

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: Thursday 7 December 2017

Item: 6

Title: Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Update

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

Purpose of Report

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

Progress to December 2017

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:** November's survey to assess the ease of use of the network got underway on time with the help of more than 40 volunteers, including several of our LAF members. They will be involved in surveying 295 randomly selected routes with a total distance of around 160km
- Following a public consultation back in 2016, we now have approval to proceed to initiate the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) process to prohibit mechanically propelled vehicles from using Stoney Middleton Byway Open to All Traffic No. 15 (also known as Jacobs Ladder) between its junction with The Nook and New Road. The Peak District LAF is a statutory consultee and will be consulted on the County Council's intention to make a TRO. The report to the meeting of the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure on 26 October 2017 can be viewed here: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/26.10.2017%20\(4c\)%20BOAT%2015%20Jacobs%20Ladder_tcm44-295496.pdf](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/26.10.2017%20(4c)%20BOAT%2015%20Jacobs%20Ladder_tcm44-295496.pdf) and should be read in conjunction with the minutes of the meeting: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/2017.11.16%20\(3\)%20Mins%20of%206%20Oct%202017_tcm44-295806.pdf](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/images/2017.11.16%20(3)%20Mins%20of%206%20Oct%202017_tcm44-295806.pdf)

Aim 2: Definitive Map and Statement

- In terms of dealing with the **backlog of legal orders**, since the beginning of September 2017, seven cases have been reported to Committee and two orders have been made/advertised. Six orders have

been confirmed and brought into effect. These have resulted in two footpaths being added to the Definitive Map in the Parishes of Wingerworth (NE Derbyshire) and Willington (South Derbyshire), along with Derby Lane at Monyash now being recorded as a Byway Open to All Traffic

Aim 3: An improved network

- **Greenway Development:** a summary of the main projects which are underway across the county can be found in Appendix 1. (NB This will be available on the LAF's web page along with the rest of the papers)
- **Greenway Maintenance:** Work is underway to carry out structural repairs to Hopton Tunnel and the resurfacing of a section of the High Peak Trail to the west of Intake Quarry near Middleton Top Visitor Centre. There is a temporary closure in place (with no designated alternative route) until 23 February 2018. Details of this and other path closures across the county can be viewed here:
www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access/rights_of_way/path_closure_register/search_the_register/default.asp
- **Pennine Bridleway National Trail:** The annual condition survey has been completed and repairs/ general routine maintenance are being programmed accordingly. This includes the much needed surfacing and drainage improvements for a 500m section of the Pennine Bridleway/ Trans Pennine Trail between the A57 and Woolley Bridge Road in Hadfield. The work which is due to be completed this financial year is being jointly funded by Natural England/ Pennine National Trails Partnership and Derbyshire County Council. High Peak Borough Council is funding the resurfacing of several connecting paths leading into the adjacent housing estate

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

- The **Derbyshire Woodland Festival** took place at Elvaston Castle Country Park over the weekend of the **23 and 24 September**. The event attracted 10,000 visitors
- **Derbyshire Cycling Plan – Key Cycle Network:** A 12 week public consultation is underway until 24 January 2018. People are being asked if they agree that the routes on the map should be included in the Key Cycle Network and if there are any routes they would add, remove or change. The on-line consultation which is being hosted by Active Derbyshire (the new name for Derbyshire Sport) can be viewed here, along with the map and detailed explanation of each route:
www.activederbyshire.org.uk/forms/view/keycyclenetworks

Aim 5: Greater community involvement

- **Volunteer contribution:** In the second quarter of 2017/18, volunteers working with or on behalf of the Countryside Service have contributed 802 days, estimated to be worth around £180,000

- **Groundwork Creswell** has continued to deliver a range of work on the network of paths and trails across the county through its existing Service Level Agreement. This has included clearing drains on the Pennine Bridleway, vegetation clearance and litter picking on the Clowne Branch Line, as well as working with local groups on various access projects in Little Eaton, Overseal and Heage/ Nether Heage

Recommendation

That Forum Members note this progress report for delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan in 2017/18.