

# Public Document Pack

## Peak District Local Access Forum

**On: Thursday 12 March 2020**

**At: Aldern House, Board room**

### Agenda

Start: 10.00 am

1	Welcome and Apologies and update on membership changes	
2	Minutes from the last meeting, 05/12/2019	<b>John Thompson</b>
3	Matters Arising	<b>Mike Rhodes</b>
4	Annual Report	<b>Sue Smith</b>
5	Environmental Land Management Scheme - access implications and opportunities (presentation)	<b>Ben Seal</b>
6	Derbyshire CC RoWIP Report including Buxton Safer Ride Network	<b>Gill Millward Charlotte Gilbert</b>
7	Access Updates - including a Review of Directions to Restrict Access at Hollins Hill, Silence Mine and Crowden	<b>Sue Smith</b>
8	Countryside Code Update #PeakDistrictProud (presentation)	<b>Sarah Wilks Roly Smith</b>
9	Green Lanes update	<b>Sue Smith</b>
10	National Park Management Plan and Advisory Group	<b>John Thompson</b>
11	Members' feedback	<b>Bob Berzins Louise Hawson Charlotte Gilbert Roly Smith</b>
12	Any Other Business	
13	Date and venue of next meeting	

This page is intentionally left blank

## **MEMBERS OF THE PEAK DISTRICT LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

*Updated: February 2020*

### **John Thompson (Chair)**

Appointed until: September 2022

John has over 40 years' experience and knowledge of Derbyshire and Peak District countryside issues, having latterly worked for the National Park Authority as Director of Recreation and Education until his retirement in May 2007. In this role he was involved in access and rights of way developments and improvements, developed close and effective partnerships with a number of bodies including national and regional sports and recreation panels, three water companies, the National Trust and other land owning and management interests. He has also served on the National Forest Board for six years. He is also active in his local community, and was chair of the Anthony Gell School Foundation Trust for over 20 years until June, 2018. This supported development of improved sports facilities and other opportunities for the school and community. He is also a trustee (former chair) of the Wirksworth Recreation Ground Trust, providing opportunities for local sports.

### **Bob Berzins (Vice-chair)**

Appointed until: June 2022

Bob's main area of interest is fell running. He is a member of Sheffield-based Dark Peak Fell Runners, writes columns for the Fell Runners Association website and magazine, and represents fell runners throughout the National Park. Through his involvement in the Stanage Forum he has developed his interest in access and conservation, and works with landowners, keepers and conservationists to improve understanding of the impacts of fell running on local moorland.

### **Charlotte Gilbert (Vice-chair)**

Appointed until: December 2020

Charlotte lives in Alport near Bakewell and has a great interest in access to the countryside from many different perspectives; as a farmer and land manager, as a walker and horse rider and as a conservationist. She is Chair of Peak Horsepower bridleway group whose aim is to extend the bridleway network in the Peak District.

### **Martin Bennett**

Appointed until February 2023

Martin is a passionate walker and cyclist. He is also an active tennis player and climber with a keen interest in the environment and in protecting Rights of Way.

As Footpath Secretary for the Ramblers Derbyshire Dales Group he monitors and reports on the nearly 1700 kilometres of Rights of Ways in the District. Prior to this, he was chair of the Ramblers West Riding Area footpath committee for several years. He views this country's Rights of Way network as a national asset and treasure.

Martin was employed in primary school education and as both classroom teacher and Head Teacher he promoted outdoor activities and an

appreciation of the environment to both the children and staff he worked with.

Martin sees climate change and species extinction as the most important issue facing us. He believes that enabling more people to experience and understand the countryside, will lead to better knowledge and respect for the environment and encourage greater involvement in taking action to protect it.

### **Joe Dalton**

Appointed until: December 2020

A farmer, farming land in the White Peak and Dark Peak area of the Peak District National Park.

### **Edwina Edwards**

Appointed until: September 2021

Edwina is currently working for an organisation that supports people with learning disabilities in North East Derbyshire and is also active in Duke of Edinburgh as a supervisor and assessor. She was formerly the Chief Executive of Bakewell and Eyam Community Transport and has also worked voluntarily for them for several years. She has also worked for the Youth Hostels Association and has served in various roles for Girlguiding in Derbyshire. A keen walker, cyclist and fell runner, she is also very much part of the local Youlgrave community and comes from a farming background.

### **Richard Entwistle**

Appointed until: December 2022

Richard has lived near the Peak District for over 35 years and has been a frequent visitor to the National Park as a sightseeing visitor, a keen walker and occasional driver on the historic unsurfaced roads. He is very keen that all user groups have fair access to the countryside, and so has been involved with the Stanage Forum steering group representing the Green Lane Association (GLASS).

### **Clare Griffin**

Appointed until: October 2020

Clare enjoys a wide range of outdoors recreation, including fell running, orienteering and trail bike riding. She is a member of the British Orienteering Federation, Fell Runners Association, Macclesfield Harriers running club, Trail Riders Fellowship and Vintage Motorcycle Club and has recently joined Peak Park Conservation Volunteers working parties. She works at Manchester Royal Infirmary and lives in Bollington.

### **Alastair Harvey**

Appointed until: December 2021

Alastair has worked for Yorkshire Water for 11 years in the recreation team and regularly deals with access, recreation and rights of way issues across the whole of the Yorkshire Water land holding, including land within the Peak District National Park Authority area. His previous role was as a Footpaths Officer with Wakefield Metropolitan District Council, where he dealt with the management and the maintenance of the Public Rights of

Way Network which fell under the responsibility of Wakefield MDC as Local Highway Authority.

He has been closely involved with the Miles Without Stiles project with Yorkshire Water sponsoring this and has also been involved in a number of access projects over the years, including the current proposals for a bike track and permissive path proposal on YW's land to the South of Langsett Reservoir.

### **Louise Hawson**

Appointed until: September 2021

Louise is Peak Area Local Access Rep for the British Mountaineering Council, and in that capacity, was part of the Dark Peak NIA Steering Group and have been part of the Sheffield Moors Partnership Steering Group. Since 2017, she has been Secretary of the Stanage Forum. She also chairs the BMC's Sustainability Working Group.

Since 2013 she has been a volunteer Ranger for the Peak District National Park Authority, based at Brunts Barn. She leads guided walks, including one on the History of Climbing on the Eastern Edges, which she helped to develop.

In her spare time she is a climber (enthusiastic rather than skilled!), hillwalker, fell runner, and novice orienteer. She lives in Sheffield and was previously a member of Topley AC and has good connections with local fell running clubs as well as climbing clubs. For the last two years she has volunteered with EMP's Ring Ouzel Monitoring Project, focused on Bamford Edge.

She runs a small consultancy business which specialises in advising companies on sustainable sourcing and ethical procurement. She's also an experienced facilitator & trainer.

### **Jez Kenyon**

Appointed until: April 2021

Jez has been involved with Ramblers locally and nationally for several years, currently serving on the South Yorkshire and North-East Derbyshire Ramblers Council. A keen walker, he is involved with path maintenance and improvements (both practically, and helping develop path issue reporting systems). He wants to ensure the wonderful Peak District footpath network is easy to use for casual walkers and is physically accessible to walkers of varying abilities, while preserving the historic nature of the network.

### **Steve Martin**

Appointed until: September 2022

Steve is a passionate advocate for learning for sustainability and has spent over 40 years facilitating and supporting organisations and governments in ways they can contribute towards a more sustainable future.

For nearly a decade he was a member of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Further and Higher Education (specialising in agricultural and science

education in the East and West Midlands), with national responsibility for Environmental Education and served as a special advisor to the Secretary of State in the Department of the Environment in drafting the education and training sections of HM Government's first white paper on the Environment-Our Common Inheritance. He has held visiting professorships at the Open University and Universities of Hertfordshire, Gloucestershire and currently, the University of the West of England. He is an Honorary Professor at the University of Worcester. He was formerly Director of Learning at Forum for the Future, the leading Sustainability Charity in the UK. He is a former Trustee of the Worldwide Fund for Nature and an Honorary Fellow of the Society for the Environment and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology. For the Past 3 years he has been a member of the UK Stakeholders for Sustainable Development Steering Group in the development of a UK wide progress report (called Measuring Up) on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). He is currently helping the YHA with its sustainability strategy, is a keen cyclist and walks as often as possible with Derbyshire Dales Ramblers.

### **Andrew Murley**

Appointed until: March 2021

In his early years Andrew hiked and cycled around most of the Peak District and became a member of Buxton Mountain Rescue Team; he is still an associate member. Since the onset of various ailments he now ventures out in a wheelchair and tries to visit as much of the Peak District as possible on the accessible routes. He has lately gained a qualification in Managing Sustainable Rural Development. He attempted to relate most of his studies toward the Peak District and the last year of study was purely devoted towards the interaction between Peak District farmers, the local economy and local community. He is keen to see the residents, communities and economy of the Peak District and local surrounding area benefit from the opportunities afforded them through work performed by the Local Access Forum.

### **Geoff Nickolds**

Appointed until: October 2020

Geoff Nickolds spent most of his career with Severn Trent Water where, as Conservation, Access and Recreation Manager he was responsible for recreation, access and biodiversity issues. This included over forty reservoir sites and countryside receiving over four million visitors each year, with facilities including visitor and education centres, restaurants, access trails, car parking, bird hides and water sports.

After leaving Severn Trent Water, Geoff served as Chairman of an Environment Agency Fisheries, Ecology and Recreation Advisory Committee (2005-2012), and as a Member of the Peak District National Park Authority (2007 - 2015) where he was elected Deputy Chairman of the Authority and had member lead roles on both biodiversity and recreation. His work as an independent Conservation, Access and Recreation consultant has included strategic advice on proposed reservoir and wetland developments for Thames Water, South East Water and the Environment Agency, and on

implications of the Water Framework Directive for water based recreation for Defra.

Geoff is a member of the Forestry Commission Regional Advisory Committee and of the Heritage Lottery Fund Committee for the East Midlands. He has also been a member of the National Trust Midlands Regional Advisory Board and National Trust Council. Spare time interests include membership of (and visiting) the National Trust and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and walking and cycling.

### **Paul Richardson**

Appointed until: March 2020

Paul has been visiting the Peak District National Park all of his life and has been a resident for 20 years. He owns and manages a business based in Hope, and his interests outside of the working environment have included rock climbing, walking and mountain biking. He has recently stepped down from Chair of the Peak District Mountain Bike group which was formed to help provide a voice for mountain bike riders that are resident in the national park, a group that is now some 3000 strong and growing. His work as a volunteer with the National Trust and his degree, have provided him with a good background in both theory and practice of the managed landscape.

### **Ben Seal**

Appointed until: December 2022

Having grown up on the edge of the Peak, Ben has always had a keen passion for being outdoors, inspired through Scouting and early family adventures. After graduating from Sheffield University with A Business Studies Degree, Ben spent 7 years outdoor instructing, firstly as a trainee in North Yorkshire and later back home in Derbyshire. As a qualified Mountain Leader, climbing, canoeing and caving instructor, as well as an active DofE Assessor, Ben has always been passionate about giving young people the opportunity to get out in the countryside and have an adventure!

Ben's current role as Places to Paddle Manager at British Canoeing, sees him manage a team covering access, environment, facilities and paddling trails, plus manage a varied portfolio of British Canoeing owned land assets around the country. He leads a national campaign championing the case for opening access on rivers and protecting the environment.

Locally, Ben is a Trustee of Midland Canoe Club (Darley Abbey) and also a Trustee of the Derwent Valley Trust. With two very active young sons, outdoor adventures are very different these days, but Ben spends any opportunity he can get road cycling, climbing and paddling.

### **Roly Smith**

Appointed until: April 2021

Roly is the award-winning author of over 90 books on walking and the countryside. A journalist by training, he has lived in Bakewell for over 30 years. He is vice president of the Outdoor Writers' and Photographers' Guild, and also of South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire Ramblers, and he serves on the editorial panel for *Wild Derbyshire*, the magazine of the

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, and on the Kinder and High Peak Advisory Group. He was recently elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society.

Promoting greater understanding of the countryside and campaigning for better access to all to it are among Roly's major passions, and he has organised the now-annual Spirit of Kinder celebrations of the Mass Trespass for the past 15 years. History is another of his interests, and he edits *ACID (Archaeology & Conservation in Derbyshire)* for Derbyshire County Council and the National Park authority. Roly loves to travel and has visited about 30 US and Canadian National Parks, as well as many in Europe. When he's not writing or travelling, he continues to enjoy walking and exploring the wonderful Peak District countryside.

### **Jon Stewart**

Appointed until: October 2020

Jon has been involved in conservation and recreation work in the Peak District for over ten years through roles with English Nature/ Natural England (including input to CRoW access and Moors for the Future). He is now employed as General Manager for the National Trust with responsibility for delivery of the Trust's key aims of conservation and access/enjoyment in the Peak District as the largest landowner. He brings strong perspectives on conservation, access and land ownership/ management.

### **Ally Turner**

Appointed until: October 2020

Ally is a keen horse rider and walker. She has recently retired from being a secondary school teacher with experience of working with pupils with Special Educational Needs and disadvantaged young people. She lives in a farming community near Longnor.

### **Sue Weatherley**

Appointed until: June 2021

Sue comes from a farming background and has worked in public service in Derbyshire in a variety of roles for over 30 years. She lives in Youlgrave and is now retired. She is an active walker and cyclist, and even manages to do some open water swimming. At present she is Access Officer for the Derbyshire Dales Group of the Ramblers.

### **Appointees:**

#### **Jason Atkin**

Appointed by Derbyshire County Council

Jason is an elected Councillor on both Derbyshire County Council and Derbyshire Dales District Council and is a member of the Planning Committees of both these Councils. He lives just outside the National Park boundary in Darley Dale and is a shop manager. His family have been farmers in Derbyshire for over 100 years and he runs his own business. In his County Councillor role he has had experience of cultural heritage issues as a representative on the Derwent Valley World Mills Heritage site. He is keen to promote affordable housing schemes to preserve the communities within the National Park and to support closer workings with other

Authorities that surround the National Park and support national promotion of the National Park and closer working ties with the other National Parks.

**Councillor Ian Huddlestone**

Appointed by Peak District National Park Authority

I have been on High Peak Borough Council for over twenty years. During this period I have been on the Planning Committee and also served as Executive Member for Regeneration (one year). Therefore, I understand some of how Peak Park works, but not all of its functions. I need to learn more about local, regional and national issues within and affecting the National Park as I get to know the Peak Park.

This page is intentionally left blank

# MINUTES

Meeting ID	2290
Committee	<b>Peak District Local Access Forum</b>
Date	<b>05/12/2019</b>
Attendees	<b>Forum Members Present:</b>
	John Thompson (Chair)
	Bob Berzins
	Joe Dalton
	Edwina Edwards
	Richard Entwistle
	Charlotte Gilbert
	Clare Griffin
	Alastair Harvey
	Louise Hawson
	Jez Kenyon
	Geoff Nickolds
	Paul Richardson
	Roly Smith
	Jon Stewart
	Sue Weatherley
	Councillor Ian Huddleston
	<b>Others Present:</b>
	Gill Millward (Derbyshire County Council)
	Mike Rhodes (PDNPA) (Secretary)
	Sue Smith (PDNPA)
	Richard Taylor (Derbyshire County Council)
	Belinda Wybrow (Minutes)

Item ID	1
Item Title	<b>Welcome and Apologies, Update on Membership Changes and Introductions</b>
Summary	<p>Apologies had been received from Ally Turner, Andrew Murley and Cllr Jason Atkin.</p> <p>The Chair provided an update on Ally Turner who had had an accident whilst horse riding. She had hoped to attend the meeting today but was still not feeling fit enough but happily was making a good recovery - our good wishes to be passed on.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed new members Steve Martin and Ben Seal who introduced themselves as introductions were made round the table. He also welcomed Richard Taylor for Derbyshire County Council who would be providing an update to the Forum, along with Martin Bennett from the</p>

	Ramblers Association and Rob Dalby from Kirklees Council who were here to observe.
--	--

Item ID	2
Item Title	<b>Minutes from the last meeting held on 19 September 2019</b>
Summary	The minutes of the last meeting held on 19 September 2019 were approved as a correct record with thanks to Ruth Crowder.

Item ID	3
Item Title	<b>Matters Arising</b>
Summary	<p><b>a) Mend Our Mountains Projects - Mike Rhodes and Bob Berzins</b></p> <p><b>i) Cut Gate</b> – The work to resurface the Bridleway had been delayed due to issues accessing the site. These had been resolved but due to weather conditions work had been postponed until January 2020. There would be a two day window for the airlift so timing and the weather would be critical.</p> <p><b>ii) Great Ridge</b> – A site meeting had taken place on Wednesday 4 December with the contractor, Mike Rhodes and members of the Forum. The plan was to continue installing flag stones and pitching but a delay had been incurred whilst planning permission was obtained. Combined with issues with the landowner, access to the site during busy periods and the availability of the contractor, it was expected the work would resume in September 2020.</p> <p>Concerns regarding further rapid deterioration before the work started were expressed. There was a section between Hollins Cross and Back Tor of around 400 metres which was not due to be repaired due to a shortfall in funding but the Forum urged officers to look for more funding to protect the area which is often very muddy.</p> <p>A letter of support had been drafted by Bob Berzins and was ready to be sent to Peak District National Park Authority Planning Team in support of the application following consultation with the Forum.</p> <p><b>iii) North America</b> – The contractor was confident that a technique called sub-soil reversal would be a suitable repair to the path.</p> <p><b>b) LAF Annual Report</b> – now available and published. The press release discussed at the meeting in September had not been sent out by the PDNPA or Derbyshire CC Communications Teams and the Forum confirmed that it was now too late to send following this meeting. It considered more emphasis should be put on publicity next year to mark 20 years of the Forum.</p> <p><b>c) Derbyshire Countryside Service Review Response to the County Council by Peak District and Derby &amp; Derbyshire LAF Chairs – John Thompson</b></p>

	<p>A joint response had been sent by the Chair in conjunction with Ian Else, Chair of Derby &amp; Derbyshire LAF to Claire Brailsford, Interim Assistant Director of Environment at DCC. Richard Taylor provided a verbal update on the review and the ongoing changes. Public Rights of Way will be part of the Highways Division from week commencing 9 December 2019. Rights of Way issues will go to Peter White or his line manager Alan Tulloch in the Highways Team. Greenways and Access Team will be part of the Sustainable Travel Team from 8 January, any issues will be via Gill or her line manager, Richard Lovell. It was expected that the Countryside Service would become a trading company in Summer 2020 which will no longer be funded by local government, but funding will be sought from assets and access routes with a contract from DCC to manage its sites.</p> <p>Richard wished the Forum well as he would no longer be attending as Countryside Service Manager and adviser on access and rights of way.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Richard for his contribution to the Forum over many years and confirmed that Gill will continue to interact with and advise the Forum.</p> <p>The Forum noted and accepted the views put forward by the Chairs of both Local Access Forums and the responses given and noted the updated contacts for the future.</p>
--	---

Item ID	4
Item Title	<b>Landscapes Review - Julian Glover's Panel Report and Key Points from this Forum - John Thompson</b>
Summary	<p>The Chair raised concerns that the Landscape Review Report would be forgotten due to the pending general election on 12 December 2019 and it was important that action was taken to ensure this did not happen. The Chair requested feedback from the Forum on the report he had prepared.</p> <p>The paper prepared by the Chair highlighted some key points that he felt should be endorsed by the Forum and used in future to see how National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are brought together.</p> <p><u>Comments/Questions</u></p> <p>The Forum discussed the following items:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Q. Timescale for review document to be considered by Parliament? A. No information currently available although it is in the system.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Q. Has PDNPA prepared a response to the report? A. Still under consideration but a request has been made that the Forum is kept updated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The report recommendation for a national ranger service, the Forum felt local knowledge and experience was important for engagement.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposal for a South Pennines AONB was very welcome and would link with the Yorkshire Dales National Park.</li> <li>• The reference to bring Rights of Way into the management of National Park Authorities was only the maintenance and mapping would remain with the surveying authority. The Forum's response to the review prior to the publication of the report had stated that the true costs of the maintenance should be calculated before National Parks could consider taking this forward. The Forum felt there was a need to take care to ensure there was sufficient funding and good management to take the maintenance of the rights of way on.</li> <li>• There isn't a link to the Sustainable Development Goals and this may cause future problems. Also the mention of bringing children into the park for one evening a week is not realistic and there should really be more of a link to the Youth Hostels Association, young people and education.</li> <li>• The importance of behaving responsibly needs to be emphasised if encouraging more people to visit National Parks to ensure preservation.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked the Forum members for their useful contributions to the discussion and confirmed the importance of working with the National Park Authority to ensure the report was taken forward following the government election in conjunction with the other National Parks. He will write to the Chair and Chief Executive.</p>
--	--

Item ID	5
Item Title	<b>Derbyshire CC Rights of Way Improvement Plan Report - Gill Millward</b>
Summary	<p>Gill Millward introduced the comprehensive report and highlighted areas of interest including the online consultation which is taking place regarding the proposal to reduce the opening hours of the Derbyshire Record Office. Gill asked those interested to take part in the consultation which closes on 22 December.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Gill for the update and the useful links included in the report. Especially pleased to hear that the work on Chapel Gate is now completed. The Forum noted and welcomed this Progress Report for delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.</p>

Item ID	6
Item Title	<b>Access Updates (including Reviews of Directions) - Sue Smith</b>
Summary	<p>Sue Smith gave a presentation highlighting the past 20 years of the work of the Forum as the first meeting took place in 2000.</p> <p>The Access Subgroup will work on plans for the celebration in 2020 and report back to the main Forum for discussion.</p>

As part of the celebrations, a number of 'anniversary' gates will be installed to replace stiles and to improve access for those less able. There will also be interactive maps which will have more information about access points on access land. Sue confirmed that historic features such as narrow squeeze stiles would be unaffected as gates could be provided next to them. . Kissing gates were also an option for livestock..

Sue confirmed that the mapping review had been postponed until 2024/25.

The Forum noted that pictures of LAF members in the presentation highlighted the lack of ethnic diversity in the group and it would be good to try and encourage representatives from the BME community to join the Forum.

**Action - Chair and Secretary to consider.**

Concerns regarding conservation were discussed and the importance of information provision and education to ensure understanding of the need to care for the land was highlighted. Members also noted that moorland fires were now more often started by disposable BBQs instead of discarded cigarette ends and clear signage and education are needed to ensure visitors are aware of the risk. Often BBQs are on land which isn't access land which makes it difficult to restrict use. A request was made for fire risk signs to be removed when not needed and put up when the risk is real to ensure they catch the attention of members of the public.

## **REPORTS**

### Review of Direction to Restrict Access

Sue Smith introduced a report on the Review of Direction to Restrict Access which sought the Forum's response to the upcoming consultation on Hollins Hill, Hollinsclough which would commence on 16 December 2019.

### **The Forum:**

- 1. Noted the report**
- 2. Agreed to consider its response to the consultation.**
- 3. Agreed that future updates and consultations on the review are referred to the Access Sub-group for reporting back to the Forum.**

### Access Update

Sue Smith introduced the report which was an update on the National Park Authority Land Disposals. Sue read out the responses to the Forum's questions as per the minutes of the LAF Meeting in September.

LAF Members expressed their disappointment at the Authority's response to their questions.

**The Chair will feedback to the National Park Authority the comments of the Forum and request someone to speak at the next LAF meeting.**

Item ID	7
Item Title	<b>National Park Management Plan and Advisory Group - next meeting 23 January 2020 - John Thompson</b>
Summary	<p><b>a) Events Workshop</b></p> <p>Bob Berzins provided an update on the Events workshop which had been held in January. The aim was to improve the National Park Authority's management of events online including online links. Work on an events diary still to be completed. From January organisations will be able to add their events to the diary free of charge. Volunteer Rangers will be used to monitor any issues with events taking place in the National Park with focus on specific areas.</p> <p>The Forum was asked to feed back to Bob any comments.</p> <p>Roly Smith notified the Forum that the Countryside Code was currently undergoing a refresh, the closing date for the tenders was the date of this meeting.</p> <p><b>b) Climate Change Workshop in Buxton on 15 October - Steve Martin and Geoff Nickolds</b></p> <p>Steve Martin introduced the report and had attended the meeting prior to becoming a member of the LAF and was there at the invitation of Derbyshire Dales District Council. Geoff Nickolds attended on behalf of the Forum.</p> <p>Steve reported that it had been an ambitious and well attended event. The 33 page report had not been circulated due to technical issues but efforts would be made to provide a link to enable all LAF members to read the report. Geoff recommended members read the report and kindly emailed it round to all members.</p> <p>Members discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Electric vehicle charging points including encouraging employers to provide electric pool cars</li> <li>• Individuals efforts to reduce carbon emissions</li> <li>• Public transport hubs</li> <li>• Possible future theme for Local Access Forum of public transport and how visitors access the National Park.</li> <li>• Does the Authority have a plan for improving the electricity supply into the park to enable the introduction of the charging points?</li> <li>• Organised events to encourage cars with minimum number of passengers (e.g. 4 people per car).</li> <li>• Improved ticketing for public transport</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked Steve for his report and will take points forward to the Advisory Group meeting on 23rd January.</p>

Item ID	8
Item Title	<b>Members' Feedback</b>
Summary	<b>Progress on Targets in Our Annual Report - John/Charlotte and Bob</b> The Chair had circulated a paper highlighting the LAF's priorities for the coming year and requested members' comments on actions listed to date by him, Bob and Charlotte.

Item ID	9
Item Title	Any Other Business
Summary	<p><u>Stannage Options Appraisal</u> There is currently an online options appraisal for Stannage which Louise Hawson asked members of the Forum to consider. If preferred Louise was happy to speak to members of the Forum about the appraisal options.</p> <p><u>Future Meetings:</u> 12 March 2020 (corrected from date shown on the agenda) 11 June 2020 24 September 2020 3 December 2020</p> <p><u>Chair's Thanks</u> The Chair thanked Sue Weatherley who had completed 10 years service representing rambling and wildlife interests on the Forum with great enthusiasm, knowledge and dedication and was leaving following this meeting. John said her loyalty and contribution to the work of the Forum and ensuring issues were chased up would be greatly missed. Mike presented Sue with Flowers and a Card with good wishes signed by all. Sue said she had really enjoyed the work as a Forum member and wished everyone well.</p>

Item ID	10
Item Title	Date and venue of next meeting: 12 March 2020 at Aldern House, Bakewell
Summary	

This page is intentionally left blank

## Peak District Local Access Forum

**Date:** Thursday 12 March 2020

**Item:** 6

**Title:** Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Derbyshire

**Author:** Gill Millward, Countryside Access Improvement Officer,  
Derbyshire County Council

### **Purpose of Report**

To present Forum members with an update on progress towards the delivery of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

### **Progress to March 2020**

Below is a summary of the main work in progress in relation to each of the five RoWIP aims:-

#### **Aim 1: Existing Public Rights of Way network**

- **Path condition surveys** to assess the ease of use of the network continued in 2019 and results are based on a 6% random sample of the total length of public rights of way. November's survey returned a 55.9% pass rate, which combined with May's result of 68.4% provides an overall figure of 62.0% for the year. While this falls short of the 72.5% target, it is very slightly up on last year's result of 61.7%. Aspects which affect ease of use produced good pass rates, varying from 78.0% to 93.7%. Compared with 2018, there was an increase in performance for the proportion of paths reinstated after ploughing and cropping, but other areas (roadside signposting, waymarking, bridges, stiles & gates, obstructions and surface condition) showed a slight reduction. Priority will continue to be given to ensuring that the existing public rights of way network is open and available for use, as resources allow

#### **Aim 2: Definitive Map and Statement**

- In terms of dealing with the **backlog of legal orders**, since the beginning of December 2019, seven legal orders have been made and advertised and three orders confirmed/ brought into effect. This includes the Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) which adds a 920m Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) along Pin Dale near Castleton. The Order was confirmed by the Secretary of State following a public inquiry held back in November. Public inquiries have been arranged for later in 2020 in relation to a Modification Order for a footpath over Calico Lane in Furnace Vale, near Whaley Bridge and the upgrading of two footpaths to bridleway in the Parish of Hodthorpe and Belph at Creswell Crags. A DMMO for a Restricted Byway between Sheffield Road and

Hazelmere Road in the Parish of Elmton with Creswell, Bolsover District will be dealt with by written representations. Further information can be found on the Planning Inspectorate website under Rights of way:

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/planning-inspectorate](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/planning-inspectorate)

- **Project 2026 Derbyshire:** As a follow-up to the event which was held at the Record Office on 9 September, the DADLAF is organising a meeting in Matlock on Saturday 14 March to check on progress and discuss any issues which may have arisen. According to DOBBIN, the British Horse Society's database, research records have been created for 101 paths in Derbyshire, with 18 DMMO applications submitted

<https://www.bhsaccess.org.uk/dobbin/Project2026.php>

The Ramblers are also encouraging people to "Join the search" for unrecorded routes across England and Wales and have set up an interactive map as part of the Don't Lose Your Way Project

<https://dontloseyourway.ramblers.org.uk/>

### **Aim 3: An improved network**

- **Pennine Bridleway National Trail:** We are in the process of preparing a bid for funding for the maintenance of the Trail in 2020/21 and have recently met with Natural England and the Pennine National Trails Partnership Manager to discuss how we might resource the necessary preparatory work for the three missing sections around Glossop. The Pennine Bridleway leaflet has now been updated and can be downloaded from the website at:

[www.nationaltrailbreaks.com/en\\_GB/trails/pennine-bridleway/leaflets/](http://www.nationaltrailbreaks.com/en_GB/trails/pennine-bridleway/leaflets/)

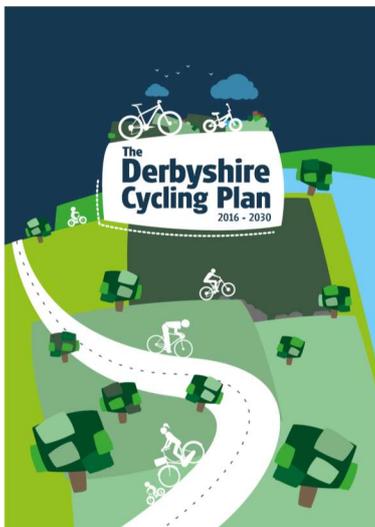
*(Please note that the web address will be changing at the end of March to [www.nationaltrail.co.uk](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk)).* The leaflet provides a summary of what the Pennine Bridleway has to offer and its first outing was at an international tourism trade event held in the Netherlands, specialising in walking and cycling. This provided the opportunity to encourage Dutch visitors to spend time exploring the Pennines and enjoying Northern hospitality

- **Visit. Sleep. Cycle. Repeat:** The VSCR programme is focused on growing the local visitor economy within an area roughly bordered by Chesterfield, Worksop and Mansfield, based on the main attractions, green infrastructure and cycling trails. We have secured £651,000 to deliver part of Phase 1 of the VSCR action plan. This consists of £404,000 (Rural Development Programme for England) and £150,000 (DCC's Local Transport Plan) to construct 6.9km of new and improved cycling trails around the Pleasley Visitor Hub, with some work due to start on the ground imminently. A further £97,000 from the Business Rates Retention Programme will deliver a number of feasibility studies,



including Marketing, PR & Social Media, an audit of the VSCR Trails network and accessibility audits of several countryside sites

- **The Derbyshire Cycling Plan:** A report on the County's emerging Key Cycle Network (KCN) was presented to Cabinet on 16 January 2020. The proposed network was approved, along with the principles for guiding its implementation, including the concentration of preparatory work against the order of priorities set out in the Appendix to the Cabinet report and the terms of reference for the County Council's role in supporting projects promoted by external bodies. An annual report of KCN development will be included in the Economy, Transport and Environment Department's Service Plan. The KCN is the county's strategic network consisting of the



most important routes for commuting, tourism and leisure. Extending from it is the Local Cycle Network (LCN) providing connections into communities and other key destinations such as public transport interchanges, leisure/visitor attractions, employment, education, health, retail etc. The third tier consists of the Town Networks, a high density of routes within key settlements facilitating local trips. The County Council continues to develop and invest in the Chesterfield Cycle Network and Buxton Town Team is in the process of identifying a safer walk and ride network

- Much of the work on the KCN has formed the basis for our contribution to the **Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)** which is being developed for the Derby Derbyshire Nottingham Nottinghamshire (D2N2) area. A draft document is being prepared by the four authorities working in conjunction with Sustrans and a firm of consultants. This is due to be submitted to the Department for Transport at the end of March, before being taken to our respective Committees for approval to consult on the draft document
- **Investment:** Funding bids have been submitted for prioritised Rights of Way and multi-user Greenway/ KCN development and maintenance schemes from within the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Capital Programme for next year. The outcome will be reported to the LAF meetings in June

#### **Aim 4: Improve the promotion, understanding and use of the network**

- The County Council's Countryside Destinations and Events Brochure has been produced for 2020 and can be viewed on our website at: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countrysideevents](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countrysideevents)



The brochure contains a range of countryside events and festivals for people to enjoy throughout the year, starting at Easter. As well as promoting our Countryside Destinations and Visitor Centres, there is also information about volunteering opportunities, public transport and the network of Public

Rights of Way and Greenways across the county which is available for people of all ages and abilities to explore

- The **#PeakDistrictProud** campaign led by the National Park Authority and National Trust was launched on 1 March. It builds on the core messages of 'respect, protect and enjoy' found in the Countryside Code. Posters and signage showcasing the new artwork will be displayed around the national park and social media will also target communities and visitors before they plan their visit. These will contain seasonal messages about the positive ways in which people can help care for the National Park, including taking litter home, avoiding BBQs, keeping dogs on leads during periods of wildlife activity and the use of drones



### **Aim 5: Greater community involvement**

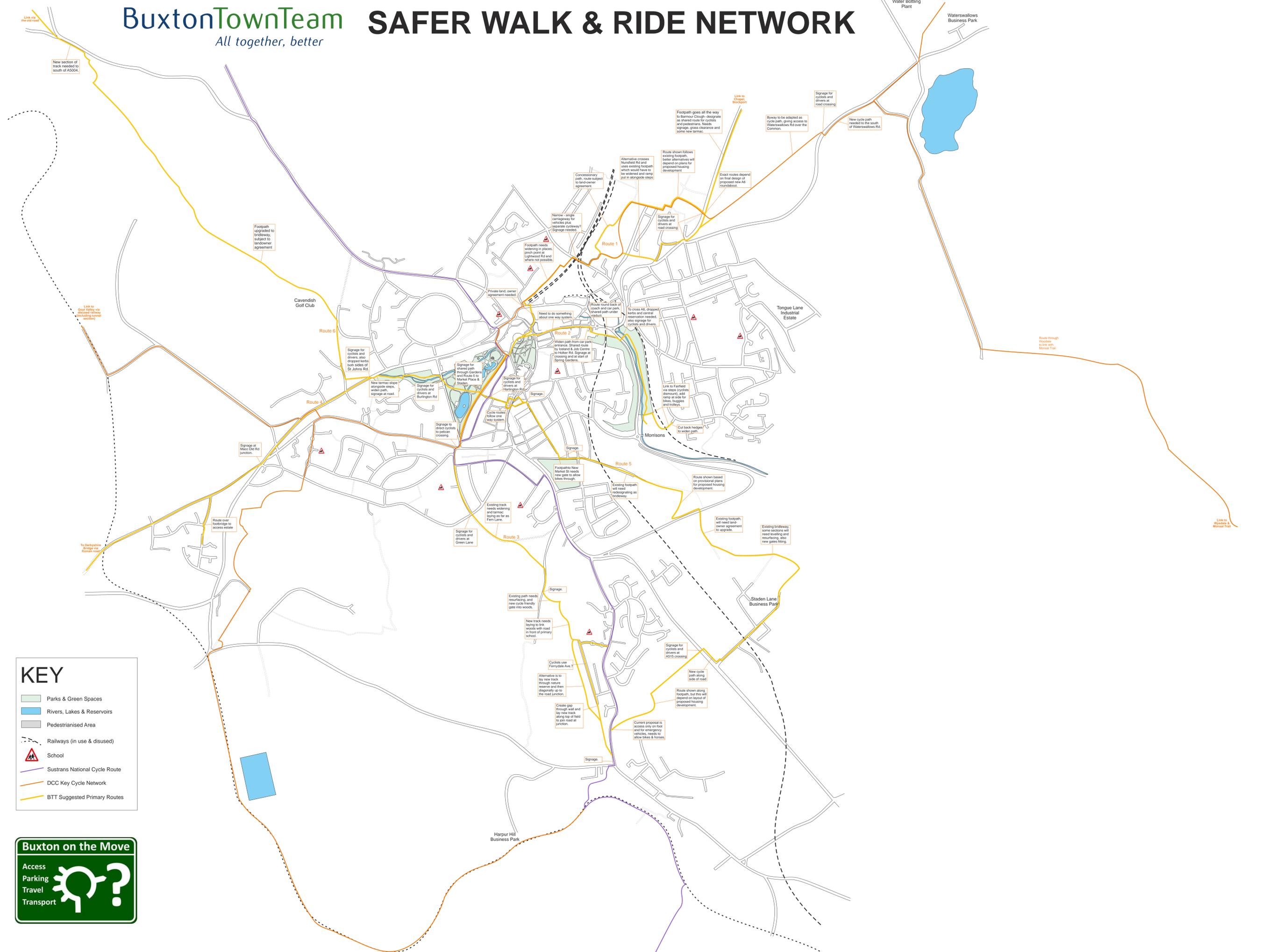
- **Volunteer contribution:** During the first nine months of 2019/20, our records indicate that volunteers working with or on behalf of the Countryside Service have contributed 1,909 days, estimated to be worth around £401,109. This is slightly up on the same time last year
- **Groundwork Greater Nottingham** has continued to work on the network of paths and trails across the county through its existing Access and Wellbeing Service Level Agreement, delivering a total of 299 volunteer days between 1 April and the end of December. Dedicated groups of volunteers have carried out much needed maintenance work and improvements on rights of way in South Derbyshire and the High Peak. Task days have also taken place on the Pennine Bridleway, White Peak Loop, Clowne Branch Line and with two groups in Little Eaton.

### **Recommendation**

That Forum Members note this progress report for delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Buxton Mineral Water Bottling Plant

Waterswallows Business Park



**KEY**

- Parks & Green Spaces
- Rivers, Lakes & Reservoirs
- Pedestrianised Area
- Railways (in use & disused)
- School
- Sustrans National Cycle Route
- DCC Key Cycle Network
- BTT Suggested Primary Routes

**Buxton on the Move**

Access  
Parking  
Travel  
Transport

This page is intentionally left blank

## MEDIA RELEASE

Embargo: 12:01 Sunday 1 March 2020

### **New #PeakDistrictProud campaign aims for spring success in UK's original national park**



A new campaign launching today (Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March) aims to bring a fresh perspective on some of the challenges affecting wildlife and habitats in the Peak District National Park.

#PeakDistrictProud will share the positive ways in which people can help care for the national park; from taking home your litter and avoiding BBQs, to keeping your dog a lead during periods of wildlife activity and the use of drones, among a range of other actions.

The campaign – using a series of montage images captured from throughout the history of the Peak District - will build upon the core messages of 'respect, protect and enjoy' found in the Countryside Code. The campaign will take a deliberate step away from more traditional warning or advisory signage currently found in many outdoor locations.

Led by the Peak District National Park Authority and National Trust, the campaign has based its seasonal messages on workshops held with a wide range of national park communities including conservationists, landowners and managers, local user groups and young people.

Posters and signage showcasing the #PeakDistrictProud artworks will be displayed around the national park, and social media will also target communities and visitors before they plan their visit.

Sarah Fowler, Peak District National Park Authority CEO said: “As part of a commitment to take a renewed look at how we share the messages from guidance such as the Countryside Code here in the Peak District, we’re pleased to be launching the #PeakDistrictProud campaign this spring.

“This new approach feels deliberately fresh, different and sometimes challenging – but that is often necessary if we are to have a positive impact across the many online and offline channels that we all now engage with.

“In re-framing the key themes of ‘respect, project and enjoy’ for a new digital generation, we have an opportunity to share messages with people multiple times - and it’s that repeated experience that may result in small, but positive changes.

“I hope that all of our local businesses, communities and partners will be ready to share what they’re doing that makes them feel #PeakDistrictProud.”

Jon Stewart, general manager for the National Trust in the Peak District added: ‘In 2019 we celebrated access to the countryside with our project BE KINDER, through the stories of people coming together to campaign for change.

“Now more than ever, as nature faces the challenges of climate change, we want to inspire everyone to look after the places they love and what better way to honour those past efforts than by being #PeakDistrictProud and coming together to be part of the campaign to respect, protect and enjoy the beautiful and diverse countryside of the Peak District.’

People are being encouraged to share their positive actions on social media by using the #PeakDistrictProud hashtag.

-----

For further information or links to some of the visual materials supporting the campaign, please contact: [tom.marshall@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:tom.marshall@peakdistrict.gov.uk)

-----

28.02.20



Peak District Local Access Forum  
c/o Peak District National Park Authority  
Aldern House  
Baslow Road  
Bakewell  
Derbyshire DE45 1AE

Date 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020

\*\*\*\*\*DRAFT\*\*\*\*\*

To Emma Stone, Head of Visitor Experience Development PDNPA

### **Stanage North Lees Consultation**

Dear Emma

I am writing on behalf of the Peak District Local Access Forum to offer our comments on the current Stanage North Lees consultation regarding the future management of that estate.

John Thompson (now LAF Chair) wrote to the Authority with the LAF's views as part of the previous consultation in 2014. Our views today are broadly similar and we stress the importance of Stanage as the jewel in the crown of the Authority land holdings.

Louise Hawson, representing the British Mountaineering Council, is a current LAF member and Secretary of the Stanage Forum Steering Group.

**The Peak District LAF fully supports the Stanage Forum Steering Group response to the options appraisal consultation (submitted 13/2/2020).**

In Particular:

We support an integrated and holistic approach to the management of the North Lees Estate and its assets. In particular, options for individual properties cannot be considered in isolation – there must be due consideration to maintaining the character of the estate as a whole.

In 2014 John Thompson highlighted the importance of providing an asset for the Public Good - because Stanage is public land which provides great benefit to hundreds of thousands of people. Indeed since then providing "Public Goods" has become the priority outcome for use of public funds and assets, such as Environmental Management – which also plays a role here.

However we recognise the Authority needs to take reasonable steps to generate income as long as this is in keeping with the overall visitor experience – as outlined in the 2019/2020 Stanage –North Lees Management Plan.

Parking and Car Park charges – attempts have been made for over 20 years to improve parking and overall the situation does seem to have improved. However roadside verge parking continues to be a problem and would be difficult to stop completely. Any changes to parking need to ensure the situation gets better, not worse.

We hope you find our comments useful and we'd be happy to be involved in any further developments.

Yours sincerely

Bob Berzins

LAF Vice Chair  
(Chair Access sub group)



**Stanage Forum Steering Group**

**13 February 2020**

**Emma Stone**

Head of Visitor Experience Development  
Peak District National Park  
Aldern House  
Bakewell

Cc

Andrew McCloy  
Zahid Hamid  
Sarah Fowler  
Adrian Barraclough

**Dear Emma**

**Response to the Options Appraisal consultation**

The Stanage Forum Steering Group appreciates the purpose of the review and the thinking behind it. We also appreciate and welcome the efforts to consult with us and with other stakeholders. Our response is a reflection of the passion and care that the members of the Steering Group, and the Stanage Forum, have for the Estate and our concern for its future given government spending cuts and ongoing investment challenges.

We see the Estate as the jewel in the Authority's crown. The review should be an opportunity to demonstrate how we in the Peak District can work in partnership to deliver on the purposes of the National Park in the context of complex agricultural, ecological, recreational and economic pressures.

At the outset of the process we developed a set of principles for the review, which were intended to guide thinking on options, and to identify opportunities for delivery in partnership with the local community, user groups and the wider population who love and care for the Estate. These are attached.

Our intention is to give constructive feedback and make clear our views on how we believe Stanage-North Lees needs to be managed to deliver our vision. However, our feedback must be seen in the context of the fact that we have not seen the consultants' report, we have only seen a small number of options 'packages' that have been distilled from it.

## **1. The future for these assets cannot be viewed in isolation**

It is our strong belief that an appraisal that looks at any part (or parts) of the Estate in isolation from the rest is a mistake.

Even if management of individual parts is separate, they must be managed within a vision and a plan for the character and future of the Estate as a whole. The issues and solutions for the future of any individual asset or part of the Estate must be estate-wide and indeed landscape-wide, and should include consideration of the overall investment plans for the farm, the Edge, the woodlands and the moorland landscape.

The existing vision and management plan for the Estate was developed through a detailed consultation process, involving all relevant partners and stakeholders in the Estate [[www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0005/508352/Vision.pdf](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/508352/Vision.pdf)]. Any appraisal of the future of all or some of the assets on the Estate must sit within this vision; it is not clear from the information we have from the Authority that this has been the case.

By not considering the Estate as a whole, the appraisal does not, for example, consider the impact on the character of the Estate if the Hall, cottage, and cruck barn are all let at the same time, and the campsite is full. This will have a significant impact on parking and road access, and will fundamentally change the character of this part of the estate.

We recognise the desire within the Authority for the North Lees Estate to be a net 'no cost' asset, and to 'wash its own face' in terms of management costs. However, we question whether this is possible for a national asset such as this, and we urge the authority to consider the wider importance of the Estate beyond its position as an expensive 'asset' on the Authority's books.

Finally, we reiterate our position that the estate must not be broken up and effectively sold off 'piecemeal' to meet short term financial objectives. This principle of an holistic approach to the estate has previously been set out clearly to the Authority when we presented our position to the ARP committee in support of the management plan some years ago.

An option that has not been included is for one tenant to manage the whole estate, in the style of Eastern Moors or the Roaches. In our view, if the Authority is not able to provide the necessary investment to maintain and enhance the special character of the Estate, this option should be considered.

## **2. We have concerns about the way the appraisal was carried out.**

Despite the approach set out in our Suggested Principles for the Review, the options presented do not take account of the wider funding opportunities associated with managing a public & community asset of national importance, for example funds available for restoration of the cruck barn as an educational or community asset.

The appraisal did not consider the wider landscape and public value of the buildings themselves or the estate as a whole.

The consultants did not meet the Steering Group or any members of the Stanage Forum in order to gather our views on possible opportunities for funding, building use or wider stakeholder input to management.

In summary while they clearly have expertise in aspects of asset management, we believe that the consultants did not bring the right expertise into their appraisal team to be able to identify & assess the true value of these assets and the full range of opportunities for their future management.

### **3. We have concerns about the way the online consultation was carried out.**

Members of the Steering Group were approached by local residents, climbers, walkers & others all with very similar concerns. The presentation of only three options, without background information on the report and the way the options were put together, and the short deadline, led to local feeling that Option 1 is a foregone conclusion and could lead to breaking up of the Estate, or a change in the character of the Estate which locals would oppose. It's also stoked a local fear that the financial options are so limited that the Estate will be sold.

We therefore support the holding of a public meeting in Hathersage to allow local residents and the Parish Council to give their views and ask questions. We also requested that PDNPA extends the online consultation deadline to allow more people to respond and to allow those who are responding a reasonable amount of time to consider their responses. We welcome that fact that this was done.

### **4. Our Comments on Specific Assets included in the Review**

In the workshop on 4 December 2019, members of the Steering Group were able to comment on the three options for the group of assets covered by the appraisal, as described in the consultation. The notes taken by the facilitators of the meeting reflect views given on these options during the workshop.

Although the notes suggested that the preference of the Forum was for Option 1, in reality **none of the options reflected our views**. We were agreed that Option 3 was not acceptable, as continued lack of investment in the Estate and its assets will lead to its continued deterioration.

We have summarised below our views on the best options for each individual asset, as discussed at the workshop and in our subsequent Steering Group meeting.

We encourage you to listen to the views and input of the Stanage North Lees Heritage Action Group on the options and funding opportunities for the future of the Hall and Cruck Barn in particular.

#### **Cattiside Cottage**

We recognise that Cattiside Cottage requires significant investment in order to be used as residential or holiday accommodation, and that this likely precludes some options. The future of the cottage should be determined according to who is best placed to access the initial and ongoing investment required to improve and maintain the asset sensitively and effectively, within the overall vision for the Estate. The Forum may be open to change in ownership of the cottage if required to deliver the best solution for the building and the Estate.

#### **Cruck Barn**

We do not believe that all usage, funding and investment options for the Barn have been considered. There is currently no sheltered area for educational or recreational groups – or Ranger Guided Walks – to meet on the Estate. The Barn has already provided an excellent venue for demonstrations and exhibitions for Heritage Open Day. The Ranger Briefing Centre is too small and too poorly equipped to be appropriate for this, although it could provide a useful 'outpost', e.g. for displays of information on the ring ouzel project.

We believe all options for the restoration and community use of the Cruck Barn should be explored, and we will oppose conversion to holiday accommodation. The neighbouring Threshing Barn is a separate consideration and there could be opportunities there for accessible accommodation.

#### **Campsite**

First, we want to congratulate Mark & the team for all their work in improving the campsite and increasing income.

Our view is that the campsite should remain an integral part of the Estate, but we would not oppose management being contracted to an organisation with specific expertise & management systems for running a small, wilderness campsite. This could be the tenant farmer, the Hall tenant, or another organisation with similar local facilities. A benefit of this would be to remove management costs from the Authority and free up the Warden role to focus full time on the Estate. It would be important to get the contract right to ensure the character of the campsite with the Estate was maintained.

Increased provision is also needed for camper vans, either within or associated with the campsite, in order to address a growing issue of layby camping on and around the Estate.

### **North Lees Hall**

We support letting of the Hall as holiday accommodation, with the requirement that it is to be available for public use on Heritage Open Days, Open Farm Sunday and other public engagement activities. This option would allow it to be opened up to the largest number of people. Any refurbishment must be done in a way that is sympathetic to the architectural and cultural heritage of the building and Estate, and with a mind to the public interest in the building as well as holiday let accommodation.

In our view the let would be better managed by a local person or organisation. Security and local resident concerns mean we believe it should be actively managed and not managed at arm's length through a portal such as AirBnb

Note that in our view public access to the Hall only works well if there is also access to the Cruck Barn as an interpretation, meeting and event centre.

### **Parking and car park charges**

Parking cannot be seen simply as a revenue generation opportunity, and cannot be seen in isolation from the impact of cars and irresponsible parking on the landscape and its users. It should be part of a wider sustainable transport plan for the Sheffield Moors area.

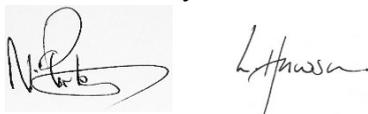
Any proposal to extend the coverage of parking charges will need to take account of existing bye laws, and the lack of means to prevent verge side parking which has a detrimental effect on the roadside vegetation and emergency vehicle access on busy weekends.

In particular, it should be considered that the current approach to providing free parking at Hooks Carr was designed to reduce the damage caused to the wet sitch in previous years by people walking across it having parked on the verge. Any action that leads to more parking on the verge below Hooks Carr is likely to lead to damage to the SSSI re-occurring.

The Authority must therefore be clear whether its priority for car parking provision is revenue generation, or landscape protection & sustainable access. In our view, it must be the latter. We also believe that the 'Ours to Care For' sticker campaign, which enabled people to donate directly to the upkeep of the Estate in return for free parking and discounts at the campsite & some local businesses, should be revisited and revitalised.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this feedback with you, we look forward to continuing to work with you to secure the future of the Estate.

Yours sincerely

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Neil Porter' and the signature on the right is 'Louise Hawson'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Neil Porter (Chair) & Louise Hawson (Secretary)  
*On behalf of the Stanage Forum Steering Group*