

# Peak District Local Access Forum

**Minutes of the Meeting held 10am on Thursday 24 September 2020 at Webex - Virtual.**

## **Members Present:**

Bob Berzins  
Richard Entwistle  
Clare Griffin  
Jez Kenyon  
Jon Stewart  
Martin Bennett  
Andrew Murley  
Ben Seal  
Yvonne Witter (Guest)

John Thompson (Chair)

Edwina Edwards  
Charlotte Gilbert  
Louise Hawson  
Geoff Nickolds  
Councillor Ian Huddleston  
Steve Martin  
Paul Richardson

## **Others Present:**

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

Rich Pett, (PDNPA)  
Sue Smith, (PDNPA)

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Alastair Harvey, Roly Smith and Ally Turner.

## **43. WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the first virtual meeting of the Local Access Forum and reminded them that the meeting was being broadcast live via YouTube. He thanked all involved in arranging and supporting the meeting.

## **44. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING, 12 MARCH 2020**

The minutes of the last meeting held on 12 March 2020 were approved as a correct record with thanks to Karen Harrison for producing them.

The Chair expressed thanks for all his work for the Forum to Jason Spencer, Democratic Services Manager, who had now left the Authority and wished him all the best in his new position at Derbyshire Dales District Council.

## **45. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

### **3.b Matters Arising from Minutes of 5 December 2019 – Access Updates**

The Chair reported that work was ongoing on the diversity issue including consulting with Authority Member, Yvonne Witter. It was noted there was currently still one space vacant on the Forum and diversity would be borne in mind when considering appointments.

### **4. LAF Annual Report**

The Chair thanked Sue Smith for finalising the LAF Annual Report. The Chair had prepared letters to be sent with the Annual Report to PDNPA, DCC and local MPs.

## 5. Environmental Land Management Scheme

The Chair thanked Charlotte Gilbert for drafting the Forum's response to the ELMS consultation which had been sent to Defra. A copy of the response was appended to item 4.a on today's agenda, Access Update. There was no further news on this issue at present.

## 7. Access Updates;

- **PDNPA Land Disposals**

It was noted that there would be a report on this at the Forum meeting scheduled for 3 December 2020.

- **Moorland Tracks**

Bob Berzins reported that representations had been invited on the Midhope Moor Track enforcement notice appeal. The issue at Cartledge Track, Strines was still ongoing.

- **Sub Groups**

The Chair asked Sue Smith to circulate the terms of reference for both the Access Sub Group and the Green Lanes Sub Group and asked Forum Members to let him know if they were interested in joining either of the groups. It was noted that Martin Bennett has already expressed interest in joining the Access Sub Group, as a replacement for Sue Weatherley, and this was agreed at the meeting.

## 10. National Park Management Plan and Advisory Group – a. Climate Change

The Chair had contacted Prof Janet Haddock-Fraser, Chair of the NPA's Climate Change Member Task Group, and requested more information on the Task Group. Prof Haddock-Fraser had responded and stated that the Task Group would be considering:

- Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions within the Authority through which we engage with the Carbon Management Plan, member and officer training and protocols/requirements for engagement and GHG consideration within the Authority and
- where the PDNPA influences, engages and authorises, which includes establishing key emission sources and activities within the geography of the Park.

It was noted that the work was ongoing and the Task Group was an advisory group only. Following comments from the Forum, the Chair will feedback to Prof Haddock-Fraser that the LAF would like to be involved where possible and he will circulate the terms of reference for the Task Group to all Forum Members for information. **ACTION: JNT**

## 11. Members' Feedback

### a. Stanage/North Lees Consultation

It was noted that the letter drafted by Bob Berzins and agreed by the Forum had been sent to Emma Stone, PDNPA Head of Visitor Experience Development.

Louise Hawson thanked the Forum for sending the letter and stated that the consultation had closed and a full report on the feedback and outcomes was available on the Stanage & North Lees Management Plan part of the PDNPA website - [Stanage and North Lees management plan: Peak District National Park](#)

The Authority was now looking at the priority actions for the options seen as most viable in consultation with the Stanage Forum and would then be reporting back to Authority Members. The Stanage Forum was also working with Authority officers on a new 5 year management plan for the estate. This will include consideration of the potential Miles Without Stiles route on Long Causeway. Louise will give a further update at the December meeting. **ACTION: LH**

### b. Spirit of Kinder Day

It was noted that the Spirit of Kinder Day which should have taken place on 25 April had been cancelled due to the Covid 19 pandemic situation.

## 46. ISSUES FROM THE CIRCULATED PROGRESS REPORTS

The Chair gave the following updates on his note of actions report:

- Clough Lane, Birchover – this was mainly an issue for DCC who had carried out some improvements, but the local resident still had concerns so the situation was being monitored. The Chair asked if there was any update available from DCC, however Gill Millward's connection to the meeting had dropped out. Charlotte Gilbert reported that she had walked the route and the surface was currently good but the issue was the speed of vehicles using the route not being good for the surface. It was also used by Duke of Edinburgh participants to get to a nearby campsite. The Chair will write to the local resident. **ACTION: JNT**
- Monsal Trail/Rail Proposals - following the meeting with MPs, PDNPA and Derbyshire CC regarding the two separate rail proposals John Scott, Director of Conservation and Planning at PDNPA, had agreed to keep the Forum up to date with the proposals. Mike Rhodes had circulated the minutes of the meeting and related correspondence to all LAF members. It was agreed that the meeting had gone well and noted that in addition to Forum representatives (Charlotte and John), Peak District NPA and Derbyshire CC representatives were strongly in support of keeping the cycle/walking/riding route and not re-instating the railway route. It was noted that the Forum did not have a formal role in making any decisions on this issue and could only advise of its views.

## 47. ACCESS UPDATE

The Forum considered the access update report. Concern was expressed that work at Silence Mine was not yet completed and the Forum was asked to make stronger representations so that the current restriction did not become permanent.

Sue Smith reported that a geotechnical assessment was required and it was difficult to comment without this. Until information on the safety issues had been received, the restriction remained in place to protect the safety of the public.

**AGREED: To welcome and note the report.**

## 48. GREEN LANES

The Chair reported that he has received a letter from Anne Robinson, Campaigner for CPRE South Yorkshire and Friends of the Peak District, regarding Swan and Limer Rakes at Hollinsclough. Mike had circulated this to all LAF members and the Chair referred to key points in the letter. It was noted that progress seemed slow but the PDNPA was in touch with Staffordshire County Council and had offered to comment on proposed repairs. Sue Smith stated that Staffordshire CC's current temporary Traffic Regulation Order was due to expire in September 2021 and it was envisaged that the works would be completed before then. The Chair will respond to Anne Robinson, in consultation with Sue Smith and Mike Rhodes. **ACTION: JNT**

**AGREED: To note the report.**

## 49. RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Forum considered the report by Gill Millward in her absence and the following points were made to be referred to Gill:

Geoff Nickolds emphasised that if DCC is more in favour of a cycle/public access route than

a railway route then it was important to finish the White Peak Loop to enable a daily commuting route and should be given high priority.

Edwina Edwards stated that she had emailed Gill, Sue Smith and Mike Rhodes asking if work between DCC and PDNPA was being done regarding additional facilities for visitors as current resources are already stretched and facilities not fit for purpose. What is to be done to enable good access eg car parks, toilets and education?

Claire Griffin stated that the resurfacing on Bamford Clough was very welcome – well done.

**AGREED: To note the report and pass comments and questions on to Gill Millward for response.**

## **50. POST-LOCKDOWN IMPRESSIONS - DISCUSSION**

The Chair thanked Mike Rhodes and Andy Farmer for their timely report and survey feedback. Mike Rhodes introduced the report and referred to the Authority's audience plan and stated that the Forum's views would help with the focus of the plan. He also stated that the Recreation Hub Supplementary Planning document was being worked on by the PDNPA's Policy Planning Team. The Forum had been invited to attend a workshop on 22 October regarding Recreation Hubs and John Thompson would be attending to represent the Forum.

John Thompson confirmed he would be attending the workshop and also expressed thanks to Sarah Fowler, CEO of PDNPA, and to Rangers and Access and Recreation staff for their messages and approach to visitors and local communities and also their work with partner organisations at such a difficult time. John will share information regarding the workshop with Forum members when it is received. **ACTION: JNT**

Comments on the report included the following:

- Good to see people getting out into the countryside and good to see such a diverse mix.
- Need for more signage and information on walking routes
- Need to encourage people to explore different routes, not just trails.
- Need for better facilities to cope with extra visitors and balance effects on local communities eg temporary car parks in fields
- Keep promoting #Peak District Proud and good behaviour in the countryside
- More educational promotion
- Consider impacts on biodiversity
- We need to be ambassadors for the National Park when out and about and promote how to behave.

Mike Rhodes will pass comments back to Sarah Wilks and ask her to send the Audience Plan to Forum members. **ACTION: MJR**

Yvonne Witter thanked the Forum for inviting her to this meeting and John Thompson thanked her for attending and for her useful input into the meeting.

**AGREED: To note the report and invite PDNPA officers to respond to points made after Mike has circulated the Audience Plan to members.**

## **51. DISCUSSION PAPER ON ACCESS ISSUES IN RELATION TO THE RIGHT TO ROAM CAMPAIGN**

John Thompson introduced the report and referred to his supplementary report and

questions which had been circulated. He said that as there was not enough time today, it would best be discussed at an Access Sub Group which Bob said he would be happy to chair. A further report would then be made to the December Forum meeting.

John requested responses to his questions from Forum members be sent to him by 5pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> October. These would then be considered at a Sub Group meeting on a date to be arranged. It was noted that Sub Group meetings are open to all to attend.

John asked if his recommendation in the Supplementary report could be supported and this was agreed:

**That the Report on Access issues in the Peak District in relation to the Right to Roam Campaign be received, with a report back on answers to questions to an Access Sub Group meeting, with initial consultation feedback and then a report to the full LAF on 3rd December with any presentations made at the Sub Group in a suitable format.**

## **52. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

John Thompson restated that he would be attending the Visitor Management and Recreation Hubs virtual workshop on 22 October with Mike Rhodes. He was aware that Jon Stewart, Alastair Harvey and Richard Lovell have also been invited to attend in their working capacities. John will circulate any advance information received to all Forum members.

**ACTION: JNT**

## **53. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for 3 December 2020 and at present will be another virtual meeting.

The Chair thanked all for attending this first virtual meeting and asked for any feedback on how Forum members thought the meeting had gone to be sent to Mike Rhodes by 2 October.

Meeting ended at 11.45am