

# **Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum**



**Annual Report  
September 2004 – August 2005**



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## **1. Chairman's Introduction**

After another eventful year, it is time to present our second annual report. The past year has seen the Forum develop into a full working group. In the first year it seemed that we were finding our way, not really sure of what was required from us. During this year we have formed several sub groups to enable us to work in a more positive manner and to meet the tight deadlines that we are often faced with to meet our statutory requirements. Many thanks to all who have contributed to this work.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has requested a review of how the Local Access Forums operate. We will be putting forward our views during the next few weeks. To move forward we must consult more with the people whom our decisions affect, to this end I would encourage all members of the LAF to actively support this action.

Finally I would like to thank all the staff of the City and County Council for the support and advice that I have received in the past year.

Michael Missett  
Chair Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum  
September 2005

## **2. The Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum**

### **2.1 Statutory Purpose**

The Forum is a statutory body, set up by Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It is concerned with all of Derbyshire outside the area covered by the Peak District Local Access Forum (see map attached).

The purpose of the Forum is:

- To advise the City and County Councils on the improvement of public access to the land within it's area for the purpose of open air recreation and enjoyment of the area
- The Forum can also provide advice to other bodies in relation to strategic access and recreation issues

### **2.2 Background to the Forum**

The inaugural meeting of the Forum took place in August 2003, followed by the first formal meeting in September 2003. The meetings are hosted alternatively by the City and County, and are open to interested members of the public.

This report covers the second year of the Forum's business over the period September 2004 – August 2005.

## **3. What's happened during the year?**

### **3.1 The Forum at work.**

The Forum has fulfilled its role in a number of ways:

- The Forum has held 4 meetings during the year: in September 2004, December 2004, March 2005 and June 2005.
- The Forum has established sub groups. These groups have been set up either in order to be able to consider issues in more depth than is possible during the main meetings or to progress matters that require a resolution outside of the timetables permitted by the meeting regime. Sub groups have been set up to consider the individual Defra consultations, the Scrutiny report on the use of motorised vehicles in the Countryside for the County Council and to

- consider access provisions in relation to the newly designated open access land
- Forum members have represented the Forum at events and training sessions
- Forum members have used their own networks of contacts to gather information and to help the authorities to disseminate information, particularly during the consultation stages within the Rights of Way Improvement Plan

### 3.2 Advising the City and County Councils

The Forum has received reports and given its advice on the following subjects during the year:

- Issues associated with the mapping of open access land in the Forum's area, including commenting on an application for a long term restriction of access.
- To both councils on the work required to produce their Rights of Way Improvement Plans. Advice has been given on the key issues to be addressed by each authority and the nature of the consultations to carry out. Members have also helped with the distribution of questionnaires and have used their contacts to provide people to attend specific focus groups.
- To the County Council's Improvement and Scrutiny Committee during its review examining the use of motorised vehicles in the countryside
- To the County Council on the content of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan report for inclusion in the provisional Local Transport Plan 2 for Derbyshire
- To both councils on key issues to be considered by the authorities when formulating policies on the provision of better access for all in connection with the Disability Discrimination Act.

### 3.3 Responding to Defra and Countryside Agency consultations under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW Act):

The Forum has responded to three consultations:

- The production of a rights of way register of joint orders
- Consultation of registers of definitive map modification order applications and Highways Act applications and dedications
- A review about the operation of Local Access Forums (LAFs)

### 3.4 Briefings and information received

The Forum has standing items on all of its agendas to receive progress reports from both councils on the production of their Rights of Way Improvement Plans and also to receive information about the mapping of open access land in its area.

In addition Forum members have received the following briefings and information:

- Information about the new Countryside Code – from the Countryside Agency.
- Discovering Lost Ways Project – briefing from the Countryside Agency.
- Information on the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Draft Bill.
- Annual Reports and information about the County Council's Countryside Service – as requested by members of the Forum.
- Progress reports about the process of producing the second round of Local Transport Plans.
- The process of carrying out nature conservation assessments on new open access land – by the Countryside Agency.
- A presentation by English Nature on nature conservation and access issues, in connection both with the mapping of open access land and in the production of the Rights of Way Improvement Plans.
- Site visits were carried out following the June meeting to look at opportunities for access improvements and issues in relation to future management of open access land.

### 3.5 Liaison with neighbouring Local Access Forums

- Three members of the Forum attended a regional seminar, organised by the Countryside Agency, for LAF members throughout the East Midlands Region.
- The Chairman from the Peak District LAF attended the March meeting of the Forum with a view to improving contact and co-operation between the two Forums.
- It was agreed to set up a joint sub group comprising members of both Forums in order to provide advice to the County Council as it starts to analyse results from the Rights of Way Improvement Plan consultations, which will include areas covered by both LAFs.

## **4. The Year Ahead**

The review of the year also provides the Forum with the opportunity to identify priorities for the year ahead

### **4.1 Access Priorities**

- 31 October 2005 will see the introduction to the right to access the newly mapped open access in the area covered by the Forum. The Forum will be actively involved in commenting on the County Council's access management plan.
- During the year ahead both councils are intending to publish their draft Rights of Way Improvement Plans. The Forum will be taking an active role in helping and advising the councils on the production of these Plans.

### **4.2 Forum development**

This will include:

- Integrating the new members into the Forum and providing support and training for all members
- Further developing the way that the Forum conducts its business, including strengthening the role of the sub groups
- Responding to the new regulations proposed by Defra on how LAF's will operate in the future
- Endeavouring to achieve greater public awareness and interest in the work of the Forum

## **5. Membership of the Forum**

### **5.1 Members and representation**

The Forum is constituted so that there is a balance of views representing:

- Different users interests
- Landowners or occupiers and land management issues
- Other relevant local interests relating to issues such as: nature conservation and heritage, local community involvement, tourism and local business, sustainable transport and access for all.

The Forum has the capacity to have up to twenty two members. Twenty members were appointed in July 2003, including two Councillors, one from each authority. There were ten appointments for 3 years and ten for two years, in order to allow for continuity of membership in future years.

A full list of the members of the Forum during the period September 2004 – August 2005 can be found in Annex 1, together with details of their fields of interest.

During the year several members offered their resignation or came to the end of their term of office. The Forum records its thanks for the contributions made by these members since the Forum was first established.

An open selection process carried out during August 2005 has resulted in 7 new appointments and 7 reappointments with the new members taking up their office in September at the start of the third year of the Forum.

## 5.2 Contact details

Further details about the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum can be found on the web pages set up for the Forum, which can be accessed from either Derbyshire County Council or Derby City Council's web sites: ([www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk) or [www.derby.gov.uk](http://www.derby.gov.uk))

Members of the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum can be contacted by email at [local.accessforum@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:local.accessforum@derbyshire.gov.uk) or alternatively write to the Secretary of the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum, County Secretary, Derbyshire County Council, County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3AG

**Annex 1****Membership of Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum 2004-05**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Other Interests</b>
Cllr Gary Mills – to May 05	Derbyshire County Council	Environmental issues
Cllr Brian Lucas – from June 05	Derby County Council	Sustainable Communities
Cllr Michael Carr	Derby City Council	Climbing and walking
David Blackburn	Walking interests	
Martin Pape	Walking interests	Cycling, orienteering
Lyndsay Jones	Equestrian interests	Walking, cycling, education & environmental issues
Terry Williams	Cycling interests	Walking
David Giles	Motor vehicles interests	Mountain leadership and canoeing
Boyd Potts	Access, conservation and outdoor recreation	Walking, climbing, caving & community involvement
Colin Bundy – term of office completed Aug 05	Land management (Severn Trent Water)	Walking and sailing
Andrew Shirley	Land use (farming) and rural business	Walking
Des Sims	Land use (farming)	Community
Elizabeth Dawson – to August 05	Land management (National Trust)	
John Wiltshire	Land use (farming)	Walking, education access
Den Phillips – term of office completed Aug 05	Disability issues	Walking and cycling
Michael Missett (Chair)	Community, sustainable transport	Community
Paula Elliott (Vice Chair)	Sustainability, restricted mobility	Public transport and interpretation
Mike Benten	Conservation and access	Walking and bird watching
Sam Littlechilds – resigned June 05	Tourism (YHA)	Climbing and access
Mike Harris – resigned March 05	Local Community, Rural issues	

**Annex 2**  
**Members Attendance Register 2004 - 05**

Dates of meetings	18 Sept 2004	03 Dec 2004	04 March 2005	10 June 2005
Mike Missett		✓	✓	✓
David Blackburn	✓	✓	✓	
David Giles	✓	✓	✓	✓
Andrew Shirley		✓	✓	✓
John Wiltshire	✓	✓	✓	✓
Den Phillips		✓		
Martin Pape	✓	✓	✓	✓
F Boyd Potts	✓	✓	✓	✓
Beth Dawson				
Des Simms	✓	✓	✓	
Paula Elliot		✓	✓	✓
Mike Benten	✓	✓		✓
Cllr Mike Carr	✓		✓	✓
Lindsay Jones	✓	✓	✓	✓
Terry Williams	✓	✓	✓	✓
Colin Bundy		✓		✓
Sam Littlechilds				-
Cllr Gary Mills – to May05				-
Cllr Brian Lucas – from June 05	-	-	-	

