

Peak District Local Access Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 6 June 2019 at Longshaw Estate.

Members Present:

Bob Berzins
Edwina Edwards
Charlotte Gilbert
Louise Hawson
Andrew Murley
Paul Richardson
Jon Stewart
Sue Weatherley

John Thompson (Chair)

Joe Dalton
Richard Entwistle
Alastair Harvey
Jez Kenyon
Geoff Nickolds
Roly Smith
Ally Turner

Others Present:

Mike Rhodes, (PDNPA) (Secretary)
Gill Millward, (DCC)
Rich Pett, (PDNPA)

Sue Smith, (PDNPA)
Richard Taylor, (DCC)
Jason Spencer, (Minutes)

1. APOLOGIES & WELCOME

Apologies had been received from Cllr Jason Atkin, Clare Griffin, Adge Last and Dan Richmond-Watson. It was noted that John Hall and John Walton were no longer members of the Forum.

The Chair welcomed Adrian Barraclough, Director of Commercial Development and Engagement at the National Park Authority, to his second meeting of the Forum, and welcomed back Edwina Edwards to her first meeting following her recent travels in India.

2. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING, 14 MARCH 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2019 were approved as a correct record with thanks to Karen Harrison.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Peak District National Park Foundation – It was noted that a helpful report had been circulated and the Chair asked that Sarah Slowther be thanked for providing it. The Forum with its members and links was encouraged to support the Foundation's 70k for 70 appeal.

Mend Our Mountains – Bob Berzins requested more information on the status of the Great Ridge route. It was confirmed that the path was located on open access land.

Monsal Trail – Following the discussion at the last meeting, Charlotte Gilbert reported that she had attended a meeting of the National Park Authority on 24 May and spoke on behalf of the Local Access Forum. Issues relating to horse riders not being able to safely use the Trail where it ran alongside a working railway were raised along with concerns about access should the line be reinstated. It was noted that, although discussions with Derbyshire County Council were ongoing, the route from Matlock to Rowsley could not be used by horse riders because it ran alongside a heritage railway. Although there had been suggestions that the Monsal Trail

should be designated as a bridleway, it was confirmed that the view of the National Park Authority was that, as the former track bed was owned by the Authority, designation was not required at this moment in time.

Mike Rhodes highlighted the operational benefits of not designating the route and confirmed that, as a bridleway had to run from one highway to another, partial designation for the lengths with no structures was not an option.

Several Forum Members expressed a strong preference for designation now and Charlotte Gilbert agreed to raise the issue through the Trails Management Steering Group.

AGREED: To note the update, the National Park Authority's current position on designation and to keep this issue under review.

Chapel Gate – Paul Richardson reported on progress highlighting that the test patch had failed during recent poor weather. It was suggested that there appeared to be no feasible option to repair the route.

AGREED: Richard Taylor to arrange to meet with Green Lanes Sub-Group to discuss the options for a surface suitable for all users. DCC to identify suitable dates.

Annual LAF Report – It was noted that the 2018/19 Annual Report was now available on the National Park Authority website. Paper copies were provided at the meeting and it was confirmed that Roly Smith was drafting a press release to be issued via Peak District NPA and County Council Communications departments.

Wetton – Sue Smith updated the Forum on progress at Wetton since the last Forum meeting. Staffordshire County Council was considering the options for works to the route.. The Forum expressed concerns about the timescales and queried whether a TRO should be progressed before the repairs were done. The Forum expressed the view that they were keen for the works by Staffordshire CC to proceed as soon as possible.

Spirit of Kinder Event – Roly Smith reported that the event planned at Winnats Pass had been stopped by a severe storm but 400 people still gathered at the Peveril Centre in Castleton to listen to speakers. He also confirmed that Jarvis Cocker had attended the event. Thanks were expressed to Jon and Katie from the National Trust for setting up the event and Roly for his co-ordination of communications. It was noted that in 2020 this annual event would be held in Manchester on 25 April.

4. ACCESS REPORT

Sue Smith introduced her report tabled at the meeting.

PDNPA Land Disposals – It was confirmed that an update on the process had been received at the Access Sub-Group and reports were tabled highlighting the access situation on land proposed for disposal. It was noted that it was the Authority's intention that existing access would be safeguarded through the designations in place or covenants. It was noted that the Sub-Group would be meeting to discuss further.

The Chair confirmed that he had received a response to his letter to Adrian Barraclough conveying the concerns of the Forum. A copy of the response was tabled at the meeting. At the meeting it was suggested that all the land should be designated as open access land before disposal and more could have been done to engage local communities in the process. Adrian Barraclough thanked the Forum for looking at this and offering their expertise. He provided some background information on the reasons for acquiring the land and the process and timescales for progressing the disposals. Adrian invited the Forum to respond on what

went well, what could be improved. Adrian also confirmed that disposal of the Monsal Trail was not something the Authority was currently considering.

AGREED: To note the update and ask the National Park Authority to note that the Forum's strong preference was that permissive access be designated as open access and rights of way before disposal. Action - John Thompson

Access Wish List – Sue Smith confirmed that this was now a standing item at Access Sub-Group meetings and demonstrated how it was linked to decisions on the allocation of funding from the Access Fund. Forum members were invited to provide feedback before the meeting of the Sub-Group on 13th June. It was noted that the Derbyshire Dales Ramblers had recently given a donation to the fund and thanks were given by Sue Smith and a certificate presented to Sue Weatherley.

Archives – The Forum noted and welcomed information provided in Appendix 2 of the report describing the information available regarding the early days of the National Park movement and the development of the National Park family.

Moorland Tracks – The Forum noted an update on enforcement action at Bradfield Moors and Midhope Moor.

AGREED: To note and welcome the report.

Review of Directions to Restrict Access – Sue Smith introduced her report tabled at the meeting. The report provided details on the process for reviewing long-term directions for the exclusion of the public to open access land, updated the Forum on the sites to be statutorily reviewed and seeking a consultation response from the Forum on the review at Deer Hill Meltham.

Agreed: To note the report and agree the Access Sub-group comments in Appendix 3 of the report as the Forum's response to the consultation. Action - John Thompson

5. DERBYSHIRE DERWENT CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIP (PRESENTATION)

The Forum received a presentation from Scott McKenzie, Living Rivers Officer from the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust on the Derbyshire Derwent Catchment Partnership. The partnership had been established to tackle issues relating to pollution, biodiversity, climate change mitigation and community engagement and access. Scott was thanked for his presentation.

Ben Seal from British Canoeing also spoke on issues relating to water access and highlighted national campaigns which aimed to change legislation and improve access to water. Ben answered questions and points raised by LAF members and undertook to send additional information to Mike Rhodes for circulation. Ben was thanked for his presentation.

The Forum discussed the issues raised and identified options for raising awareness. It was suggested that it would be useful to have representation on the Forum from canoeists or open water swimmers. Agreed the Chair would write to Sarah Fowler and other interests seeking their views and involvement in a future meeting.

AGREED: To note and welcome the report and a copy of the Charter document be circulated to Forum Members.

6. NATIONAL TRUST ACTIVE OUTDOOR PROVIDER SCHEME (AOPS) (PRESENTATION)

Katherine Clarke from the National Trust attended to update the Forum on the National Trust Active Outdoor Provider Scheme. It was noted that this replaced previous arrangements which had not been well received.

The new framework provided a way of looking at events to establish their impact on the relevant property and identify how they can go ahead sensitively. As part of this process events are allocated to one of four categories based on the proposed activity and the size of the event. Bob Berzins referred to the importance of this work arising from the Events Workshop in line with the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) Delivery Plan.

Katherine was thanked for her presentation. The Forum welcomed the proposals and asked about how the process could be used to generate contributions or donations to contribute to conservation and access.

7. RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR DERBYSHIRE - UPDATE REPORT (INCLUDING SUB GROUP MEETINGS)

Gill Millward circulated her report and invited comments and questions on the content. In discussing the report the following issues were highlighted:

- Greenway/ cycle route development – 9.25km of new routes in 2018/19 exceeding the target of 8km.
- Improving promotion, understanding and use of the network – New events guide has been published with on-line version available.
- Review of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan – it was noted that the joint RoWIP Sub Group had met and notes would be written up and circulated.
- It was confirmed that although Officers were confident that LTP funding would be spent there were concerns that the development of new routes may be limited by the officer support time available.
- Minninglow Lane – Noted that a site visit was due to take place to draw up the specification which met the sound, sensible and sensitive principles.

AGREED:

1. **To note and welcome the progress report for delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.**
2. **To note the minutes of the meeting of the Unrecorded Ways Sub-Group.**
3. **To congratulate the Team on successfully drawing down funding.**

8. GREEN LANES WARDEN INITIATIVE

Sergeant James Shirley from the rural crime team at Derbyshire Police attended the meeting to highlight the work of the team and ways in which members of the public can report issues and help tackle rural crime. He confirmed that he would be looking in more detail at the Green Lanes Warden case studies to see if it would be suitable for use in Derbyshire.

He confirmed that following investment by the Police Commissioner there were now 15 Officers working on rural crime based in Matlock. It was recognised that even with more resources it was difficult to investigate crimes without the support of members of the public. He commended the work of some user groups to self-police their activities and report criminal matters to the police using social media. He provided examples of how posts on Facebook and Twitter had been invaluable in tackling wildlife crime and illegal raves.

AGREED: To note the update and welcome the initiatives to tackle rural crime.

It was also confirmed that a Countryside Code Refresher Workshop was being held on 11 July at the Agricultural Business Centre in Bakewell and attendance was confirmed for that.

AGREED: that Mike Rhodes would work with Charlotte, who had kindly attended an exhibition, to respond to Derbyshire CC on behalf of the LAF.

Parking at Longshaw Estate - It was noted that if members had not displayed parking tickets in vehicles they may find notes on their windscreen. Although this was nothing to be concerned about, in future permits would need to be displayed or the welcome desk advised on arrival. Members to be reminded please when attending future LAF meetings.

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