

MINUTES

Meeting ID	2290
Committee	Peak District Local Access Forum
Date	05/12/2019
Attendees	Forum Members Present:
	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
	Others Present:
	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	Welcome and Apologies, Update on Membership Changes and Introductions
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	Minutes from the last meeting held on 19 September 2019
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	Matters Arising
Summary	<p>a) Mend Our Mountains Projects - Mike Rhodes and Bob Berzins</p> <p>i) Cut Gate – 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>ii) Great Ridge – 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>iii) North America – The contractor was confident that a technique called sub-soil reversal would be a suitable repair to the path.</p> <p>b) LAF Annual Report – 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>c) Derbyshire Countryside Service Review Response to the County Council by Peak District and Derby & Derbyshire LAF Chairs – John Thompson</p>

A joint response had been sent by the Chair in conjunction with Ian Else, Chair of Derby & 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.

Richard wished the Forum well as he would no longer be attending as Countryside Service Manager and adviser on access and rights of way.

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.

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.

Item ID	4
Item Title	Landscapes Review - Julian Glover's Panel Report and Key Points from this Forum - John Thompson
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>Q. Timescale for review document to be considered by Parliament? A. No information currently available although it is in the system.</p> <p>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"> The report recommendation for a national ranger service, the Forum felt local knowledge and experience was important for engagement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposal for a South Pennines AONB was very welcome and would link with the Yorkshire Dales National Park. • 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. • 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. • The importance of behaving responsibly needs to be emphasised if encouraging more people to visit National Parks to ensure preservation. <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	Derbyshire CC Rights of Way Improvement Plan Report - Gill Millward
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	Access Updates (including Reviews of Directions) - Sue Smith
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	National Park Management Plan and Advisory Group - next meeting 23 January 2020 - John Thompson
Summary	<p>a) Events Workshop</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) Climate Change Workshop in Buxton on 15 October - Steve Martin and Geoff Nickolds</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"> • Electric vehicle charging points including encouraging employers to provide electric pool cars • Individuals efforts to reduce carbon emissions • Public transport hubs • Possible future theme for Local Access Forum of public transport and how visitors access the National Park. • Does the Authority have a plan for improving the electricity supply into the park to enable the introduction of the charging points? • Organised events to encourage cars with minimum number of passengers (e.g. 4 people per car). • Improved ticketing for public transport <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	Members' Feedback
Summary	Progress on Targets in Our Annual Report - John/Charlotte and Bob 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	