could invite METRO (possibly Alan Bishop) to the April meeting to discuss ways in which we, the 3 authorities, and they can work better together to get more use of rural buses by people seeking recreational access to the countryside.

IT WAS AGREED that DN would invite METRO to the April meeting.

24 ATTEMPTS TO DEVELOP REGIONAL LAF LINKS

There are attempts to develop the Regional LAF links. DN reminded all that we have an invite to the Yorks and Humber LAFs meeting in Wakefield and (as minuted earlier) asked for volunteers to attend with him. KW has agreed to go with DN.

25 EXPENSES FOR ATTENDING LAF MEETINGS

SL advised that expenses can be claimed for attending this meeting and apologised for this not being brought to the Forum's attention sooner.

IT WAS AGREED that SL would circulate relevant expenses forms and would enquire whether retrospective claims could be made.

26 ACCESS RESTRICTION AT HAWKS STONES FARM UNDER CroW 2000

DN referred to a letter from Hillary Scott at Natural England dated 8th October 2008 and noted that an order had been granted to restrict climbing for six weeks over August. Climbers were complaining that they had not been consulted, that other options could have been tried and that this seemed to be a covert way of keeping climbers out. The Act says that it is not necessary to consult and Natural England had acted within their powers and given reasons for their decision, though those reasons might not be palatable to some parties.

DN suggested that we aim to put something forward which is a package including similar issues where we've disagreed with N.E. decisions on exclusion in the past. That could then be presented to N.E. requesting a meeting to discuss such cases before the next round of restriction reviews.

IT WAS AGREED that DN would endeavour to find out if this was a common problem for other LAFs at the Regional Meeting,

27 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ANNUAL REPORT

SL would put together the Annual Report, but requested all to put a quick synopsis about themselves together for her to add to the report, or confirm to her that their details remained the same as previously.

IT WAS AGREED that all would email SL providing that information.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

SL advised that the Forum need to elect a new Chair, and all Members were elected on a one year basis and need to be reappointed.

IT WAS AGREED that the Chair and Members would be elected at the start of the January meeting.

28 DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next three meetings would be held in Calderdale.
Early / Mid January, Early / Mid April and First week of July 2009

IT WAS AGREED that SL would send an email with suggested dates.