

## **Peak District LAF Access Group Meeting 26 February 2021**

### **Right to Roam conversation with Guy Shrubsole and Nick Hayes**

#### **Chat Log**

**Sarah Wilks (to Everyone):** 10:52: Sorry to have to leave - some other thoughts

**Sarah Wilks (to Everyone):** 10:55: new system of grants for farmers is likely to have a big access element - an opportunity for all. Still very much a role for #PeakDistrictProud to share message of respect, need to work in partnership to have any effect, what do the current visitors to the National Park want to do and do/can we make that possible? BBQ, swimming, wild camping, overnight motorhome view and a loo

**Roly Smith (to Everyone):** 10:55: Roly Smith: Sorry I couldn't join the meeting, but I was able to watch and listen to the presentations. A question for Guy and Nick, if I may. Where do you see the next steps in your Right to Roam campaign, if not to aim for the proven Scottish model?

**Guy Shrubsole (to Everyone):** 10:57: Hi Roly, sorry you couldn't join - our campaign has been proposing extending CRoW from the current 8% of land it covers in England to woods, rivers & Green Belt land.

**Steve Martin (to Everyone):** 11:01: my thanks to Nick and Guy for their eloquence and commitment for greater public access. As an environmentalist my concern is your concern about the twin concepts of rights and responsibilities. What we need is much more emphasis from government to promote social learning about these concepts and how they play out in practice. Many thanks. Steve Martin

**Ben Seal (to Everyone):** 11:04: Nick - we do exactly that on our land assets at BC. On the Dart we are able to keep our little bit of riverbank & woodland open access to everyone purely because we have local paddlers, swimmers and villagers visiting and caring for the site daily. The challenge is upscaling this, but it works.

**Louise Hawson (to Everyone):** 11:05: Sheffield Litter Picking group has agreement with SCC to be able to take litter to sites without charge

**Roly Smith (to Everyone):** 11:16: Roly Smith: Surely promoting access to the countryside is a national, Governmental, responsibility. But what hope do

Guy and Nick have of the present administration taking up this responsibility?

**Guy Shrubsole (to Everyone):** 11:20: I'm not convinced that arable land, as it's currently intensively farmed, is a haven for wildlife...

**Ben Seal (to Everyone):** 11:20: Louise - The challenge that we face with ELMS is making it really clear that the scheme CAN and SHOULD benefit landowners financially to manage land (and water) better for the public to enjoy. At the moment I get the feeling that Defra are terrified that any mention of 'public access to the countryside' would simply put landowners and farmers off. We are working on this a lot at the moment with BMC, Rambkers and OSS

**Guy Shrubsole (to Everyone):** 11:20: (But we're not asking for increased access to arable land)

**Danny Udall (to Everyone):** 11:23: Agree re Tier 3 and the future role of Farmers and land mangers is changing. under new schemes Farmers have a key role and should be rewarded for doing so.

**Louise Hawson (to Everyone):** 11:23: Ben, yes, I think you're right. Maybe it's about how we talk about it - funds to support farmers to deal with the access issues they face (at the tier 1 level at least) might be more appropriate.

**Guy Shrubsole (to Everyone):** 11:27: Martin - agree, time for that long-promised bottle Deposit Return Scheme from the Govt!

**Louise Hawson (to Everyone):** 11:28: Younger generations are much more aware of single use plastic issues and looking for alternatives. Brands are aware of this. Perhaps this is an issue that the food industry is starting to help us with?

**Jeremy Kenyon (to Everyone):** 11:29: Re dissipating the pressure more widely. Its one of the things I am pushing with Derbyshire County Council. Have a look at what Greater Manchester have, with [gmwalking.co.uk](http://gmwalking.co.uk). Providing good information is vital - about walking groups, routes, and the footpath network in general. I am using the health agenda, and the recent interest from Covid, to see if we can get a programme together of every local community having access to some local routes, starting from their village / ward. Its that rich very local network that will help dissipate the

pressure.

**Louise Hawson (to Everyone):** 11:30: Nick and Guy, have you engaged with the NFU at all?

**Danny Udall (to Everyone):** 11:30: Space for Nature, yes better access but maybe not everywhere, we find it works where people flow through well looked after routes leaving space for nature inbetween. space for both, agree time to rest and time for wildlife to recover.

**Ben Seal (to Everyone):** 11:35: Guy - could you get Ben Goldsmith MP to write a written question to the SoS regarding funding for the Countryside Code? No reason why one of the LAF couldn't do the same with Sarah Dines MP

**Roly Smith (to Everyone):** 11:36: Roly: I agree with Ben. Let's get them to live up to their responsibilities!

**Danny Udall (to Everyone):** 11:37: Boots on the ground, we find the <1% who do have a disproportionate impact are only challenged on their impact through a conversation onsite. these 1% are often completely unaware or care. yes to countryside code, also to people out there helping resolve these conflicts.

**Louise Hawson (to Everyone):** 11:40: I agree Danny. More rangers!

**Louise Hawson (to Everyone):** 11:42: will the national trust be promoting some of these messages in their urban tree planting work?

**Danny Udall (to Everyone):** 11:44: Yes, I have the head of NT Land Outdoors and Nature visiting soon and will find out more then about the messages about encouraging our a more wooded landscape.

**Roly Smith (to Everyone):** 11:51: Roly Smith: Agree with Mike. Everyone hates litter but no one admits to dropping it! Education is the key.

**Edwina (to Everyone):** 11:52: Thanks for a useful discussion. Let's hope that the opening up of the countryside will be more reasonable this Spring and summer with greater understanding and respect for each other and the environment.

**Mike Rhodes (to Everyone):** 11:52: Indeed, really good to hear the quality and diversity of the discussion, and thanks to Nick and Guy for provoking the discussion. as you said, discussion is key. Viva the LAF :)

**Alastair Harvey (to Everyone):** 11:52: Thank you everyone, apologies but I

need to leave now. This has been a really interesting and thought-provoking discussion - thank you for the presentation Guy and Nick and Bob for Chairing. Thanks again!

**Guy Shrubsole (to Everyone):** 11:52: Thanks Roly, Edwina, Mike and Alastair!

**Roly Smith (to Everyone):** 11:54: Roly Smith: Just like to add my thanks to Bob and Louise for organising this, which I was able to enjoy without being able to join in the discussion. And warm thanks to Guy and Nick for their excellent presentations. Keep safe, everyone.

**Guy Shrubsole (to Everyone):** 11:54: Thankyou Roly, hope to stay in touch!

**Sue Smith (to Everyone):** 11:54: Good discussion everyone. Thanks Nick and Guy for coming to speak to us.

**Danny Udall (to Everyone):** 11:56: Huge thanks to Nick and Guy for the discussion. Thanks to all, I have alot to take away and think about.

**Martin Bennett (to Everyone):** 11:57: Could rolled wire be substituted in some cases for barbed wire?

**Mike Rhodes (to Everyone):** 11:59: Thanks everyone!!

**Charlotte Gilbert (to Everyone):** 11:59: Thank you everyone.

**Geoff Nickolds (to Everyone):** 12:01: no idea why my sound hasn't worked. My point would have been to agree with importance of footpath network (e.g. through woodlands) and a point on reduced legal liability for any new rights for landowners as was implemented in CEOW. Notes will follow....