



# 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 Dalby Forest Visitors Centre, Low Dalby, Pickering,  
YO18 7LS Wednesday 12 June 2019

**Present:** Val Arnold, Catriona Cook (LAF Dep Chair), Catherine Cussons, Helen Douglas, Alison Fuller, Tim Gray, Helen Gundry, Muriel Mitchell, John Richardson (LAF Chair), Phil Thurlow, George Winn-Darley, Ben Jackson (NYCC), Paul Sherwood (NYCC Local Access Forum)

**Apologies:** Cath Bashforth, David Brewster, Mike Conlon, Peter Hutchinson, Heather Moorhouse.

**Officers in Attendance:** Julia Bullock, Michael Graham, Debbie Trafford, Vanessa Burgess

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### Copies of All Documents Considered are in the Minute Book

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The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular Paul Sherwood, NYCC LAF, Ben Jackson, NYCC, Julia Bullock, Business Administrator, NYMNPA and Tim Gray, new LAF member from Redcar & Cleveland BC who replaced Shelagh Holyoake.

The Chair went on to congratulate the NYMNPA Officers on becoming Countryfile Magazine's National Park of the Year 2019.

#### 1/19 **Public Minutes**

Members agreed the public minutes of the meeting held on **Tuesday 4 December 2018**, these were then confirmed and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

#### 2/19 **Matters Arising**

**Catherine Cussons declared an interest as her land is sited adjacent to Forge Valley boardwalk.**

**Forge Valley** – Bid due to be submitted by Raincliffe Woods Community Enterprise in Sept 2019, then work will hopefully start January 2020. Boardwalk to be replaced with recycled plastic, plus additional proposals including a bridge linking boardwalk to a new parking area at south end. Debbie Trafford advised members that any comments should be fed into the planning application process when it starts. The work will be carried out by contractors on behalf of RWCE.

**Rosedale Railway Permissive Access Licence** – Still in ongoing discussions with George Winn-Darley

**Mowing Grass Verges** – Alison Fuller expressed a view that the note in the Moors Messenger regarding grass mowing didn't send out a strong enough message. Debbie Trafford asked members for their thoughts/suggestions on the issue. A brief discussion followed which included:

- The need for more education
- Biodiversity/wildlife needs
- Highway safety
- Local Parishes supporting

**Action:** Debbie Trafford to speak to Conservation Dept re: carefully worded/reinforced messages. It was agreed that this is a matter for the Conservation Dep to take forward. Any work undertaken would be dependent on resources.

**Creation of Public/Permissive Bridleway** – Bridleway (Ugglebarnby) was part of planning permission which Sirius should complete late 20/21

**Action:** Debbie Trafford to note the need for improved bridleway links in the area and consider for future funding opportunities.

**Guidelines for the organisation of recreational events** – Debbie Trafford advised the meeting that the Guidelines were now available on the Authority's website. Alison Fuller asked if her amends had been checked/included?

**Action:** VB to circulate a copy of document to LAF members once Debbie has checked the document in relation to Alison Fuller's amends.

**Malton/Pickering Cycle Route** – members thanked Helen Gundry for all her work on this route which had recently been approved.

**Livestock worrying** – Debbie Trafford informed members that there were no longer resources available to support this work going forward. A brief discussion followed regarding messages on education, signage, good practice, development of good links with both visitors and local communities.

**Action:** Debbie Trafford to request that: a note in future Moors Messenger from North Yorkshire

Police; include an article in future Out & About guide re: visiting the NYMNP with dogs/enjoying the NYMNP with dogs. Debbie Trafford to follow up with RSPCA re: messages and sharing crime related information on social media and across Police forces such as North Yorkshire and Cleveland Police.

### 3/19 **Fire Severity Index**

Natural England review of FSI reported that the FSI had performed as expected during the summer of 2018. A key issue was felt to be awareness raising.

### 4/19 **Accessibility and Business Plan**

Debbie Trafford updated members advising that the Authority had been in consultation with the NYM's Disability Advisory Group (DAG). The Authority plans to continue maintaining the current easy access routes, but is unable to maintain large numbers of additional routes to the same standard due to lack of resources. Disabled access needs to be considered in all the work we do, being mindful of small changes/adjustments which could be made to enhance/improve disabled access throughout the NYMNP. Rangers have been asked to consider 3 improvements per

area, to make routes more accessible, plus there is a need for wider scale communication going forward. The Authority has already widened the DAG membership to include those with sight and dementia issues. Members considered that more thought was needed regarding disability in its widest sense and also that sometimes increased access could also give rise to increased issues, such as making fly tipping easier where bridleways are widened to accommodate disabled access.

Debbie Trafford informed LAF members that a report would be going to Authority members focusing on priority routes, strategic links, scheduled maintenance etc. Authority Members need to be aware that non priority routes still have maintenance issues.

- Promoted route – a route actively promoted by the NYMNPA via our website.
- Priority route - routes considered important or essential.
- **Best Value Performance Indicator target – 95%**
- Surveyed annually
- Non-priority route – all other available routes
- **Best Value Performance Indicator target – 80%**
- Surveyed biennially

#### 5/19 **NYCC UUR Work Update**

Ben Jackson updated members on NYCC's UUR work programme 2018/19 and plans for 2019/20, giving examples where appropriate. Ben advised that in certain cases NYMNPA staff undertook work on behalf of NYCC, though other work was contracted out elsewhere. To report issues people should e-mail: [paths@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:paths@northyorks.gov.uk)

One member asked how the UUR work would be prioritised.

Ben Jackson informed members that work would be prioritised by things such as the importance of route and strategic links to other routes. Previously completed URMAG (Unclassified Roads Member Advisory Group) work would help inform UUR work going forward.

George Winn-Darley asked Ben Jackson and Val Arnold to pass on thanks to NYCC for funding the UUR work.

**Helen Douglas left the meeting at 2pm**

#### 6/19 **National Parks Review**

Michael Graham informed the meeting that the Authority had sent a response in December 2018.

Some of the issues/comments raised by Officers as part of the NYMNPA response included:

- Improved quality of rights of way in the National Park – 20% since 2001
- Every £1 of Defra grant spent generates at least £7.21 of social value
- Need to strengthen the powers of NP's around Wildlife
- Broaden the Socio-economic duty to include the health and wellbeing of visitors to the NP's

- Suggest transfer of legal responsibility for practical management of RoW to NPA's Make it easier to address legal but harmful use of greenways by mechanised vehicles where the special qualities of the NP are affected
- Improved signage from major roads
- Public transport

LAF members still had an opportunity to respond if they wished to do so via the following e-mail: [Landscapes.Review@defra.gov.uk](mailto:Landscapes.Review@defra.gov.uk).

**Action:** John Richardson to co-ordinate with LAF members

#### 7/19 **Biosecurity and tree disease**

John Richardson gave members a copy of a leaflet by Forestry Commission England called - Ramorum disease of larch; advice and support for woodland owners and managers. A brief discussion followed regarding biosecurity.

#### 8/19 **Ryevitalise**

Stage 2 of the funding (habitat improvements in River Rye) has been secured; staff are currently being recruited to the relevant posts.

**Catherine Cussons left the meeting at 2.20pm**

#### 9/19 **Environmental Impact Assessments for woodland planting**

Consultation on Woodland Planting on Open Access Areas, it was agreed John Richardson would co-ordinate with support from George Winn-Darley and Catriona Cook.

**Action:** Alasdair Fagan to contact John Richardson in first instance.

#### 10/19 **Access to the National Park by Public Transport**

Helen Gundry updated members on Moorsbus:

- Moorsbus running May-Sept, also serving Dalby during the week to access bike facilities in the Forest
- Revenue issues continue
- Suggested days out leaflet, linked to moorsbus routes, have now gone out the libraries etc.
- Moorsbus would like to have an article in Moors Messenger, May 2020

**Action:** Contact Helen Gundry for Moorsbus timetables

**Action:** Helen to contact Communications Officer at the NYMNPA later in the year to discuss inclusion of article in Moors Messenger.

Michael Graham gave members a brief update on the Cinder track:

- Sustrans received funding to undertake surfacing work at the Whitby end of the track, though may be able to stretch funding to Hawsker
- Volunteering increasing and NP to agree a volunteering plan with SBC
- Coastal Communities project – signage on the track to link to businesses
- Tarmac planned for each end of track, the remainder will be Ultitrec, though damage caused by vehicles needs resolving before the ultitrec is laid

- All access points for communities in between to be considered – signage, hierarchy of use/'share with care'

Members considered the document, Draft v0.91 – Share with Care; off road cycling in the North York Moors.

3 initial amends to the document were suggested as follows:

- Para 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence – Bridleways, (add the word **byways**) and permissive rights of way
- Para 4, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, wording in brackets (limiting the transfer of potentially dangerous (add the word **animal**), tree and plant diseases
- Final para, keep it clean (omit the word **coastal**) and litter/plastics messaging with a more major update

**Action:** LAF Members can e-mail any additional comments on the Share with Care draft to Mike Hawtin [m.hawtin@northyorkmoors.org.uk](mailto:m.hawtin@northyorkmoors.org.uk)

#### 11/19 **Items for Future Meetings**

- Cinder track (update sheet to be circ'd before meeting) – **Action:** Michael Graham
- Electric bikes on bridleways (multiple e-bikes increased risk) – George Winn Darley/All

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 3 December 2019, 10am - NYMNPA Committee Room, Helmsley

..... (Chair)  
3 December 2019