

WEST YORKSHIRE PENNINE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

MEETING HELD ON 21ST JANUARY 2010 AT FLINT STREET, HUDDERSFIELD

PRESENT:

Members:

Mr D Nortcliffe
Mr R Gibbon
Mr G Ramsden
Mr R Hindley
Ms D Metcalf
Ms P Ashton
Mr A Fowler

In Attendance:

Ms Kath Windett (Bradford)
Ms S Leffman (Calderdale)
Mrs Rachel Finney (Calderdale)
Mr R Malkin (Kirklees)
Mr S Westwood (Natural England)

12 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Pam Ashton agreed to chair this meeting. It was suggested that the Forum should have a rotating chair if no-one wished to take the role full time. A concern was that in the case of a rotating chair, no one person would represent the Forum to outside organisations and enquiries. No firm decision taken at the meeting.

13 APOLOGIES

Ian Condliffe
Cllr Amanda Byrne
Cllr Michael Walls
Danny Jackson
Andy Gardner

14 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22ND OCTOBER 2009

IT WAS AGREED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd October 2009 be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- Danerns Country Park to read Damems Country Park.
- Cypwith Reservoir to read Cupwith Reservoir

15 MATTERS ARISING

Update on Robin Dalton's work re access land

There was no word on the progress of the report, Sue Leffman has been requested to pursue.

Outstanding modification orders on footpaths in Kirklees

Where signs have been put up stating "No Horse Riders, No Cyclists" – Didy Metcalf reiterated that the problem was that official Kirklees notices were being put up before

the modification order process had been concluded, and were therefore pre-empting the outcome of the modification process.

IT WAS AGREED that Sue Leffman be requested to send from the Forum to Justin Roche asking for an update on the current situation.

Hard surfacing of bridleways

It was felt that there was a need for a summary of the three local authority's position on hard surfacing of bridleways to be submitted for discussion.

IT WAS AGREED that a table be created showing the position of each of the three authorities with regard to planning legislation and the table be submitted to the Forum meeting to be held in April for discussion.

16 NATIONAL & REGIONAL ISSUES

Government Response to repeal Discovering Lost Ways

The Stakeholder Working Group has until the end of this financial year to report to DEFRA about whether or not to repeal the cut off date of 1st January 2026 for DLW. It was believed that there were 28 proposals in a draft report

IT WAS AGREED that the draft report be circulated prior to the next meeting.

17 LOCAL ISSUES

Kirklees Rights of Way Improvement Plan progress report

Roy Malkin advised that there was a delay in the consultation process as Councillors assess the draft of Kirklees' Rights of Way Improvement Plan. Roy Malkin hopes to circulate the draft Kirklees' Rights of Way Improvement Plan as soon as possible.

Wind farm applications progress report

Rachel Finney updated the Forum on the planning applications from Coronation Power to erect three wind farms on the Calderdale/ Rochdale boundary. The sites are as follows:

- Todmorden Moor application for 5 turbines in the area of Flowerscar Road. Refused but expected to re-submit.
- Reaps Moss application for 3 turbines with access from Limersgate creating a deep cutting on common land. Granted.
- Crook Hill near Walsden application for either 12 turbines at 125m high or 8 at 110m high. Granted.

All three sites involve common land and as a result require Secretary of State permission to carry out the works; to de-register some land and offer an alternative. The quantity and quality of the land offered has to be considered. Foot (and equestrian?) access will be permitted to all of the sites except the vehicular access tracks and the concrete bases and crane stands. The consultation ends on the 25th January 2010.

After discussion the Forum wished to lodge an objection on the following grounds:

- The land offered as an alternative to the common land taken is very small in area
- Although the applicant says that they will de-regulate and return the common land after 25 years there is no guarantee that this will happen
- The area of land on offer has been calculated on the basis of footprint rather than impact.
- Commoners interests are not necessarily the public interest ie grazing land is not necessarily good land for leisure and access.
- The fencing proposed is similar to the fencing on CROW land put in to allow stock to be excluded and vegetation to recover from grazing. It was pointed out that the Pennine Way vegetation was restored without resorting to fencing and it was felt that the fencing in these applications was not necessary and should not be allowed.

IT WAS AGREED that the Forum (Pam Ashton and David Nortcliffe) write a response based on the letters drafted by Rachel Finney, and express the Forums' view on access issues, nature conservation, heritage and neighbourhood in relation to the application for wind turbines to be erected on common land and to make the point that the common land replacement to be of equal value, attractiveness and benefit.

Annual Report

The Forum was advised that the Annual Report will be completed and circulated. The following topics were suggested for the year ahead:

- Coastal access
- Review of open access
- Commons register due to re-open
- Leeds city region and how this affects the WYPLAF
- LTP 3 and how it will affect access.
- Update on electronic mapping
- National Institute for Clinical Excellence – Common Agricultural Policy and the public health benefit from access payments of £5.2bn (???? That much??)
- Wind farms and power generation
- Presentation from Natural England about Higher Level Stewardship and higher rights access
- Local issues
- Pennine Prospects and access

Update from the 3 authorities re current projects

Bradford Authority advised the following projects:

- a. Now working with "friends of" groups.
- b. LTP3 behavioural change
- c. Higher level stewardship projects

- d. Oxenhope improvements to a restricted byway including possible diversions
- e. Leader project to improve Howarth to Hebden Bridge path
- f. Vision for uplands hosted
- g. Training for planners
- h. Snow – disruption meant that the emergency planning team commandeered the countryside team and their 4-wheel drives

Calderdale Authority advised the following projects:

- a. Joint bid with Calderdale, Bradford and Kirklees had been done for leader funding, which would give an opportunity to sort out some long standing problems.
- b. Completion of work at Rake Bank with Section 106 money from developers of the new Morrison's on Keighley Road,
- c. The planning application to repower the wind farm at Ogden had resulted in a successful Section 106 application to get the flagging of footpath over moor top at Ogden, to help improve the site.
- d. CAMS total network survey almost complete

Kirklees Authority advised the following projects:

- a. ROW team has been split into two, with the reactive team going to highways maintenance
- b. Green travel/transportation

18 **AOB**

Peak District National Park – Deer Hill shooting club, historic restriction on access land in the fall of shot area. The precedent of the club in Glossop was being used to deny access at Deer Hill. Alterations to the fall of shot boundary have been conceded.

The definitive paths onto Shooters Nab could be linked to other paths on the perimeter of the club and the PDNP is to pursue.

The Forum thanked DN and TN for going on the site visit

LEADER money - concerns were raised that LEADER money was being channelled through Pennine Prospects and used to promote access, without ensuring the long-term sustainability of the routes. Members felt that money was being wasted on promotion when it should be spent on maintenance. In addition there was a worry that rights of way staff have been left out of the loop at the planning stage. Concerns noted but refuted by rights of way staff present.

The problem that dare not speak its name – what are local authorities doing about dog mess on paths?

Date and time of next meetings for 2010

Thursday 15th April **6pm to 8pm** Huddersfield Town Hall

Tuesday 13th July 2pm to 4pm Venue to be confirmed

Wednesday 13th October 2pm to 4pm AGM Bradford venue to be confirmed