

WEST YORKSHIRE PENNINE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

MEETING HELD ON 24TH APRIL 2008 AT THE TOWN HALL, HALIFAX

PRESENT:

Members:

Mr D Nortcliffe (Chair)
Mr I Condliffe
Mr A Fowler
Mr R Gibbon
Mr D Hamer
Mr R Hindley
Mr T Norris
Ms P Sheridan
Ms J Turner

In Attendance:

Mr A Gardner (Kirklees)
Mr D Jackson (Bradford)
Ms S Leffman (Calderdale)
Ms K Windett (Bradford)
Ms R Hair (Calderdale)

Apologies:

Ms P Ashton, Mr E Bromet, Mr T Edge, Mrs R Finney, Guy Keating, Councillor Kirton, Mr R Malkin, Ms D Metcalf and Mr G Ramsden

David Nortcliffe welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Dianne Morrison as the new Committee Clerk.

183 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24TH JANUARY 2008

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

184 MATTERS ARISING

RISHWORTH MOOR

DN submitted a written report giving the comments of Bob Baxter, Yorkshire Water, Countryside Access Officer, as follows:

- **THE FENCING**

The Estates staff had liaised with Bob who drew their attention to the Access Land and Urban Common status of that moor and the implications this had for access. The project would provide a gate at each point where a known path crosses the fence line. The suggestion from YW was that if bona fide walkers find one of their regular routes is blocked by the fence, they should contact YW who will then give sympathetic consideration to providing an extra access point.

As Natural England were involved and they were also the official body charged with looking after access arising from CRoW Act, it did seem that the scheme would be managed so that access was retained.

- **MOTOR CYCLES**

Regarding illegal motorcycling on that moor, it seemed unlikely that the fence would help much in that regard. Bob had attended periodic meetings between the Police forces involved which straddle 3 counties. The Police seemed unable to find the extra effort that would be needed to address the motorcycling issue effectively.

185 CONTACT AT YORKSHIRE WATER

Bob Baxter retired in late March, but his replacement was already in post. The new contact on this issue is Mike Pearson of YW Estates Section in their Head Office at Buttershaw (01274 691111).

186 DN'S VIEWS ON A LAF WEBSITE

It had been suggested that a website for all LAFs was a simpler and cheaper way for them to liaise as opposed to having a national meeting of regional representatives. DN gave his views advising that although a website was good for putting items on and accessing items, the face to face meetings were more than just an exchange of information, issues could be raised, with some immediate answers. It also enabled things to be said which might not sit appropriately on a website at this stage.

187 CONTACT DETAILS

The question was raised about contact details and Members of the Forum. It was requested that the Lead Authority have a list of contact details and details of previous minutes and agendas on the 3 Councils' Websites.

The response was that permissions would be required from individuals before contact details could be listed.

IT WAS AGREED that Sue Leffman would send an e-mail to all Members to request their permission.

188 ACCESS MANAGEMENT GRANT SCHEME

DN had little to report as there was no funding from National England at present and no responses have been received from Government. Stiles and signposts are still the (unfunded) responsibility of Local Councils.

NATIONAL ISSUES

189 DISCOVERING LOST WAYS PROJECT

The Natural England Board provided a written report advising of the findings of the Discovering Lost Ways (DLW) project and set out the proposed approach. That approach had been developed in liaison with DEFRA officials, who had indicated that they are broadly comfortable with it. They were currently notifying DEFRA Ministers of their proposed way forward and had anticipated that Ministers would respond by Mid-February.

In anticipation of a favourable response, by the end of March they would have drafted the guidance on research standards and on quality routes. They would also have drafted the terms of reference and a timetable for the fundamental review and agreed with DEFRA and CCW where the Rights of Way Review Committee should be asked to oversee that review.

DN gave his initial comments on the above advising that the project had got nowhere and at this level we could do little about this project, apart from provide our comments to the National Forum.

190 FEEDBACK FROM D.N. ON MEETING OF LOCAL ACCESS CHAIRS AND N.E. IN SHEFFIELD 24TH JANUARY 2008.

DN gave his feedback on the following items discussed at the meeting of the Local Access Chairs and NE in Sheffield on 24th January 2008:

- Natural England/LAF Liaison at national and regional levels
- LAF representation on NCAF successor body
- Recreation Policy Review
- ROWIPs

It was agreed that there should be a tier for feeding information and feelings from the ground up or the top down. It was noted that the information from LAFs to central bodies was appreciated. Natural England needs the help and support of LAFs and we had only scratched the surface on many issues which would continue to be explored together.

LOCAL ISSUES

191 ELECTRONIC MAPPING

Terry Norris asked the LAF to look at the versions of the electronic maps showing PROWs which were on the Council's websites. TN advised that Calderdale and Bradford had theirs in place and Kirklees were hoping to do so sometime in March.

TN requested a demonstration of each of the maps showing how it could be used by a member of the public. TN would also like similar presentations on the contents of the Council's websites on Access to Countryside and rights of way information. The aim of examining these two areas would be to agree some principles of good practice which the LAF would recommend for adoption by each of the Councils.

Demonstrations were giving of the Calderdale and the Bradford Electronic Mapping.

TN asked if Councils could put the following amendments or search options on their mapping system:

- Grid Reference
- Rights of Way
- Path number
- Highlight the actual right of way, to make it easier to identify
- Written descriptions to include 'width, size of gate, stile etc to give more practical information for users

- Frequently asked questions area.

IT WAS AGREED that

- (a) Sue Leffman would look into adding the above and will report to a future meeting;
- (b) Kirklees would demonstrate their Electronic Mapping System when available; and
- (c) similar presentation on the contents of the Councils' websites on 'Access to Countryside' and 'Rights of Way' to be included on the next Agenda.

191 SOUTH PENNINE LEADER – PRESENTATION BY RUTH HAIR

Ruth Hair, Calderdale MBC gave a presentation on South Pennine Leader. Ruth explained that Leader is a French acronym which stands for 'Links between actions and rural development'. It was a method of mobilising and delivering rural development in rural areas. Looking for innovative ways in which rural communities can play an active role in shaping their own future.

Ruth circulated a handout to support her presentation which included information on the following issues:

- What is happening in the South Pennines
- What area is covered by the proposed South Pennines Leader
- What the South Pennines Leader programme cover
- Arrangements in West Yorkshire
- Arrangements in the Greater Manchester: Oldham and Rochdale
- How much funding is available
- How will the Leader Programme be run in the South Pennines
- How is the LAF going to influence the priorities for the Local Development Strategy
- The next steps and getting involved

DN thanked Ruth for her presentation and information provided and Ruth explained that all information and full details are available on the website and contact details are:

Please send your completed forms to:	Ruth.hair@pennineprospects.co.uk Hebden Bridge Visitor and Canal Centre Butlers Wharf New Road Hebden Bridge HX7 8AF If you would like to talk further about the South Pennines Leader please contact Ruth on Tel 07526 151911
For further information on the work of Pennine Prospects please contact:	Graham Joyce on 01274 431019 graham.joyce@pennineprospects.co.uk Or Ann Atkins on 01274 433536 ann.atkins@pennineprospects.co.uk
For further information on the business support programmes in West Yorkshire please contact:	Louise Marston Louise.marston@yorkshire-forward.com
	For further information on rural business support in Greater Manchester please contact: Business Link www.businesslinknw.co.uk

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The LAF was advised that DEFRA had not directed Kirklees Council to make an order and the application was still pending. The LAF were advised that the path would remain until application/decision is made and it should remain open and available.

Sue Leffman circulated the final draft of a letter headed 'Problems with access at Deer Hill, Mardsen, West Yorkshire, arising from the CRoW Legislation'.

IT WAS AGREED that the letter should be sent to Natural England with a copy to PDNPA, SL would action this when DN had signed the letter.

193 FIRE RISK RESPONSE – OPEN ACCESS

IT WAS AGREED that any comments were to be fed back through the secretariat to be collated into a composite response.

194 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLANS – UPDATE

Bradford circulated a progress report advising what they had achieved in the last year.

Calderdale advised of two items developing:

- Countryside Access Liaison Group was to be resurrected shortly, hopefully in June;
- SL is helping local community groups to develop access projects and source funding.

Kirklees had nothing to report, no progress as yet, but advised a draft hopefully would be available next month and would hopefully be available for the next meeting.

IT WAS AGREED that

- (a) any comments on the report circulated to be fed back direct to Bradford; and
- (b) Kirklees to give a progress report at the next meeting.

195 OTHER LOCAL ACCESS PROJECTS – FUNDING ISSUES

DN asked if it was possible to produce a list of ‘Good Access Projects’ that the Councils cannot do through lack of funding. This will enable the LAF to put together a report across the three Authorities on this issue. A typical item might involve a case where Access is sustaining serious erosion from intensive use’.

TN advised that in future when groups are looking at waymarking Peak and Northern had some grant funding available but they would normally expect authorities to also provide matched funding.

IT WAS AGREED that Rachel would shake a few cages to obtain action on projects already discussed with Peak and Northern where no progress had been evident.

196 CORRESPONDENCE FOR INFORMATION

The Forum considered the DEFRA Access Newsletter Issue 30 for April 2008 and the Natural England Board minutes of 13 February 2008.

IT WAS AGREED that the following correspondence be noted:

- (a) DEFRA Access Newsletter – Issue 30 (April 2008); and
- (b) Natural England Board minutes of 13 February 2008.

197 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no members of the public present.

198 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

DN advised on his discussions with Metro re-use (or non-use) of recreational public transport. DN asked Metro whether, if we got together a list of bodies who produce walks and activity programmes, would they circulate them around early December with details of the special buses which would operate during the following summer. The organising bodies would be encouraged to include use of such public transport in their 2009 programmes.

DN requested all Authorities and bodies who organise walks etc, to give contact name and address that could be passed to Metro.

IT WAS AGREED that all information to be collated through DN or secretariat.

Issues were raised regarding local youths putting graffiti on crags in the quarries used by climbers near Holmfirth. Kirklees got rid of the graffiti by painting the entire area and that now presented problems for climbers. Kirklees MBC have offered to do a clean up and this situation will be retrieved.

IT WAS AGREED that this issue be raised and passed onto all Local Authorities, 'Quarries may not be just dumping grounds, they may be used by others, such as climbers' this should be taken into account when clean ups are required.

199 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

IT WAS AGREED that the date and time of the next meeting is Thursday 17th July 2008. (To be confirmed by 2nd May 2008).