

Peak District Local Access Forum

On: Thursday 12th March, 2020

At: Board Room, Aldern House, Bakewell

Minutes

Meeting ID	2633
Committee	Peak District Local Access Forum
Date	12/03/2020
Attendees	Forum Members Present: John Thompson (Chair) Martin Bennett Bob Berzins (Vice Chair) Joe Dalton Edwina Edwards Richard Entwistle Charlotte Gilbert (Vice Chair) Louise Hawson Councillor Ian Huddleston Steve Martin Andrew Murley Geoff Nickolds Paul Richardson Ben Seal Roly Smith Jon Stewart Ally Turner Others Present: Karen Harrison (Minutes) Gill Millward (Derbyshire County Council) Rich Pett (PDNPA) Mike Rhodes (PDNPA) (Secretary) Sue Smith (PDNPA)

Item ID	1
Item Title	Welcome and Apologies and update on membership changes
Summary	<p>Apologies had been received from Alastair Harvey, Jez Kenyon, Clare Griffin and Cllr Jason Atkin.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed back Ally Turner to the meeting following her recent accident and Martin Bennett as a new member to the Local Access Forum, who was then invited to say a few words by way of introduction.</p>

	The Chair also welcomed Martin Beer, Chair of the Peak Park Parishes Forum; Mollie Hunt, Research & Monitoring Officer from the Moors for the Future; John Mills, Chair of the Staffordshire and Wolverhampton Joint LAF and Alan Brentnall, Derbyshire Caving Association, as observers to the meeting.
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Item ID	2
Item Title	Minutes from the last meeting, 05/12/2019
Summary	The minutes of the last meeting held on the 5 December 2019 were approved as a correct record, subject to Steve Martin and Ben Seal being added to the attendance list. Thanks to Belinda Wybrow for taking the minutes.

Item ID	3
Item Title	Matters Arising
Summary	<p>a) Mend our Mountains Projects</p> <p>Mollie Hunt, Research and Monitoring Officer for Moors for the Future updated the LAF Members on the Mend our Mountains Projects and the path works that have been going on.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North America - the works have been going on now for a couple of months and approx. 750m have been completed. There is work still to do on this path and the stretches that hadn't been repaired had suffered in the recent storms, but the plan is for the contractor to go back in November to finish it off. • Cut Gate – Nothing has happened this year, but work is planned for next season. • Great Ridge – Progress is being made with access agreements with landowners. A planning application is about to be re-submitted and there is also a bid to be submitted for additional funding of £30,000 which will hopefully be successful and work is aiming to start in September. <p>The Chair thanked Mollie for her update and the excellent work being done.</p> <p>b) Access Updates</p> <p>The Chair updated members regarding the lack of diversity on the Forum, which was raised at the meeting in December. He has had talks with Mike Rhodes and Gill Millward about the possibilities and these were being followed up with the appropriate people.</p>

Item ID	4
Item Title	LAF Annual Report
Summary	Sue Smith circulated draft copies of the annual report to Members and asked that any comments, updates or corrections on the report be submitted to her by the 6 th April. The final report will be available at the June meeting and Sue will be ordering extra copies for the September meeting

when we will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the LAF and the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act. If any Member would like an electronic version of the report, then to contact Sue and she will arrange for it to be sent.

AGREED: That LAF Members send comments on the draft Annual Report to Sue by the 6th April.

Item ID	5
Item Title	Environmental Land Management Scheme - access implications and opportunities
Summary	<p>Ben Seal gave a presentation to the Members regarding two new pieces of legislation that the new government is pushing through; the Agriculture Bill and the Environment Bill. The Agriculture Bill is coming up for its 3rd reading and is very close to being made law. It will be the first domestic policy we have had for 45 years and will look at how farmers, landowners and estate managers manage their land. They would be paid for providing things that benefit the public, for example access to the countryside and rights of way, which has specifically been identified so will receive some kind of subsidy within the future Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS), which is replacing the Common Agricultural Policy. This is an opportunity to create a bill fit for purpose for all users.</p> <p>The Environment Bill, is part way through the consultation period, but both these pieces of legislation will significantly change the way in which we access and view the countryside, so it is important that we engage in this process.</p> <p>Two policy discussion documents were released by Defra last week, which are looking at what the new ELM Scheme will look like and how it will work. There are currently pilot schemes taking place in the White Peak area (summary of the White Peak Test has been circulated by Sue Smith) looking to encourage landowners to work in different ways regarding habitats, farming methods, biodiversity etc., but not enhancing public access. Ben will be meeting the Director of ELMS, the leading person in Defra, in 2 weeks' time. A fresh consultation is being launched soon and it was important that as many people as possible contributed to this – the more responses which are submitted the better.</p> <p>The policy document is proposing a 3 tier scheme:-</p> <p>Tier 1 - Covers all payments to farmers and landowners – improving the environment Tier 2 - Covers payments for public rights of way, navigation and recreational infrastructure Tier 3 - Covers larger scale landscape projects ie coastal footpaths, long distance canoe trails.</p>

	<p>Was there any way that money could be used from the ELM Scheme to look after statutory rights of way?</p> <p>The Chair thanked Ben for his comprehensive report.</p> <p>AGREED: That Charlotte Gilbert will take the lead on drafting something in response to the ELMS Consultation on behalf of PDLAF and liaise with other LAFs, such as Derbyshire and Staffordshire.</p>
Item ID	6
Item Title	Derbyshire CC Rights of Way Improvement Plan Report, including Buxton Safer Walk and Ride Network
Summary	<p>Gill Millward introduced the comprehensive report and highlighted areas of interest within the five RoWIP Aims.</p> <p>Aim 1 - Existing Public Rights of Way network The path condition surveys to assess the ease of use of the network continued in 2019. Although the results fell short of the 72.5% target, they were slightly up on last year's result.</p> <p>Aim 2 - Definitive Map and Statement The legal status of all 25 priority routes in the National Park has now been resolved, including Pin Dale near Castleton, which has recently been confirmed as a Byway Open to All Traffic following a Public Inquiry. Public Inquiries have also been arranged for later this year in relation to a Modification Order for a footpath over Calico Lane in Furness Vale, near Whaley Bridge and the upgrading of two footpaths to bridleways in the Parish of Hodthorpe and Belph near Creswell Crags in Bolsover District. The DADLAF is organising a meeting on the 14 March as a follow-up to the Unrecorded Ways event which was held on the 9 September.</p> <p>Aim 3 - An improved network Derbyshire is in the process of preparing a bid for funding for the maintenance of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail in 2020/21. Officers have also recently met with Natural England and the Pennine National Trails Partnership Manager to discuss resources for the missing sections of the Trail around Glossop. The Pennine Bridleway leaflet has now been updated and is available to download. A report on the County's emerging Key Cycle Network was presented to Cabinet on the 16 January 2020 and approved. The focus will now be on preparing the top routes in readiness for external funding opportunities. Bids for funding from DCC's Local Transport Plan have been submitted and Gill will report on the outcome at the LAF meeting in June.</p> <p>Aim 4 - Promotion, understanding and use of the network Derbyshire County Council's Countryside Destinations and Events Brochure for 2020 can now be viewed on its website. Gill's report also referred to the #PeakDistrictProud campaign.</p>

Aim 5 - Greater community involvement

During the first nine months of 2019/20, volunteers working with or on behalf of the Countryside Service had contributed over 1,900 days estimated to be worth around £400k. Groundwork Greater Nottingham also continued to support volunteers working on the network of paths and trails across the county. Paul Richardson to submit “dig days” figures to Gill Millward so they can be included.

Buxton Town Team – Safer Walk & Ride Network

A map had been previously circulated to all LAF Members. Charlotte Gilbert reported that she had got involved with the Buxton Town Team primarily as a horse rider, because they wanted to know whether horses would be able to use any of their routes in and around the town. It was decided that they could possibly use most of them, but it was down to each individual horse rider to make that judgement as to what their horse could do.

There is a lot that the LAF can do to support this initiative, even though Buxton was outside the National Park, it is still part of our area. The primary target of the link routes is to encourage car-free journeys and to get people to move in and out of the town more actively and sustainably. The next stage, now that the routes have been identified, is to clarify the mapping and get comments from Derbyshire County Council’s Highways Safety Officer. Once the plan is finalised, then new routes/ improvements can start to be delivered as funds and opportunities become available.

There was, however, concern that opportunities to provide more walking and riding routes in relation to many of the new housing developments in the area are not being fully considered at the planning application stage. Charlotte asked if a letter could be sent to Damien Greenhalgh, requesting that this be looked into and also seeking his support for the Buxton Safer Walk and Ride Network. Damien, a former Member of the National Park Authority, as well as this Forum, is now Deputy Leader and Executive Councillor for Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure at High Peak Borough Council.

AGREED THAT:-

- **The report be noted and welcomed.**
- **Charlotte Gilbert to draft a letter to Damien Greenhalgh from the LAF.**
- **Paul Richardson to submit the MTB volunteer “dig day” figures to Gill Millward.**

Item ID	7
Item Title	Access Updates - including a Review of Directions to Restrict Access at Hollins Hill, Silence Mine and Crowden
Summary	Sue Smith tabled her report and highlighted areas of interest to note.

Review of Directions

The Forum and the Access Sub Group have been dealing with the statutory reviews of long-term directions since the beginning of last year. Reviews have been completed on four of the long term directions, Hollins Hill being the most recent one.

The Forum has been considering the Silence Mine direction, following the instability linked to underground working, which resulted in the public rights of way and the access land being closed on those areas affected. The closure is due to expire at the end of April, with a further extension to be considered at the April Access Sub-Group Meeting to take forward the detail on this.

A further long term direction at the clay pigeon shoot at Crowden remains to be reviewed and will be considered at the April Access Sub-Group Meeting.

PDNPA Land Disposals

The Corporate Property Asset Management Plan was reported to the National Park Authority Meeting in February 2020. A list of properties already approved for disposal and those identified as provisionally surplus properties were included in Appendix 3 to the February Committee Report. It was agreed at the December Forum meeting that the appropriate officer speaks to a future meeting of the Forum sometime after the Scrutiny Committee has reported to the main meeting of the Programmes and Resources Committee.

Moorland Tracks

A letter was sent to John Scott, Director of Conservation and Planning regarding the Cartledge Track at Strines to highlight the LAF's concern that the landscape and character of the Peak Park's north east moorlands is protected following the removal of the track. No date has yet been set for the Midhope Moor Track Public Inquiry.

The Chair thanked Sue for her report.

AGREED THAT:

- **The report be welcomed and noted.**
- **Consultations on the Review of Directions are referred to the Access Sub Group.**
- **An Officer from the PDNPA is invited to present to the June meeting concerning an update on property disposals.**

Item ID	8
Item Title	Countryside Code Update #PeakDistrictProud (presentation)
Summary	Sarah Wilks gave a quick summary of where we are up to with the #PeakDistrictProud Campaign. This work came from an action in the National Park Management Plan around encouraging enjoyment with understanding and responsible visiting. It identified the need to look again at

the messages of the Countryside Code (Respect. Protect. Enjoy) and find a better way to communicate them to visitors.

A workshop took place in July, which a number of people attended and looked at the positives and negatives of the existing Countryside Code. From the workshop, a small sub-group was set up and developed a risk matrix for the issues that there were around visitors and users of the National Park and poor behaviours, looking at the best way of communicating with them. Extra help was provided by a marketing company to develop a brief that was then sent out to users of the National Park and residents. Some excellent presentations have been received from experts in the field, especially Kathy Clarke from the National Trust and the Eastern Moors.

From this #PeakDistrictProud as a campaign was developed to re-engage people with the key messages of the Countryside Code which are still valid. New seasonal posters have been designed with new graphics, so for example, Spring posters will include messages about lambing and litter, with Summer posters including BBQ's and fires. If anyone would like some posters, Sarah can make them available.

The new signs will replace the old ones which will be taken down. They will be placed at access and right of way points, within the National Park car parks, toilets, Visitor Centres, bed & breakfasts, train stations, local businesses and cafes etc. The digital campaign was launched on the 1st March and there are plans for a further push later in the year.

Sarah asked if there were any other images that it was felt could be used on the posters, suggesting that LAF members send them in to her, as it is good to keep changing the imagery to keep it fresh. There will be an article in the next edition of the ParkLife and the pool vehicles will also have it on the wrap when the fleet is replaced.

Edwina suggested that the Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) is asked to ensure that the information is shared with all local Groups and contacts, including assessors and supervisors. Sarah confirmed that details had been sent to the DofE and kindly offered to follow this up.

Forum members thought it would be interesting to see how it all plays out in reality in changing people's behaviour and wondered how the effectiveness of the campaign can be measured. Also posters to bus companies would be useful.

The Chair thanked Sarah for her presentation and the partnership approach.

AGREED THAT:

- **LAF Members to submit images to Sarah Wilks for the posters, so they reflect every user of the National Park.**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAF Members to let Sarah know of any other contacts that they feel it would be useful to send the information to and spread the messages. • The Chair to discuss monitoring and evaluating the campaign with the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group and how that can be taken forward.
Item ID	9
Item Title	Green Lanes update
Summary	<p>Sue Smith gave a verbal update to Members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the LAF and the Stanage Forum had recently visited Long Causeway to consider its potential as a Miles without Stiles route, which will be the first on a National Park Estate. The Peak Park Conservation Volunteers have been clearing out the gullies which had silted up to assist with the maintenance of the route. The barrier is also proposed to be replaced with something more aesthetically pleasing. • The “Stay on Tracks” campaign, was discussed at the Green Lanes Sub Group Meeting to identify routes and appropriate management to safeguard the verges. • Peak District Proud – will be used to get the message across on social media. • A voluntary restraint for 4x4 vehicles is in place at Minninglow and Gallowlow Lanes following the repairs by Derbyshire County Council. • Derbyshire Police have been taking a lot of action on illegal use. Sue will include more information on the website on how the public can record incidents that the Police can act on. Even if there are no registration details taken, it is still useful to log where illegal use is taking place. • A report on green lanes will be going to the May Programmes and Resources Committee. <p>The Chair thanked Sue for her update.</p> <p>AGREED: That Sue Smith will circulate dates for the Access Sub Group, as well as the Terms of Reference for both Sub Groups due to recent changes in LAF Membership and also invite new "regular" Sub Group members as in the past.</p>
Item ID	10
Item Title	National Park Management Plan and Advisory Group
Summary	<p>a) Minutes/Climate Change</p> <p>Mike Rhodes had circulated the minutes of the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group meeting held on the 23 January 2020, which the Chair</p>

and Jon Stewart attended, so the LAF Members knew the context of what was discussed and considered, in particular on climate change.

The Chair reported that the PDNPA's Chief Executive, Sarah Fowler had put forward a report on climate change (copy circulated) which was supported. This encouraged her to take that work forward in future to work in partnership with others, within resources available, and this is still ongoing. There was a summit meeting at Derbyshire County Council last week which she attended.

Steve Martin informed Members that he had also attended the Derbyshire County Council event to which between 100-200 people were invited. This was largely focussed on the business community, but it was felt that the over-riding message from the Leader of the Council, Cllr Barry Lewis, was that working in partnership with the National Park Authority and others was a key objective. It wasn't explained how this was going to work in practice, but perhaps the Forum could look at this and offer some suggestions.

Steve said he understood that the National Park Authority has established a Climate Change Working Group, which is being led by Professor Janet Haddock-Fraser. However, the Forum hadn't seen the terms of reference, nor how it would link in with the LAF, so clarity was asked for.

Derbyshire County Council has committed four million pounds to climate change, but this was mainly for the electrification of vehicles.

AGREED: That the Chair would obtain more information regarding the Climate Change Working Group and the Terms of Reference.

b) Events

Bob Berzins reported that the system was now up and running, providing advice and best practice. There is an online calendar which gives an idea of the number of events taking place and the spread of events throughout the National Park. There is a review planned in September to measure the success of the system, but as yet nothing has come through as a problem around an event. However, things could change substantially in light of the Coronavirus and organisers trying to arrange their events in what will be a much shorter season.

Sarah Wilks is working with Parishes through the Peak Park Parishes Forum, over their concerns regarding events that are unplanned so nobody knows about them. Very often the Parishes end up having to clear up after these events, as well as dealing with the parking issues that they bring. In terms of sustainability, organisers are being encouraged to hold their events where there are public transport routes and to promote car sharing amongst participants. If any Parish Council is aware of an event, then Sarah is happy to speak to the organiser if the Parish can provide the contact details.

Item ID	11
Item Title	Members' Feedback
Summary	<p>a) Stanage/North Lees Consultation</p> <p>Louise Hawson informed the LAF that the National Park Authority had commissioned an appraisal regarding the built assets on the Stanage estate last year. The appraisal was completed and a consultation, which has just closed, looked at some of the options which have come out of the appraisal for how the Authority might continue to manage the assets on the Estate.</p> <p>The Stanage Forum and a number of other stakeholders were concerned that the Authority was just looking at the buildings and not taking a holistic view of the Estate. The Stanage Forum put together a response, which was circulated to the LAF Members, and the British Mountaineering Council also provided a response. As a result of that, Bob Berzins has drafted a response from the LAF and asked members to let him have any comments as soon as possible.</p> <p>AGREED: That the LAF supported the letter that Bob Berzins has drafted to send to Emma Stone.</p> <p>b) PDNPA Trails Management Plan</p> <p>Charlotte Gilbert reported that the Plan, which is in draft form, will be published in due course. There has been quite a lot of comment on social media regarding the recent resurfacing of a stretch of the Tissington Trail which had been tarmaced, along with the installation of a barrier.</p> <p>Mike Rhodes reported that the resurfacing was replacing pre-existing tarmac, which was originally put in to resist rain water damage, so it wasn't new, and is a coarse tarmac which provides sufficient grip on the steep gradient. The barrier, which was put in for safety reasons to slow users down, has been there for well over ten years so was not new either, but will be looked at, even though there have not been any complaints about it for over 10 years.</p> <p>c) Monsal Trail</p> <p>John Thompson reported that he had sent a letter to the local MP Sarah Dines on behalf of the Local Access Forum, for which the Chief Executive and Chair of the Authority were grateful. The letter refers to the importance of keeping the Monsal Trail open as a recreational resource, which was recognised not just locally but nationally. There was no suitable alternative and it should be maintained and safeguarded as a key national asset. The trail is very well used and extremely popular. The Forum is aware that there was a petition going around to get the railway re-opened in order to take cars off the road between Matlock and Buxton. The Chair said the LAF had supported sustainable transport proposals. No response has been received as yet from Sarah Dines, but John will keep the Members updated.</p> <p>d) Spirit of Kinder Day</p> <p>Roly Smith asked if any Member would like a free copy of the ACID booklet, which was all about archaeology, then please take one, or ask Anna</p>

	Badcock. Roly circulated a leaflet to all Members regarding the Spirit of Kinder day which is taking place on the 25 April in Manchester, to celebrate the 20 th Anniversary of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act.
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Item ID	12
Item Title	Any Other Business
Summary	<p>Jon Stewart informed Members on some new initiatives that the National Trust is involved with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From the 29th April they would be taking on direct responsibility for Upper Booth Campsite in Edale for at least a year. • In about 2 months' time the National Trust will be opening a "Changing Places" facility at Ilam Hall, which will be the first one within the National Park. Linked to that they will be constructing more accessible paths over the summer months, for example linking into the church and down to the river to make it easier to navigate. • They have also been looking at "sensory appreciation" and how these places are seen through the eyes of people who have particular needs. Recently took out a group of blind/partially sighted people around Ilam and received positive feedback from what they got out of their visit, as well as a LGBT over 50's group, and again received positive feedback from them. • Another group called "Chicks", which is a group of young people aged 8-12, who have caring responsibilities for their parents or for other people, and have never been to Ilam before. They had a great time and gave some very good feedback. <p>Jon reported that these initiatives could have a wider applicability, but what the Trust would be using them for would be to re-imagine their places and how they are presented and how they appeal to people.</p>

Item ID	13
Item Title	Date and venue of next meetings
Summary	<p>11th June @ Aldern House 24th September – looking at alternative venue as Longshaw not available 3rd December @ Aldern House</p>

Note from Richard Entwistle at the Chair's invitation after our meeting

"Sue's reference to Voluntary Restraint (VR) was in relation to Minninglow and Gallowlow Lanes, where extensive repair work has been completed by Derbyshire CC Highways. The material they have used has grass seed in the mixture to help bind the surface and help it blend with the green surroundings.

To allow the surface to bind together and green up GLASS (the Green Lanes Association) and Peak District & Derbyshire Vehicle User Group (PDVUG) have maintained the VR for 4x4's. The TRF (Trail Riders Fellowship) does not support Voluntary Restraint.

Richard Pett advises that 4x4 use is about 85% of pre VR and of the continuing 15% most is probably the farmer accessing his fields."