

MINUTES of the meeting of the **DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM** held in Committee Room 3, County Hall, Matlock on **Friday 17 June 2016**.

PRESENT

Chris Allen, Claire Brooks, Councillor Mike Carr, Geof Cole, Councillor Rob Davison, John Disney, Ian Else, Marilyn Hambly, Darran Hawkins and Brian Nicholls.

County Council Officers:

Gill Millward (Countryside Access Improvement Officer), Richard Taylor (Head of Countryside Service) and Claire O'Reilly (Senior Project Officer Pedal Peak II)

City Council Officers:

Ray Brown (Senior Planning Officer, Planning Division, Communities and Place).

Observers:

Vivyan Lisewski-Hobson and Basil Merry.

The Chair welcomed back Councillor Mike Carr as Derby City Council's representative on the Forum.

13/16	<p><u>Apologies</u> Apologies for absence were received from Richard Curzon and Chris Page.</p>	
14/16	<p><u>Minutes</u> It was agreed that the Minutes of the meetings held on 18 March 2016 be accepted as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
15/16	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes and Action Sheet</u> <u>Action Sheet Comments</u> Minute 26/14 (DADLAF meeting on 13 June 2014) – It was noted that the two guidance documents to support the Countryside Service Volunteer Policy 2014-2019' would be reported to the Cabinet Member – Highways, Transport and Infrastructure on 21 June 2016. The documents are 'A guide to Volunteering with Derbyshire County Council's Countryside Service' and 'Guidelines for Managing Volunteers, 2015-2019'. Minute 79/14 (DADLAF meeting on 5 December 2014) – Gill Millward would continue to pursue the Erewash Strategy when officer time allowed. Minute 77/15 (DADLAF meeting on 4 December 2015) – The Ploughing and Cropping leaflet would be sent to landowners and be followed by a press release. It was agreed that this process</p>	GM

	should be commenced in December for the 2017 season.	GM/RT
16/16	<p><u>Derbyshire County Council – Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Annual Work Programme 2016/17</u></p> <p>Gill Millward presented members with an outline of the annual work programme for delivering Derbyshire’s Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) during 2016/17.</p> <p>The outline RoWIP Work Programme for 2016/17 included work commencing on the ten year review of the Plan, due to be completed by November 2017 and would involve consultation with the LAF’s. Links would be explored with new and emerging plans and strategies, including the Derbyshire Cycling Plan and the Government’s Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy.</p> <p>Aim 1 activities included publishing a revised Rights of Way Charter; continuing the path condition surveys with a target of 72.5%; installing at least 250 signposts; improving path furniture (£20,000 available) and surfacing/drainage (with £366,000 secured through the Local Transport Capital Programme).</p> <p>Aim 2 would see work continuing with Legal Services to process the legal orders backlog and keep the digital Definitive mapping up to date.</p> <p>Aim 3 aspired to progress the dedication of two completed Greenway routes; continue developing the Pennine Bridleway National Trail near Charlesworth and Gamesley; Work with partners to create new bridleway links; actively seek and monitor developer contributions available for PRow and Greenways, including ensuring that key projects were recognised in the revised Derbyshire Infrastructure Plan; work with both Local Access Forums to improve access/signage provision on open access land piloting a Supplementary Planning Document which would identify shared use routes in South Derbyshire and contributing to the emerging cycling strategy for North East Derbyshire; setting a target of 8km of new Greenways. Easy access improvements costing £200,000 were to be carried out on several existing trails and greenways. A total of £1,533,000 has been allocated from the 2016/17 LTP Capital Programme for Rights of Way and Access Projects.</p> <p>Aim 4 covered promotion, understanding and use of the network and contact would continue on the Active Derbyshire Partnership and with other partners such as the Peak District National Park Authority, Moors for the Future and National Trust. Work of the Countryside Service and Local Access Forums would be promoted at events. Active roles would be played in developing the Derbyshire Cycling Plan, updating and improving website information including Cycle Derbyshire and volunteering opportunities. The Peak District Trails “Share with care” good cycling code would be adopted in any signage and promotion for</p>	

	<p>the wider Derbyshire Greenway network.</p> <p>Aim 5 would look to finalising the new Countryside Service Volunteer Policy for Working with Community Groups; supporting existing groups and developing new “Friends of Groups”; establishing a new Service Level Agreement with Groundwork Creswell to deliver access improvements; monitor the outcome of the Service Level Agreement with the Peak District National Park Authority; revise the Town/Parish Council Minor Maintenance Scheme; co-ordinating and collating the number of volunteer days spent on projects; work with landowners/managers to raise awareness of shared PRow responsibilities; and use the £20,000 LTP monies secured for local councils, community groups and volunteers to carry out improvements to local rights of way.</p> <p>The Countryside Service was aware of the reduced revenue budgets and design work looked to negate high future maintenance costs for projects. Work was also being undertaken to encourage and co-ordinate the work of communities and volunteers to maintain local routes. Officers would continue to seek and tap in to other funding streams.</p> <p>It was agreed that Town/Parish Councils could be encouraged to be responsible for rights of way in their area.</p> <p>In order to promote DADLAF, Chris Allen agreed to assist officers in producing an appropriate banner.</p> <p>RESOLVED to note the key areas of work which form the basis for delivering Derbyshire’s Rights of Way Improvement Plan in 2016/17.</p>	<p>LAF members/GM /RB/ LAF Secretary</p> <p>GM/CA</p>
<p>17/16</p>	<p><u>Derby City Council – Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Rights of Way Update</u></p> <p>Ray Brown presented an update on Derby City Council’s Rights of Way Service.</p> <p>The Planning function continued to carry out the network management side of the service including the work on updating the definitive map and dealing with public path issues; and the Highways Maintenance service continued to carry out the rights of way maintenance and enforcement function.</p> <p>Inspectors in the Highways Maintenance team continued to work to keep existing rights of way free from obstruction.</p> <p>Work continued on collating the legal order history of Derby’s public rights of way and advice continued on path related matters for applications for major developments. Neighbourhood teams continued to work to combat anti-social behaviour on and around public paths and ways in the City. Although the Walks and Activities programme for 2016 was cancelled, some events</p>	

	<p>continued through the Parks and Open Spaces events programme.</p> <p>A full update on the RoWIP action 2015/16 would be submitted to the September 2016 meeting.</p> <p>RESOLVED to note the report.</p>	
18/16	<p><u>Future Direction of DADLAF</u></p> <p><u>(a) The Way Forward</u> The “Way Forward” document was produced in response to the need to consider the future direction of the LAF. The Forum identified and agreed the following set of priorities for action in June 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of short circular accessible routes • Links with disability groups to determine needs • Better publication of routes, including grading • Better use of volunteers • Identification and registration of <i>lost ways</i> <p>At the Accessibility Event in March 2016 the DADLAF’s vision of “a rights of way and countryside access network which is easy to reach, use, enjoy and understand by people of all ages and abilities”, was put forward.</p> <p>The Chair asked members if they remained supportive of the priorities for action in the Way Forward document and to endorse the vision.</p> <p>It was suggested and agreed that bullet point 3 be linked to bullet point 1.</p> <p>RESOLVED that (1) the priorities for action be agreed subject to the amendment above; and</p> <p>(2) members endorse the vision statement.</p> <p><u>(b) Membership and Recruitment</u> It was anticipated that interviews for new members would be undertaken in July.</p> <p>Contact had been made with the course administrators at the University and colleges and the aim would be for officers and a LAF member to attend during fresher’s week. Contact had also been made with the Young Farmers. Darran Hawkins agreed to forward a link to Gill Millward on the courses that might yield an interested student. Vivyan Lisewski-Hobson agreed to talk to colleagues at Nottingham University and then contact Gill Millward.</p> <p><u>(c) Livestock and Public Rights of Way</u> Gill Millward reported that Paul Tame from the National Farmers Union had been consulted on the Livestock and Public Rights of Way document. The press release wording was being agreed and would be ready for distribution shortly.</p>	<p>GM/RB</p> <p>DH</p> <p>VL-H/GM</p> <p>GM</p>

	<p>(d) Woodland Festival Derbyshire County Council's Woodland Festival would again be held at Elvaston Castle and Country Park on 24 and 25 September 2016.</p> <p>It was agreed that a DADLAF banner should be ready for this event and discussions were required on the appropriate placing of the LAF members 'stall'.</p> <p>Chris Allen agreed to attend the festival if he was able to. Vivyan Lisewski-Hobson expressed her interest and would be happy to attend.</p> <p>Richard Taylor informed members that discussions were being held regarding the possibility of having an 'access in the countryside street', which could accommodate DADLAF and other interested groups such as the Ramblers, British Horse Society, Vehicle User Groups etc.</p> <p>The Chair urged members to talk to their own interest groups to ascertain if they would like to be part of this promotional 'street'. If interested Richard Taylor should be contacted.</p> <p>(e) Annual Report In past years DADLAF has prepared an annual report, however it was proposed that this was no longer undertaken as the information was duplicated in the reports required to be submitted to Defra and Natural England. The completed Defra Review Form for DADLAF could be placed on the City and County Councils' websites.</p> <p>RESOLVED that the DADLAF Annual Report ceases to be produced.</p>	<p>GM/RT</p> <p>CA/VL-H</p> <p>LAF members</p>
<p>19/16</p>	<p><u>Defra Local Access Forum Review Form for April 2015 to March 2016</u></p> <p>Members were asked to consider their response to the following questions contained on the review form:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are your top priorities for the year ahead? • Do you foresee any issues or challenges that may affect your LAF's operation and/or its ability to deliver improvements to public access in the coming year? • Is there any particular support or training that you need to deliver your priorities or work programme for the next year? <p>The priorities for action agreed at Minute 18/16(a) would be appropriate as an answer for question in bullet point 1.</p> <p>The budget cuts affecting the Rights of Way team and countryside staff would challenge the LAF's operation and the pool of volunteers, which had many retirees, was shrinking as people increasingly worked longer.</p>	

	<p>Members were asked to consider this matter further with a view to considering action to be taken by DADLAF. In the meantime it was suggested that the Derbyshire Association for Local Councils (DALC) could be contacted as a central point for organising a dialogue with all Derbyshire Parish Councils' on this subject.</p>	
25/16	<p><u>LAF Conference (North) – 1 March 2016</u> Brian Nicholls attend the LAF Conference (North) in Leeds on 1 March 2016. Over 50 delegates were in attendance. Brian also attended the Recreational Vehicle workshop presented by LARA and the Registering our White Roads workshop presented by the Herefordshire LAF. The workshop notes provided by Natural England were circulated with the papers and could be accessed via Huddle.</p> <p>Across the two conferences the main outputs were as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LAF could help co-ordinate research efforts in the county, so as to help ensure each area was looked at rather than three people looking at one area and nobody another. • The LAF could ask the council to help make research information it holds more readily available, where it isn't already. This ranged from records of former rural district councils (and presumably urban district councils too), to having easy access to the List of Streets, so that applications aren't made unnecessarily, or making the definitive map available on line to save travel to the council offices. • Having on line access to records as they get digitised (photographed) would help people work from home to make applications to record paths. <p>LAF's can help to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • influence: i.e. Local Authorities and policy makers • Encourage those involved e.g. PROW departments as they tackle backlogs and process new applications. • Assist the recording process: Voluntary help is key to getting as many routes as possible onto the Definitive Map and LAFs are a great repository of expert knowledge and enthusiasm. LAFs could have sub-groups looking at different parts of their areas and/or co-operating between different LAF areas. • Liaison with councils, parish councils, user groups and landowners, many of whom will already be on the forums. ISD which ones need more help <p>The contents of the summary reports were noted.</p>	
26/16	<p><u>East Midlands LAF Chairs' Meeting</u> The next East Midlands LAF Chairs' meeting was programmed for 11 October 2016 at the Natural England offices at Apex Court, Nottingham.</p>	Chair

	The final minutes of the meeting on 9 March 2016 were awaited.	
27/16	<u>Gating Orders and Public Spaces Protection Orders</u> Nothing to report.	
28/16	<u>Update from LAF Cycling Champion</u> Chris Allen reported that the Government's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy was a 48 page document and having read it he did not feel that there were any comments DADLAF would want to make. It was noted that Cycling UK was not happy with the overall funding compared to highways funding. Chesterfield Cycle Campaign has printed 5,000 copies of the free new cycle map, funded by Chesterfield Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council and the Cycle Campaign. It was also available to download on the Chesterfield Cycle Campaign website.	
29/16	<u>Huddle</u> Chris Page, the new Huddle champion, provided a written report for DADLAF which was circulated prior to the meeting. Chris referred to the consultation document available for LAF's to help them feed into the development of a Blue Book for Roads, the latest version of the document was attached to the report. Our neighbouring LAF - Peak District, Nottinghamshire and Cheshire East – have submitted their LAF reviews and copies were attached to the report for information.	
30/16	<u>Local Plans and Major Planning Applications</u> Ray Brown reported that the City Council's Local Plan – Part 1 Core Strategy Examination public hearing sessions were now completed and it was expected that the document would now be adopted. Part 2 of the Local Plan was still on-going. It was agreed that website link for the Flood Relief Project for Derby – 'Our City Our River' be circulated to DADLAF members.	RB
31/16	<u>Date of Next Meeting</u> It was confirmed that the next meeting will be the AGM on Friday 30 September 2016 commencing at 10.00am in a City Council venue. Agenda items required by 2 September 2016.	
32/16	<u>Link to Chesterfield Station</u> Chris Allen reported that the new cycling link to Chesterfield station from the west side of the town, funded by Sustrans and Derbyshire County Council, was now only waiting for the Hollis Lane link to be finalised. Once completed there would be a launch of the new route.	

<p>33/16</p>	<p><u>Pedal Peak II Cycling Project</u> Claire O'Reilly attended the LAF meeting to provide an update on the Pedal Peak II – White Peak Loop cycling project.</p> <p>The 8km route between Matlock and Rowsley has been split into four phases and the County Council's work teams (AllRoads) were now on site. Work should be completed on the ground by the end of summer 2016.</p> <p>Phase 1: Matlock (opposite the Arc) to Old Road, Darley Dale – work has started on site from the southern end, but would not be completed until the end of the summer and should not be used either on foot or by bicycle until the route has been finished.</p> <p>Phase 2: Station Road, Darley Dale through Whitworth Park to Church Road, Churchtown – work started during the middle of May and should take 3 months to complete.</p> <p>Phase 3: Church Road, Churchtown to Harrison Way, Northwood – the surfacing work was complete and the fencing work would be carried out during May and June.</p> <p>Phase 4: Harrison Way, Northwood to Old Station Close, Rowsley – this was estimated to be completed by the end of July.</p> <p>Work was progressing on the remaining 4km section between Rowsley and Bakewell. Negotiations were ongoing with Peak Rail over the A6 road crossing and a number of bat surveys have been carried out in the Haddon Tunnel. The next stage was to liaise with landowners and relevant groups and work up more detailed designs. This section would not be completed during the current project. Existing public rights of way could be used to get from Rowsley to Bakewell and the feasibility of formally promoting and signing these as a temporary off road alternative were being looked at.</p> <p>White Peak Loop West – Buxton area: High Peak Trail into Buxton - The 3km off road section linking Dale Head Road, over Staker Hill was largely complete, apart from 150m short of the pub at the top of Fiddle Street, which required final negotiations and design work.</p> <p>A signing scheme on minor roads through Earl Sterndale promoting the 6km White Peak Loop was now in place. Further negotiations and designs were needed to look at the continuation route beyond Harpur Hill.</p> <p>Claire was thanked for her update.</p>	
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