



North York Moors

Local Access Forum

North York Moors National Park Authority, The Old Vicarage, Bondgate,
Helmsley, York, YO62 5BP

Public Minutes of the meeting held at Yorkshire Cycle Hub, Fryup Gill Farm, Great Fryup Dale, Lealholm, Whitby, YO21 2AP. Wednesday 13 June 2018

Present: Val Arnold, Les Atkinson, Cath Bashforth, David Brewster, Mike Conlon, Catriona Cook (LAF Dep Chair), Helen Douglas, Alison Fuller, Helen Gundry, Peter Hutchinson, Clive Pearson, Terry Ratcliffe, John Richardson (LAF Chair), George Winn-Darley, Dick Brew (TRA), Ian Kelly (NYCC), Richard Marr (NYCC)

Apologies: Catherine Cussons, Shelagh Holyoake, Muriel Mitchell

Officers in Attendance: Vanessa Burgess, Mike Hawtin, Richard Gunton, Debbie Trafford, David Shaw.

Copies of All Documents Considered are in the Minute Book

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1/18 **Public Minutes**

Members agreed the public minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 5 December 2017**, these were then confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

2/18 **Matters Arising**

Permissive Access Licence – Negotiations are still on going

Mowing Grass Verges – David Shaw, Director of Conservation advised the meeting that a page of information had now been set up on the Authority's website relating to grass verge care:

<http://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/looking-after/advice-and-grants/roadside-verges>

Members felt that a web page wasn't necessarily the best information sharing option to use with householders and requested that the Authority write a suitable article to include in Moors Messenger.

Action: David Shaw to speak to the Authority's communications team regarding a suitable article to be included in Moors Messenger

RT Roads Map – Alison Fuller requested that a copy of the map be sent to her as she didn't appear to have received a copy.

Action: Vanessa Burgess to e-mail copy of RT Roads Map to Alison Fuller (**this action was completed on 14/06/2018**)

Cinder Path – Richard Gunton, Director of Park Services advised members that a newly drafted plan would be going out to Public consultation in the summer.

Creation of Public/Permissive Bridleway – Debbie Trafford, Head of Recreation and Ranger Services agreed to speak further to Briony Fox, Director of Polyhalite Projects regarding this issue.

Action: Debbie Trafford to speak to Briony Fox, and then further update LAF members at the December meeting.

Guidelines for the organisation of recreational events – Debbie Trafford reported that a document was now in draft format, she will shortly send on to Working Group members for their perusal/feedback. Debbie thanked all concerned for their help with this item of work.

Action: Debbie Trafford to send draft document to Working Group members

3/18 **Role and Purpose of LAF**

Debbie Trafford presented members with a couple of power point slides on the role/purpose of the LAF stating that the group should operate at a strategic, advisory level and that greater focus should be placed on getting the best from the group by way of substantive action points:

- Possible solutions to issues
- Future actions/policies
- Recognition of constraints
- Formation of possible sub groups, on areas which need a specific focus

Members agreed and made no comments.

4/18 **Update on NYCC role – RoW and UURs/TROs**

Ian Kelly and Richard Marr (NYCC) updated LAF members on NYCC's role in relation to RoW, UUR/TRO work.

Ian Kelly gave members some brief background information and stated that whilst NYCC highways deal with tarmac paths, there are 740km of UURs in the County, 350Km of which are within the North York Moors area. Ian Kelly informed members about a recent BES Exec Members report which approved the transfer of maintenance responsibilities between NYCC Highway and Countryside Access Services in March of this year. The report also made reference to a pilot project undertaken by the NYMNP working in partnership with CAS and clarified some of the finer detail on the transfer. Ian Kelly hoped that sharing the report with LAF members would help clarify any future queries regarding responsibilities between teams.

When LAF members queried why RoW work didn't simply sit within the remit of the NYMNP, both NYCC and NYMNP Officers stressed the need for joint working in relation to RoW and UURs work as neither organisation had sufficient resources in house to manage/maintain such a large network of paths on their own.

Terry Ratcliffe, LAF Members asked NYCC Officers about their policy on recording the status of UURs.

Action: Ian Kelly to e-mail BES report to Vanessa Burgess so she can forward on the LAF members

Action: Richard Marr to investigate and advise LAF members on NYCC UUR recording

George-Winn Darley, LAF Member commented that it would be a logical step to input this UUR issue to the National Park Review.

Ian Kelly commented that NYCC's decision to allocate £150K from its central grant to UUR work across the County was a positive step forward and hopefully improvements to some of the unsurfaced roads could be made in collaboration with the NYMNPA. If the NYMNPA were to take on UURs from NYCC again, it is unlikely that this money could be made available for NP use and therefore the NP would need to fund any work from its existing ROW budget. LAF members to discuss with NYMNPA re: work on UURs going forward.

On the subject of grass verges, Richard Marr advised LAF members that legally it was NYCC's role to maintain verges, but they are only cut for safety reasons and NYCC had not taken any active steps to prohibit land/homeowners from maintaining verges.

David Brewster, LAF Member commented that the National Park Review was a good opportunity for Government funding of UURs to go direct to National Parks.

5/18 **Lost Ways**

Ian Kelly advised LAF members that NYCC had no capacity, nor was there any obligation or Statutory duty for NYCC Officers to investigate routes not recorded. He went on to say, that a pilot project undertaken in 2007 by Natural England on this subject was abandoned only a year later due to the enormity of the task involved.

Terry Ratcliffe, LAF Members asked NYCC Officers what happens regarding user evidence which has already been given?

A Brief discussion followed, with Ian Kelly concluding the discussion by informing LAF members that user evidence had to be considered on a case by case basis, but that this work was now a high priority for his team, processing of the information was now underway and Officers were conscious of the need to work closer with applicants.

6/18 **DAG Update**

David Brewster, LAF Member and DAG Representative updated the meeting on the work of the NYM's Disability Advisory Group. David informed members that the NPA had been successful in obtaining additional funding which included an element for disabled access on projects such as Land of Iron Project and Ryevitalise. David commented that while there is meaningful disabled access in the NYMNP, the National Park were actually still fairly poor at communicating information on the accessible network. David commented that Debbie Trafford spoke to DAG at the last meeting about this issue and proposed an improved system based on the Miles Without Stiles format.

Brief discussion followed on the Miles without Stiles initiative, with Debbie Trafford advising LAF members that the Authority was committed to increasing stile free routes throughout the NPA using the gap, gate, stile principle.

Helen Gundry commented that all Moorsbus services are wheelchair accessible, so encouraging more disabled people to access the NYMNP.

The meeting acknowledged that there were many 'different barriers' which challenged access to the National Park.

Action: David Brewster to update LAF members further on this issue at a future meeting

Action: Debbie Trafford to include Moorsbus, wheelchair accessibility information on the Authority's website.

Before moving on to the next agenda item Richard Gunton, Director of Park Services briefly informed the meeting about some work currently being undertaken by York University to measure the NPA's 'Social return on Investment'.

7/18 **Tree Diseases**

David Shaw, Director of Conservation informed the meeting that Elizabeth Clements, Deputy Director of Conservation (Head of Natural Environment) was leading on drafting a biosecurity policy for the NYMNP and that a draft protocol had been pulled together. Mike Hawtin the Authority's Outdoor Activity Tourism Officer advised that the NYMNP was also keen to promote its Outdoor Activity code of conduct with visitors to the National Park.

George Winn-Darley, LAF Members requested that the above topic, including Biosecurity be considered as a recurring item on future LAF agendas.

Action: John Richardson, LAF Chair and Vanessa Burgess, LAF Sec to action for future LAF meetings

8/18 **Livestock Worrying**

George Winn-Darley commented that this was a serious issue. Authority Officers agreed, saying it was important to recognise the serious impact of the issue. Debbie Trafford informed members about the Sheep Watch initiative and advised that the Authority was keen to identify trends and communicate the issues via Moors Messenger and Social Media. Debbie informed the meeting that a joint event (Dog Trust/NY Police) was due to be held soon at Cawthorn Camp to encourage dog owners to act in a responsible manner when out with their dogs. It was suggested that a sub group be set up to look at this issue in greater detail.

A brief discussion followed on:

- Challenges in relation to open moorland areas
- Training/PAWS Parks (land owners renting out small areas of their land (half hour slots) for owners to exercise their dogs on).
- Forestry Commission – ponds specifically allocated for 'Dog Dips'
- York Council – Local Policy in place covering this issue

Action: Debbie Trafford to send e-mail to canvas for sub group members

9/18 **Malton to Pickering Cycle Route**

Helen Gundry, LAF Member advised the meeting that the deadline for the submission of the bid had been extended, due to the slow progress currently being made towards finalising the bid paperwork. It was hoped that 100% funding could be applied for.

Action: Debbie Trafford to write in support

10/18 **Moorsbus**

Helen Gundry updated members saying that frustratingly, lack of funding had restricted Moorsbus service development. Might the NYMNPA be able to view Moorsbus as providing sustainable transport in support of other tourism projects which are funded to encourage visitors into the NYMNP and thus receive an element of funding towards Moors bus service development work? It was agreed that the subject of public transport and vehicles in the National Park be discussed again at a future meeting.

Action: Debbie Trafford to discuss this suggestion further with Tom Stephenson, the Authority's External Funding Officer

Action: John Richardson, LAF Chair and Vanessa Burgess, LAF Sec to action for future LAF meetings

11/18 **Footpath/Footbridge Update**

Les Atkinson, Authority/LAF Member updated the meeting on work completed on Harwood Dale Footpath and the need for a footbridge on Black Dyke Slack to join up two sides of the moor. Debbie Trafford informed the meeting that the Ranger team were due to clean out the drain at Black Dyke Slack in an effort to alleviate some of the problems.

A brief discussion followed regarding the on-going issues at Seggimire Lane. Richard Marr, NYCC, informed the meeting that NYCC continue to monitor/inspect Seggimire on a monthly basis, plus monitor Police accident history, but at present there was no direct evidence to show there was a need to prohibit Motorcycles/vehicles.

Val Arnold, LAF member left the meeting at Midday

12/18 **Items for Future Meetings**

- Tree/Animal Disease/Bio-Security
- Public Transport/Vehicles in the National Park
- Operation Owl
- Sub group – Livestock Worrying
- DAG update
- UUR work going forward

13/18 **A.O.B**

Mike Conlon, LAF Member, informed members of access restrictions being imposed by some landowners. He was concerned that these restrictions were directly linked to the recent actions of North Yorkshire Police and the NPA in relation to Operation Owl (Raptor Persecution). Debbie Trafford informed the meeting that the forthcoming Joint Parish Forum would include an update on Operation Owl, and stated that there have been a number of reports made by walkers who have been made to feel intimidated on Open Access land. This appears to be due to varying interpretations of OA legislation. GWD and DT agreed that this is a topic which should be addressed at the next LAF meeting.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 4 December 2018, 10am - NYMNPA Committee Room, Helmsley

..... (Chair)
4 December 2018