

MINUTES

Meeting ID	2636
Committee	Peak District Local Access Forum
Date	03/12/2020
Attendees	<p>Steve Martin</p> <p>Martin Bennett</p> <p>Ben Seal</p> <p>John Thompson (Chair)</p> <p>Councillor Ian Huddleston (Committee Member) ??</p> <p>Bob Berzins</p> <p>Richard Entwistle</p> <p>Charlotte Gilbert</p> <p>Louise Hawson</p> <p>Jez Kenyon</p> <p>Geoff Nickolds</p> <p>Paul Richardson</p> <p>Jon Stewart</p> <p>Edwina Edwards</p> <p>Andrew McCloy (Chair, Peak District NPA)</p> <p>Mike Rhodes (Secretary)</p> <p>Sue Smith (officer)</p> <p>Karen Harrison (Minutes)</p>

Item ID	54
Item Title	Welcome & Apologies
Summary	<p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the 20th Anniversary meeting of the Local Access Forum – the first to be established nationally - and to the second full LAF Meeting online. He was grateful to Andrew McCloy for joining this meeting as current Chair of the National Park Authority and a former Chair of the Local Access Forum. Members were also reminded that the meeting was being broadcast live via Youtube and the Chair thanked all involved in arranging and supporting the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Ally Turner, Roly Smith, Clare Griffin, Alastair Harvey, Joe Dalton, Gill Millward (Officer)</p>

Item ID	55
Item Title	Minutes from the last meeting of 24 September 2020
Summary	The minutes of the last meeting held on the 24 th September 2020 were approved as a correct record with thanks to Ruth Crowder for producing

	them. The Chair then offered his congratulations to Ruth on her recent promotion to the post of Democratic Services Manager.
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Item ID	56
Item Title	Matters Arising from the Minutes
Summary	<p>Minute 45.</p> <p>4. LAF Annual Report The Chair reported that the Annual Report together with a covering letter had been circulated and he had received some acknowledgements back.</p> <p>7. Moorland Tracks Bob Berzins updated the LAF Members on the position regarding the Midhope Moor Track, which is now being dealt with by a virtual Public Inquiry starting on the 8th December. Details on how to take part in the Inquiry are available on the Peak District National Park Authority Website.</p> <p>Minute 46. Monsal Trail The Chair confirmed that he had attended a meeting on 14th August at Millers Dale with Sarah Dines MP, Robert Lorgan MP, Cllr Andrew McCloy, Cllr Simon Spencer (Deputy Leader of the County Council), Charlotte Gilbert and Officers of the National Park Authority and Derbyshire County Council regarding proposals to re-instate the Monsal Trail back to a railway. It was confirmed that there were no funds available in Round 1 of the Department for Transport's Restoring Your Railways Ideas Fund for a feasibility study. However, there could be in Round 2, although had heard nothing more yet. It was noted that the Authority and County Council, as well as LAF representatives, had expressed concerns about the railway proposals and noted that agreed minutes of the meeting had been circulated to all who attended and LAF members.</p>

Item ID	57
Item Title	Access Report including 20th Anniversary and Anniversary Gates
Summary	<p>Sue Smith gave a presentation to Members on the 20th Anniversary of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000 and the LAF's involvement with access improvements over the 20 years, since its formation in December 2000. In recognition of this and the 70th anniversary of the Peak District National Park, Sue reported on the ongoing work on accessibility and Anniversary Gates to open up open access to all by the removal of stiles and linking areas of access. There is a focus on volunteering with Peak Park Conservation Volunteers making and installing gates in key areas, supported by the Countryside and Maintenance Projects Team, Rangers, and landowners, with funding from the Access Fund, including a donation from the Alpkite Foundation facilitated by Adge Last. Sue thanked all those involved in improving access and accessibility to the National Park. Members asked what the challenges would be for the next 10/20 years? Mike responded in that it was important that the National Park was a place that people wanted to visit and enjoy and that the infrastructure and investment was in place to help them to do that.</p>

	<p>The Chair thanked Sue for her presentation then invited Cllr Andrew McCloy to speak to the LAF Members as a former Chair of the Local Access Forum. Cllr McCloy reported that the role of the LAF was integral to the all round success of the National Park, and has never been as important as it was now and was looking forward to celebrating the National Park's 70th Anniversary next year and including the Forum in that.</p> <p>The Chair congratulated Mike Rhodes, who was celebrating his 20th year as Secretary to the LAF, and thanked him for his support, professional advice and enthusiasm which had been greatly appreciated. He was then presented with a certificate and gift from the Members of the Forum, which had been organised by Sue Smith.</p> <p>Mike thanked Members both past and present for their support and hard work in ensuring that access to the Park was made available to all.</p> <p>AGREED:- That Sue Smith's presentation be welcomed and noted. Thanks to Cllr Andrew McCloy for addressing the LAF on its 20th Anniversary, and to Mike Rhodes for his support, advice and enthusiasm since its formation.</p>
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Item ID	58
Item Title	Derbyshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan Report
Summary	<p>The Forum considered the report submitted by Gill Millward in her absence, and were asked to contact Gill by email if they had any questions.</p> <p>Martin Bennett, expressed his thanks to Gill and was pleased to see that more was being done regarding signposting at the start of routes.</p> <p>The LAF Members agreed that the Chair would send a consultation response, based on his draft letter, to Tim Gregory as Director of Economy, Transport and Environment at Derbyshire County Council regarding the proposed Ashbourne Bypass.</p> <p>AGREED:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the report and to pass any comments and questions on to Gill Millward for response. • To the Chair sending a letter on behalf of LAF regarding the proposed Ashbourne Bypass Consultation.

Item ID	59
Item Title	Access Sub Group Report
Summary	<p>Review of Access Report and Feedback</p> <p>John Thompson tabled his paper on the Review of Access which was discussed at the sub-group meeting on 10th November, with the addition of further comments received since that discussion. The Chair will follow points up and invite LAF members involvement going forward.</p>

Bob Berzins (sub-group Chair) reported on the discussions regarding access and the successes there had been as well as concerns regarding some user groups not been able to engage in activities in particular water sports in the National Park. There was a debate on how the LAF could get involved. The organisers of a new national Right to Roam Campaign have offered to do a presentation to a future meeting of the LAF. The Chair asked if the LAF would be interested in taking this offer up? Members supported this and Bob will pursue. Possible items to discuss would include mountain biking and wild camping.

Wooded Landscapes Plan

Response had been circulated by the Chair as a letter of 13th November to Suzanne Fletcher at the Peak District NPA.

Countryside Code and Recreation Hubs

Jon Stewart updated the LAF on where we were with Recreation Hubs and the Countryside Code.

a) Recreation Hubs

A workshop took place on the 22nd October, followed by a report on the Visitor Management and Recreation Hubs Programme, to the NPA Programmes and Resources Committee on 4th December. This includes action to take Recreation Hubs in and around the Peak forward in future planning and management of visitors and pressure. Both documents had been circulated to LAF members.

b) Countryside Code/Peak District Proud

Jon Stewart reported in relation to a report Roly Smith had circulated at the Chair's request, that Natural England has decided that there needs to be a review of the Countryside Code:1) to, refresh the detail of the code before next Easter and 2) to develop an associated campaign from Easter and beyond. They intend engaging with stakeholders and holding a virtual working group.

LAF Members considered whether the strapline needs to be modernised to encompass different audiences from when the code was first produced. The suggestion of Awareness, Co-operation and Enjoyment was made and Jez Kenyon was thanked for his suggestions included in Roly's report.

Members asked about resources, and what role the LAF can play, including contacting Defra for more resources in line with the Glover Review. Cllr Andrew McCloy reported that he was expecting a ministerial announcement soon with more detail, so should be clearer by the time of the next LAF Meeting in March.

AGREED:-

That the LAF receives and accepts the report and to invite a presentation from representatives from the Right to Roam Campaign to a future meeting of the LAF or Access Sub Group as appropriate.

Item ID	60
Item Title	Members Reports
Summary	<p>Right to Roam Campaign Ben Seal reported on the letter to the Prime Minister to mark the anniversary of the campaign. Ben to also circulate the website link to LAF Members.</p> <p>National Park Management Plan (NPMP) Advisory Group John Thompson reported that the letter to Defra from Dianne Jeffery from the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group regarding priorities in the Landscapes Review Report, had not been sent but an update would be provided to the LAF Meeting in March.</p>

Item ID	61
Item Title	Any Other Business
Summary	<p>A57 Link Roads Consultation Mike Rhodes to send details regarding the Highways England A57 Link Roads project at Mottram Moor which was out for public consultation until 17 December 2020.</p> <p>Peak District Foundation Mike Rhodes to circulate details on the Peak District Foundation.</p> <p>Rights of Way/Cattle Martin Bennett updated LAF members on the response he had received to the joint letter which the Ramblers/British Horse Society/Disabled Ramblers/Open Spaces Society/British Mountaineering Council/ Byways and Bridleways Trust/Cycling UK had sent regarding the proposal by the National Farmers Union/Country Land and Business Association for landowners/farmers to be able to put in temporary rights of way diversions on land where livestock were present, in particular cattle. There was concern about the amount of work this would involve, and that more thought was needed on the proposal.</p>

Item ID	62
Item Title	Dates of Next Meetings
Summary	<p>Proposed dates for 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 March • 10 June • 9 September • 9 December

The meeting ended at 11.40am with thanks from the Chair to all who attended and early best wishes for Christmas and New Year and hopes we can get back to normal as soon as possible in 2021