

## WEST YORKSHIRE PENNINE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2009 AT TOWN HALL, HUDDERSFIELD

### PRESENT:

#### Members:

Mr D Nortcliffe  
Mr R Gibbon  
Mr T Norris  
Mr G Ramsden  
Mr R Hindley  
Ms D Metcalf

### In Attendance:

Ms Kath Windett (Bradford)  
Ms S Leffman (Calderdale)  
Mr A Gardner (Kirklees)  
Mr S Westwood (Natural England)

### 1 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

The Forum was advised of Members who had now renewed their membership. Officers advised that due to advertising costs they had difficulties with recruitment of new members and were looking into alternative methods of advertising.

SL advised that she had been approached by three new candidates with disabilities who were keen to share Membership and the forum agreed that it was acceptable for them to share Membership. Further suggestions of people to approach were made, including Councillor David Sheard from Kirklees.

**IT WAS AGREED** that Sue Leffman would approach the people suggested and would send a letter on behalf of the Forum to Councillor David Sheard.

No nominations were received for appointment of Chair and Members agreed for Kath Windett to chair this meeting.

**IT WAS AGREED** that appointment of Chair be considered at the next meeting.

### APOLOGIES:

Councillor A Byrne, Councillor M Walls, Ms Pam Ashton, Mr Ian Condliffe

### 2 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2009

**IT WAS AGREED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2009 be approved as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- In Attendance - Mr S Woodhead to read Mr S Westwood.
- Minute number 4 "Local Issues – replace the word 'loophole' with 'provision'

### 3 MATTERS ARISING

#### Update on Robin Dalton's work re access land

Sue Leffman advised that the final report had been drafted and would be submitted to the Forum's meeting in January 2010.

Response to letter to Kirklees - Entry Points onto Access Land

Sue Leffman read out the response to the letter sent to Councillor David Sheard, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment and Transportation at Kirklees Council.

Response to letter to Natural England

Sue Leffman advised that no response had been received.

Contact with Regional LAF

The Forum was advised that there was no Regional LAF contact at the moment, but Natural England were looking for a volunteer to agree to provide services for the Regional LAF. Hilary Scott at Natural England is the contact at the moment.

Site visit to Black Hill

The Forum agreed that the site visit was interesting and a good job had been done. Sue Leffman agreed to email any member with a copy of the information for Black Hill.

#### 4 NATIONAL & REGIONAL ISSUES

Government Response to repeal Discovering Lost Ways

The Stakeholder Working Group meeting was held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009 and the Forum was waiting for the next proposals.

#### 5 LOCAL ISSUES

Kirklees Rights of Way Improvement Plan progress report

The Forum was advised that the ROWIP was due out for comments and 'formal consultation' was to follow. The Forum is on the circulation list. Officers agreed to circulate the consultation before the next meeting.

**IT WAS AGREED** that the Kirklees Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultation be included in the Agenda for the January meeting of the Forum.

Hard Surfacing of Bridleways – Creation of Guidance for LA's

Didy Metcalf circulated the following questions, proposed by the British Horse Society (BHS) Access Officer:

1. The placement of signs on paths in Kirklees which read "Footpath only, No Horse Riders, No Cyclists", these signs were misleading users, they were deterring riders from using routes that they have used without problem for many years. In response, Officers advised that these signs were in response to complaints by users on foot about dangers. Didy Metcalf agreed to find out if there were any outstanding "Modification Order Applications" affected by these signs and would report back with further information.
2. The cost of repair work to bridleways, Horse riders reported that requests for repair work on bridleways in Kirklees were being met with the response that bridleway repairs were too expensive to even consider. The 'ball park figure' being quoted was around £50,000 per path. The BHS questioned this assertion, as frequently the paths only need remedial work in specific limited

areas and should only cost a fraction of that amount. In response, Officers advised that the cost in neighbouring authorities was around £30,000 for 300 metres.

Didy Metcalfe circulated photo examples of hard surfacing of bridleways and asked if each Authority had a 'Bridleway Surfacing Policy'. In response, Officers advised that Calderdale have specification guidance on the website and were considering putting a piece in Calderdale Call.

#### Update from the 3 authorities re current projects

Bradford Authority advised the following projects:

- i Improvements were being funded by Leader Project.
- ii Major projects to work with ROWIPs funding.
- iii Walking and Cycle way at 'Danerns Country Park' was being funded by the house developer.
- iv Putting in a bid to watershed landscape Heritage Lottery Fund for 'Pennine Prospects'.
- v Budget situation in Bradford is still uncertain and a recruitment freeze means the Countryside and Rights of Way Service is operating without key staff including Definitive Map Officer, Biodiversity Officer and Administration support.

Calderdale Authority advised the following projects:

- i 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.
- ii Due to receipt of Section 106 money from developers of the new Morrison's on Keighley Road, work at "Rake Bank" was due to start.
- iii The planning application to repower the wind farm at Ogden had resulted in a 'Section 106' application to try to get the flagging of footpath over moor top at Ogden, to help improve the site.
- iv Rachel Finney was going to attend the Forum meeting to talk about 'Wind farm' applications. SL to update the Forum at a future meeting.

Kirklees Authority advised the following projects:

- i Marsden Walkers – two groups in Marsden and Kirkburton, Self-certifying groups, the Marsden group was launched in April.
- ii Two bids had been submitted to Pennine Prospects for Cypwith Reservoir and Huck Hill Lane and for Scammonden Reservoir.

- iii £140,000 had been secured from Spen Valley Area Committee for path improvements in the area which all need to be completed this financial year.

#### Any other business

Terry Norris asked if there had been any movement on work using volunteers under supervision. In response, Officers advised that work in Kirklees was greatly reduced and that the post which organised the work would not be filled.

Members raised concerns and suggested that a strong letter could be submitted to Chief Executives and Council Leaders, or a document could be prepared to include – issues outstanding, expertise available, volunteer schemes, tourism and health programmes and this could be presented to all Council Members to help the three authorities.

LAF had been consulted on restrictions and Members were asked for comments. In response Members had no major principles with decisions, but felt that there was scope for looking at the boundaries.

LAF were advised that Calderdale now have a revised web page which could be accessed via ‘Rights of Way – Local Access Forum’ where all previous minutes are located.

Members were reminded that SL required a summary of approximately 100 words to explain why they had applied for Membership of this Forum.

#### Date and time of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held in Kirklees on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 1400 hours.

**IT WAS AGREED** that Members would bring diaries to the January meeting in order to set the meeting dates for the rest of 2010.