

# Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION - 2009

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (the "CROW Act") requires every local highway authority and National Park Authority to establish an advisory body known as a Local Access Forum.

Following consultation with organisations with related interests, Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council set up a joint forum known as the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum in August 2003, concerned with the land in the City and the area of Derbyshire outside the Peak District National Park and High Peak District (this area forms part of the Peak District Local Access Forum).

The Forum has a formal advisory role in strategic access and recreation issues. It acts as an independent statutory adviser to Derby City and Derbyshire County Councils and to other bodies on the improvement of public access to land for the purpose of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area.

In recruiting members of the Forum, the two Councils seek to provide a reasonable balance between representatives of:

- users of local rights of way or in relation to rights over access land
- land owners or occupiers
- any other relevant interests, such as tourism, local community, local economy, sport, nature conservation, public transport, sustainability, equalities issues or access for disabled people

The Forum can have up to 22 members. It currently has two councillors from the County and City, 5 members with landowning interests, 6 members representing a range of users, and 7 members representing the wider 'other' interests.

In this round of appointments although we are keen to hear from representatives from any of the interests, applications from people representing local farming interests, wider ethnic backgrounds, cyclists, equestrian users and outdoor pursuits interests would be particularly welcome.

Further information about the current membership of the Forum and other information such as the Annual Reports can be found by visiting the Forum's web site via [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countryside) and

following the links to 'Access and Recreation' and then 'Local Access Forum'.

The Forum has been set up under the CROW Act to be formally consulted on:

- Open Access issues relating to the mapping of open country and registered common land, including the making of any byelaws or the appointment of access wardens if relevant
- Directions restricting or excluding long-term access from access land.
- Rights of Way Improvement Plans prepared by local highway authorities.
- Wider issues relating to the management and enjoyment of public rights of way, access improvements and outdoor recreation.

During its first six years in existence the Forum has been consulted on the various stages that have occurred during the mapping of open country by the Countryside Agency and by Defra on new regulations being produced as a result of the CROW Act. It has also played an active role in contributing towards the process of producing Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP) for the City Council and County Council as well as receiving and commenting on other relevant reports brought by the Councils, including issues as varied as those relating to the Use of Vehicles in the Countryside and matters affecting the management of public rights of way brought by the County Council and the redesign of walks leaflets brought by the City Council.

The aim of the Forum is to debate many topics and to achieve a consensus view on priorities and procedures. High on the agenda during the coming year will be the continued input into the delivery of ROWIPs for both Authorities. Forum members will be providing advice on both prioritising workloads and delivering access improvement opportunities (both existing and new) in order to meet the needs of access users, land managers and other sections of the community in the future. This will be an exciting and challenging time for the Forum.

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## RECRUITMENT PROCESS

Adverts will be placed in local newspapers and on the web sites of the City Council and the County Council.

[www.derby.gov.uk](http://www.derby.gov.uk)  
[www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk)

A press release will be circulated to local media.

Letters containing advice about applying for membership of the Forum will be sent to interested parties and to existing Forum members

A 'person specification' for members of the Forum, 'Background Information' on the Forum and 'Recruitment Process' for members will also be placed on the two local authority's web sites or provided on request via the County Council's Call Centre.

The closing date for applications is 19 August 2009. Interviews will be carried out over a period of days during early September.

It is anticipated that, on average, meetings will take place four times per year and that they will be held in Derby and a range of locations in the county alternately.

The next meeting of the Forum will take place on Friday 25 September 2009 in Derby.

ADVERT

## Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum

Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council are jointly seeking to recruit new members for the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum.

This Forum provides the two authorities with advice on how best to improve access, for open-air recreation to land within both Derby City and the county of Derbyshire outside the Peak District National Park and High Peak Borough (which forms part of a separate Local Access Forum covering the Peak District National Park).

In recruiting members of the Forum, the Councils will seek to provide a reasonable balance between representatives from a wide background of users, landowners and other interests. In this round of appointments although we are keen to hear from representatives from any of the interests, applications from people representing local farming interests, wider ethnic backgrounds, cyclists, equestrian users and outdoor pursuits interests would be particularly welcome.

The Forum will meet four times a year. Membership is voluntary, with expenses paid, and members are appointed for up to three years.

Further details and a Person Specification for members can be obtained by contacting **Call Derbyshire on 08456 058 058** or are available to be downloaded from the web-sites for the two authorities:-

[www.derby.gov.uk](http://www.derby.gov.uk)

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/countryside)

If you would like to join the Forum, please write, explaining your interests, experience and what you feel you can contribute to the Forum. You should write to:

Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum  
Derbyshire County Council  
Shand House  
Dale Road South  
Derbyshire, DE4 3RY

The closing date for receipt of applications is 19 August 2009. Interviews will take place during early September.

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## PERSON SPECIFICATION

REQUIREMENTS	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
<b>SKILLS</b>	<p>Good communication and inter-personal skills.</p> <p>Ability to work constructively with competing interests to find agreed solutions.</p> <p>Ability to consider matters in a strategic manner.</p>	<p>Proven ability to liaise with wider interests.</p>
<b>KNOWLEDGE</b>	<p>Knowledge of countryside issues, and Derby and/or Derbyshire in particular.</p> <p>Knowledge of access to the countryside and the interaction between recreation, land management and conservation.</p> <p>Good knowledge of and/or network of contacts within the County or City in relation to a particular area of interest</p>	<p>Knowledge of administrative procedures in central or local government, or similar organisations.</p>
<b>EXPERIENCE</b>		<p>Experience of attending formal public meetings.</p>
<b>EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES</b>	<p>Commitment to further equal opportunity issues in the work of the forum.</p>	
<b>OTHER REQUIREMENTS</b>	<p>Willingness to commit to the Local Access Forum meetings/briefing and training events for up to 3 years.</p> <p>A commitment to making the countryside more accessible and enjoyable for open air recreation in ways which address social, economic and environmental interests.</p> <p>A commitment to seeking a consensus approach to issues relating to access and outdoor recreation</p>	