

WEST YORKSHIRE PENNINE, LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

MEETING HELD ON 18TH JULY 2008 AT THE TOWN HALL, HALIFAX

PRESENT:

Members:

Mr D Nortcliffe (Chair)
Mr I Condliffe
Mr A Fowler
Mr T Norris
Mr G Ramsden
Ms P Ashton
Mr A Gardner
Ms D Metcalf

In Attendance:

Mr D Jackson (Bradford)
Ms S Leffman (Calderdale)
Mr R Malkin

Apologies:

Councillor M Wallis, Councillor D Kirton, Mr R Hindley, Ms P Sheridan,
Mr E Bromet, Ms J Turner, Mr R Gibbon, Mrs R Finney and Ms K Windett

David Nortcliffe welcomed all to the meeting

1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24TH APRIL 2008

IT WAS AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 24th April 2008 be approved as a correct record.

2. MATTERS ARISING

Minute nos 186/7 - LAF Website

David Nortcliffe asked whether the Calderdale Rights of Way Website host pages could add LAF minutes or contact details.

Sue Leffman advised that contact details for LAF members would not be displayed on the website, but the public could make contact via Sue Leffman or Dianne Morrison.

IT WAS AGREED that Sue Leffman would look into any other useful links to add to the Calderdale Website, including the following:

- a) a single contact email address
- b) minutes of the LAF meetings, to include Members and Attendees
- c) links to Calderdale, Kirklees and Bradford Rights of Way Improvement Plans
- d) mission statement
- e) links to Natural England Website
- f) a reminder that "THESE MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC"

Minute no.195 – Other Local Access Projects, funding issues

It was advised that things were slowing down due to lack of money. A plea was made to all three authorities to produce a list of projects which needed doing but which could not be progressed because of a lack of funding. This would enable a stronger presentation to be made to funding bodies demonstrating the way access was suffering through under-funding.

IT WAS AGREED that all three Authorities would try to produce a list of good schemes that needed doing.

Minute no. 198 – Any other Business

David Nortcliffe reiterated the need for all three Authorities to give contact names and addresses of key people in walking groups and clubs who organise walk programmes, to the Chair, in order to be passed onto Metro. To date only one list had been received from Terry Norris. Metro have said they will then provide advance information of buses/trains into the countryside to such groups

Minute no. 191 – Electronic Mapping

Sue Leffman advised that having referred this issue to the Calderdale's ICT department, she was told that the mapping system is as it is and it is not possible for major alterations, but it could include a link to written statements.

There was a positive feedback on Kirklees Electronic Mapping System.

IT WAS AGREED that the LAF needed an officer from Kirklees to demonstrate their Mapping System, and it was requested that one be invited to the next meeting.

3. MATERIAL FROM REGIONAL CO-ORDINATOR OF 28 MAY

Further to the Regional Boards third meeting on the 1st May 2008 the following issues were raised:

- a) this LAF does not appear to have been consulted re Members appointed to English Access forum, nor how the Members were elected or when do they come up for re-election;
- b) the contact for WYPLAF was wrong on the circulated secretaries list, even after the Co-ordinator had been notified;
- c) It was noted that no funding was provided to Regional Co-ordinators to instigate news letters or conferences. It was felt that if Natural England were serious about such inter-liaison, they should provide a small amount of funds for this;
- d) Re the Handbook for LAF Members, it was felt that Natural England should provide at least one paper copy, for the LAF to refer to at their meetings.

IT WAS AGREED that:

- (a) Sue Leffman would print and bind one copy of the Natural England Handbook for this Forums use; and
- (b) Sue Leffman would prepare a letter to raise the above issues.

4. NATIONAL_ISSUES

DISCOVERING LOST WAYS PROJECT – RE HANSARD DOCUMENT

It was advised that it had been determined that a stakeholder group was needed to look at how things might now be progressed.

DISCOVERING LOST WAYS – STAKEHOLDER WORKING GROUP

Concern was expressed that the stakeholder group needs to ensure resources are in the right place to deal with issues. Central government had agreed that they would not do anything, until it received the stakeholder report.

DISCOVERING LOST WAYS

Terry Norris raised the issue of 'White Roads' and also advised that Cheshire have an overlay system which is designed to help identify Lost Ways. Terry Norris agreed to obtain and circulate a paper on Definitive Maps, Rights of Way and White Roads and the overlay system to define lost ways. .

5. PETITION RE REMOVAL OF CLAIMS DEADLINE

The Chairman advised members that there was a petition on the 10 Downing Street website regarding the removal of the 2026 deadline for claiming historic routes as RoW.

6. ENGLAND ACCESS FORUM

Members were concerned that Natural England is not to be held accountable at England Access Forum Meetings and Forums were interested to know who is actually accountable for such issues.

IT WAS AGREED that Sue Leffman would add this issue to the Regional letter requested above.

7. CRoW ACT IMPLEMENTATION – GENERAL & DEER HILL, LETTER FROM NE OF 13th MAY

David Nortcliffe read out the letter dated 13th May and advised that we are not any further forward, but the 5 years is up in 2009 and E.N must review the situation at Deer Hill then in accordance with CRoW Act. .

Roy Malkin circulated a letter received from Lydgate Rifle and Pistol Club and advised that there had been some concessions with arrangements with climbers on the definitive path and in terms of access by agreement on certain occasions.

IT WAS AGREED that the LAF greatly welcomed this limited concession and thanked Kirklees Council for all its hard work in achieving this.

8. LOCAL_ISSUES

RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLANS – UPDATE FROM OFFICERS

Kirklees had nothing to report.

Calderdale had nothing to report.

Bradford reported that they had integrated their access planning with the LTP

There followed a short discussion regarding LTPs and the funding for access which could stem from them. It transpired that Calderdale MBC does not regard RoW used for recreation as valid items to include in LTPs. Members were concerned that this could mean the loss of a possible revenue source for access.

IT WAS AGREED that

(a) David Nortcliffe would send a letter to express the LAF concerns about the lack of progress on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan and advising that other Councils had integrated with LTP and had received funding for Rights of Way Improvements (e.g. Bradford received £75,000). A copy of this letter also to be addressed to Director of Public Health (Pam Ashton will pass on the contact details);

(b) when all Rights of Way Improvement Plans are in place officers were requested to give a brief report to the LAF.

9. OTHER DISTRICT ACCESS PROJECTS – UPDATE FROM OFFICERS

Kirklees – Roy Malkin advised that

- Castle Hill now has a DDA path specifically for wheelchairs.
- Kirklees are benefitting from Peak and Northern Bridges project, with three bridges in Kirklees.

Calderdale – Sue Leffman advised that:

- the Yorkshire Tourism project had had a setback, funding was only being guaranteed if allocations were spent by the end of the current year. If funding was not spent it would be lost. Yorkshire Forward have changed the way funding is allocated.
- Peak and Northern funding for Bridges was progressing.
- Sue Leffman advised that Ruth Hair (who attended the previous LAF meeting, inviting applications for funding) had received two applications for rights of way and access projects:
 - (i) Walkers Action at Hebden Bridge
 - (ii) Todmorden Together Bridleway

Terry Norris advised that he is endeavouring to get a Peak and Northern sign somewhere in Coley associated with the new bridge there.

Bradford – Danny Jackson advised that:

- Bradford suffers the same problems as Calderdale with the Yorkshire Tourism project and the funding having to be spent by the end of the current year.
- Received £20,000 for 'routes to schools'
- They are having lots of delicate discussions with Natural England about mountain biking on Ilkley Moor.

David Nortcliffe advised that we need better integration of access management across the Pennines. Sue Leffman advised that Jefferson Hammond has been seconded to Pennine Prospects until March 2009 to look at the possibilities of developing a system of integrated access management between local authorities in

the South Pennine area. He will be discussing the project with Bradford, Calderdale and Kirklees and all the other south Pennine authorities and producing a report.

QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Pam Ashton mentioned a problem junction with the continuous off road route 'Greenway' near Ravensthorpe School towards Mirfield where she had terrible trouble turning right.

Kirklees advised that there is a proposal to improve the mentioned junction.

Pam Ashton advised that she has been appointed to "National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE), Programme Development Group on community based prevention of cardio vascular disease.

Terry Norris raised the question about a mistake with the planning application for Meltham Greenway making it available to bike riders and walkers only. The Steering group were anxious that this is a triple use route. Kirklees advised that they are asking for a Bridle Way there.

DATE, TIME AND LOCATION OF NEXT MEETING

IT WAS AGREED that the date and time of the next meeting is Thursday afternoon 9th October 2008, in Kirklees (venue to be confirmed).