



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 The Old Vicarage, Helmsley on 12 June 2012.

Present: J Batt, B Briggs, Mrs C Cook, Mrs C Cussons, G Dawson, P Hay, Mrs J King, Kirk, Mrs M Mitchell, S Scoffin, Mrs N Taylor

Apologies: S Borman, Lady Kirk, Ms A Peacock, G Winn Darley

Officers in Attendance: Richard Gunton (Director of Park Services), Karl Gerhardsen (Head of Recreation and Access), Fiona Farnell (Committees Officer)

Copies of All Documents Considered are in the Minute Book

The Chair welcomed Philip Robinson (Lead Advisor) People and Partnerships North and Midlands Team to the meeting.

13/12 Minutes

Resolved:

That the public minutes of the meeting held on 6 March 2012, having been printed and circulated, be taken as read and be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

14/12 Matters Arising:

- **LAF and NPA responses to NYCC Consultation on Un-Metalled Unclassified Road Management**
- **Future Meetings**
- **Huddle**

The Head of Recreation and Access thanked Members for the LAF response to the NYCC consultation.

The Chair thanked Members for their comments about future meetings of the forum and explained that a meeting had taken place between the Director and Chair to discuss the concerns of the forum. The Director noted that all views/comments would be taken on board and a paper would be brought to the next meeting of the forum in September.

An email from Ms Peacock with regards to Huddle was circulated at the meeting.

15/12 **Philip Robinson (Lead Advisor) People and Partnerships North and Midlands Team - Paths for Communities**

Mr Robinson gave members a brief about himself and the work he does on behalf of Natural England and confirmed their commitment to supporting Local Access Forums. It was noted that the next Regional Local Access Forum meeting would be held in Leeds in September and that these meetings would be more focused and subject lead.

Paths for Communities – A grant scheme which started in May 2012, with guidance available on the Natural England website. A budget of £2 million, with £550k to be distributed in the first year and the rest in the second year. Schemes could include upgrades to footpath and bridleway networks for all users. An expression of interest form must be completed and then an advisor will make contact to discuss details and help work up a detailed scheme. Schemes must be community driven, with a rural theme and have financial benefits to the community.

Mr Robinson answered Members questions as follows:

- The funding is given once the scheme is complete, which means the group must pay the costs upfront.
- The project is open to anyone but must be strategically led.
- Although there are limitations placed on the project, a number of expressions of interest had come forward.

16/12 **NYMNPA Community Access Project**

Resolved:

Members noted the work of the project.

17/12 **Barriers – Catriona Cook**

The Deputy Chair noted that the general public should be made aware when a route is an unsurfaced, unclassified road (UUR) and asked that the Authority support a recommendation to have these routes added to ordnance survey maps in the future. Members and officers agreed that this was a good way forward.

The Deputy Chair talked members through the photographs of barriers contained within the agenda and noted that these barriers deny the 'driven horse' access and in some cases the 'ridden horse'. The Head of Recreation and Access confirmed that in general barriers were erected as a last resort and asked the Deputy Chair to produce further examples which the Authority would endeavour to act upon.

18/12 **ROWIP 2**

Considered:

The report of the Head of Recreation and Access

Resolved:

Members to email comments direct to the Head of Recreation and Access.

Members agreed that this item be moved up the agenda.

19/12 **Update on NPA Business – Steve Scoffin**

Mr Scoffin updated Members as follows:

- Final draft of the Management Plan to be presented to Members at the June meeting of the Authority.
- LEADER scheme has received an additional £280k
- The launch of the 'Inspired Landscape' exhibition was well attended.
- The opening of the re-vamped visitors centre at Sutton Bank, also went well.
- To celebrate the 60th Anniversary 'Yorkshire Dance are performing at 5 different venues during August.

20/12 Consultation on Future Arrangements for National Trails

A powerpoint presentation was shown, a copy of which appears in the minute book. Members were asked for their collective response to the following questions:

1. Do you agree that these propositions describe the right direction of travel?
Some do, while some do not.
2. Do you agree with the proposed approach to quality standards for National Trails?
Difficult when more than one Authority, it is all in the detail.
3. Do you have any comments on the proposed framework or the draft Family and Trail Standards listed in the Annex on page 16 to this discussion paper?
Yes. Support National Authority proposed response to this question.
4. Do you agree with our proposals for how we provide the central government contribution for local delivery?
Yes
5. What special factors do you think should be taken into account in determining the level of award to individual Trails?
Keep it simple and under review.
6. Do you agree that we should no longer specify that a proportion of any grant must be used to fund a National Trail Officer?
That is alright, as long as there is a National Trail Officer (do not mind how funded)
7. Are there any other issues you'd like to raise about our funding proposals?
Please explain.
There appears to be no accountability/audit and there needs to be monitoring.
8. Do you agree that Trail Partnerships should be responsible for local delivery?
Yes
9. How can Trail Partnerships demonstrate value for money?
User feedback and satisfactory surveys
10. Do you agree that users should be involved in monitoring quality of provision and have more say in how Trails are provided?
Yes
11. What could be done to help users get more involved in looking after National Trails?
Become friends of the trail, appeal on website, target schools and youth groups, promote working holidays.

12. Do you think we could improve the way that the family of National Trails is promoted? **Yes**

If so, how?

Encourage use by schools/colleges; continental trail holidays; Scouts, Guides, Duke of Edinburgh; target travel companies; look at sponsorship and businesses advertising.

21/12 **CLA Report**

Resolved: For Information Only.

22/12 **Defra Consultation on Improvements to the policy and legal framework for PROW**

Resolved: That the Secretary would arrange a meeting of a working group to discuss and agree a response to the consultation.
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23/12 **Open Access Consultation Outcome Report**

Resolved: For Information Only.

24/12 **New Countryside Code**

Resolved: For Information Only
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25/12 **Other Business**

A Member expressed concern about some snares that they encountered on Open Access Land within the Park. The Head of Recreation and Access confirmed that this was not illegal but would make contact with the gamekeeper and explain that it may be better to move them away from tracks made by vehicles.

The Chair informed Members that Jon Bateman had resigned from the LAF due to family commitments and that the Chair was also stepping down; both with immediate effect.

Members expressed their thanks for the work of both Members, especially the Chair.