

# Peak District Local Access Forum

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 11 March 2021 at Virtual - Webex Meeting.

### Members Present:

Steve Martin  
Bob Berzins  
Richard Entwistle  
Alastair Harvey  
Andrew Murley  
Councillor Ian Huddleston

John Thompson (Chair)

Martin Bennett  
Edwina Edwards  
Charlotte Gilbert  
Louise Hawson  
Geoff Nickolds  
Joe Dalton

### Others Present:

Gill Millward, (DCC)  
Rich Pett, (PDNPA)

Sue Smith, (PDNPA)  
Mike Rhodes, (Secretary)

## 63. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed everyone to the third virtual meeting of the Peak District Local Access Forum and gave a special welcome to Sarah Wilks, Head of Engagement at the Peak District National Park Authority who would now be joining the LAF Meetings in her new role following the management restructure. The Chair also welcomed Austin Knott from Staffordshire Local Access Forum who was observing the meeting. The Chair thanked the Democratic and Legal Support Team for their support.

Apologies for absence were received from Jon Stewart, Roly Smith, Ally Turner and Ben Seal.

## 64. MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING, 3RD DECEMBER 2020

The minutes of the last meeting held on 3 December 2020 were approved as a correct record with thanks to Karen Harrison for producing them.

## 65. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

**Countryside Code and Peak District Proud** – the Chair introduced the item and informed the meeting that the views of the Local Access Forum had been shared with Sarah Wilks, other National Parks and Natural England. A draft communication plan was nearing completion and Sarah Wilks would share this once it was completed.

**Landscapes (Glover) Review** – The Chair confirmed he had sent a letter to DEFRA on behalf of the LAF to remind them of some of the key priorities the Local Access Forum has in terms of delivering actions. Robert Lorgan MP had sent a copy of the LAF letter to Lord Gardiner and it was expected that feedback would be received regarding the letter from Defra Officers. The LAF would continue to work with the National Park Authority to address local access issues.

**Right to Roam campaign** – Bob Berzins introduced this item and thanked Louise Hawson for providing the technology for the meeting on 26th February and Geoff Nickolds for producing the minutes of the good discussion with a focus on increasing visitor knowledge rather than introducing new legislation to increase restrictions. The presentations made by Guy Shrubsole and Nick Hayes were welcomed and the Notes of the meeting circulated by Geoff were agreed

Other areas of discussion at the Right to Roam meeting had been wild swimming and mountain biking and there was support for Bob's suggestion of a sub group being created to look at these areas in more detail.

## **66. PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

The following spoke at the meeting:

Mrs K Stoney	Statement read out by Democratic Services
Patricia Stubbs	Statement read out by Democratic Services
Mr Denham	Video recording
Anne Robinson	Statement read out by Democratic Services
David Leng	Statement read out by Democratic Services
Andy Leader	Statement read out by Democratic Services

The Chair thanked the speakers for their contributions which would be looked at through a future Green Lanes Sub Group, and Democratic Services for presenting the 6 items .

## **67. GREEN LANES ANNUAL REPORT**

The item was introduced by Sue Smith and park wide issues were covered during her presentation.

The easing of lockdown in 2020 had caused issues across the National Park which have been documented in a report by Derbyshire Police. The action plan will focus on:

- Engage
- Protect
- Enhance

The Green Lanes sub group will meet again on 29 April 2021. A general invitation will be sent to all LAF members to attend if they wish.

Members of the Forum thanked Sue for her presentation and also the members of the public that had spoken and assured them that the points they had raised would be taken into consideration.

The issue of the impact of climate change on the National Park was raised and Mike Rhodes confirmed that the impact of climate change was recognised within the National Park, but funding limitations meant action was restricted.

**The Chair asked members of the Forum to welcome and note the report - agreed**

## **68. PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK RESTRUCTURE & RESOURCES**

Sarah Wilks introduced the item and explained the new management structure including her new role. The focus would be on under-served audiences and youth projects, such as Generation Green, in a coalition lead by YHA and including all 10 English National Parks. The Peak District National Park Authority would host the lead of this project for the 16

months it would run.

Sarah confirmed that there was a lot of planning in progress for lockdown easing in 2021 with a focus on partnership working within the communities to manage the expected extra visitors. A lot of support had been received from Parish Councils and partner organisations, but no additional funding had been received by the Authority to prepare for this. Data was being collected to present to Government in the hope of receiving some additional funding.

The Forum congratulated Sarah and the teams involved in the Green Recovery scheme and noted concerns that the pandemic may impact on the project.

It was suggested that the Countryside Code would be a good vehicle to kick start the work on the lockdown easing, work was continuing on the update of the code.

Sarah confirmed that she would provide an update on the Green Recovery project once the posts created by the project had been filled.

Steve Martin introduced work he had been undertaking with a group in Matlock to develop a community energy model and asked if this could be rolled out into the recreation hubs across the National Park. Steve agreed to circulate the paper from the project to the Forum and Sarah agreed to look at this for future consideration.

**The reported was welcomed and noted.**

## **THE FORUM WAS ADJOURNED AT 11.20 FOR A SHORT BREAK AND RECONVENED AT 11.30**

### **69. ACCESS UPDATE - INCLUDING UPDATE ON THE ACCESS FUND AND DONATIONS**

Sue Smith introduced the item and provided an update on the consultation about Silence and Old Groves Mines, Hucklow which ran from 11 March until 9 April 2021 and which the LAF would respond to in line with their views on previous directions in line with public safety. This was agreed for action by the Chair.

Sue confirmed that the annual reports for the Access Fund were now available on the website and thanked those who had contributed to the work.

The Forum thanked Yorkshire Water for a recent donation towards Miles without Stiles of £5,500 and a certificate was presented to Alastair Harvey who accepted it on behalf of Yorkshire Water. Thanks were expressed to Derbyshire Dales Ramblers for their £400 donation to the Access Fund with a certificate presented to Martin Bennett.

Mike Rhodes thanked Sue for all she had achieved especially regarding the Miles without Stile project and the Chair seconded that on behalf of the Forum.

**The report was welcomed and noted.**

### **70. ACCESSIBLE PEAK DISTRICT**

Sue Smith introduced the report and confirmed that Access training had been provided for Access Champions from National Parks across the UK and that further training was now being provided to staff from the National Trust, Yorkshire Water and YHA.

The report covered the work that had been carried out over the past 12 months including the 20 routes currently under review across the National Park. Sue confirmed that every

handbook sold provided £5.95 which would be used by the fund.

**The report was noted.**

**71. DERBYSHIRE CC ROWIP UPDATE**

Gill Millward from Derbyshire County Council introduced the report including an update on the work at Bamford Clough which would be completed by the end of July 2021. Gill agreed to circulate the information and drawings following the meeting.

The Forum agreed to a letter being sent to the Director of Legal Services at DCC regarding the verification of Definitive Map Modification Order applications, as recommended by the Unrecorded Ways sub group.

**The report was welcomed and noted.**

**72. 20TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL REPORT DRAFT 2020**

Mike Rhodes introduced the report and welcomed comments. The introduction to the final report would be provided by the Chair of the Authority to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and any comments from the Forum were required by the 31 March 2021.

Thanks were expressed to all those who had been involved with the Forum over the past 20 years.

**The Chair welcomed the draft report.**

**73. MEMBERS' REPORTS**

The minutes of the National Park Management Plan (NPMP) Advisory Group on 19th January with Sarah Wilk's presentations had been circulated prior to the Forum meeting. John Thompson confirmed he would be attending the next meeting of the NPMP AGM in June 2021.

The Chair confirmed that Edwina Edwards would be leaving the Forum after the June meeting and thanked her for her outstanding contribution (including being Chair from 2010-2017) on behalf of the Forum.

**74. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**75. DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING**

The proposed dates for the future meetings were noted as 10th June, 9th September and 9th December in 2021, the format would be agreed nearer to the time.

The Forum agreed to look at the possibility of an outdoor meeting including a site visit to allow a face to face meeting under Covid restrictions.

**76. THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12.10**

