



Derby and Derbyshire
Local Access Forum

EIGHTH **ANNUAL REPORT**

Dedicated to the promotion and improvement of
public access and rights of way



September 2010 -
August 2011



Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum Eighth Annual Report September 2010 – August 2011

CONTENTS

- 1** **Chairman's introduction**

- 2** **The Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum**
 - 2.1 Vision statement
 - 2.2 Statutory purpose
 - 2.3 Background to the Forum

- 3** **What's happened during the year?**
 - 3.1 The Forum at work
 - 3.2 Working with the City and County Councils
 - 3.3 Other matters discussed and information received
 - 3.4 Liaison with others

- 4** **The way ahead**

- 5** **Membership of the Forum**
 - 5.1 Members and representation
 - 5.2 Contact details

- Annex 1** **Membership of the Forum and interests**
- Annex 2** **Attendance of members at meetings held in public**



1 Chairman's Introduction

This will be my last annual report and next year Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum (DADLAF) will have a new Chairman. Over the 5 years of my chairmanship I believe that DADLAF has made real progress at improving the relationships between all involved in access; engaged with, challenged and contributed to the Rights of Way Improvement Plans and tackled other strategic issues. We have also started proactive involvement in improving access provision.

I would like to thank all the members of the Forum for their important contribution to the Local Access Forum and also to Derby City Council and Derbyshire County Council for the support they have given us over the last year. It is good to see the Local Access Forum going forward with a full complement of members representing all sectors that have an interest in access.

Andrew Shirley
Chair Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum



2 The Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum

2.1 Vision statement

The Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum is established to advise on the development and promotion of access to the countryside and of public rights of way in Derby City and Derbyshire, east and south of the Peak District National Park. The Forum takes into account the interests of all countryside users, including recreational users, landowners and conservation managers.

2.2 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 Derby City and Derbyshire County to the south and east of the Peak District National Park.

The purpose of the Forum is:

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

2.3 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 alternately by the City and County Councils, and are open to interested members of the public.

This report covers the eighth year of the Forum's business over the period September 2010 - August 2011.

3 What's happened during the year?

3.1 The Forum at work

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

- It has held three meetings during the year: in September 2010, January 2011 and May 2011. The Forum normally holds four meetings in a year, however, members, conscious of Local Authority cuts, chose, for money saving reasons, to hold one meeting in May 2011 in place of the March and June meetings that were planned to be held.
- It has been involved in both responding with comments and advice to matters raised by either the City or County Council and also with acting proactively to pursue new areas of work that it thinks are important.



- It has established a series of sub groups over the last two years to reflect the reactive and proactive work. 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. Eight sub groups have been active over the year.
 - * The Erewash Bridleway Strategy Project sub group considered the links in the Stanton area related the project.
 - * The “Lost Ways” Project for Derby and Derbyshire sub group continued its investigation into lost ways in the parish of Ashover.
 - * The Charter sub group had considerable input into the County Council’s proposed Public Rights of Way Charter. The Charter has now been published. The sub group also met with County Council officers to investigate ways of improving the system for setting priorities for the County’s Definitive Map Legal Order work.
 - * The two sub groups that advise both the City and County Councils on the delivery of their respective Rights of Way Improvement Plans (RoWIPs) continued to review the progress of the current RoWIPs. They also advised the respective appointing authorities on possible content for the next RoWIPs due to be published in 2012.
 - * The joint Codes of Conducts sub group which contains members from both the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum and the Peak District Local access Forum, considered Natural England’s proposed revisions to the Countryside Code and responded on behalf of both Forums.
 - * A new Planning sub group was created during the year following the attendance of some members at a Planning Aid Workshop on Local Access and the Planning System. The sub group will look into the way planning policy and individual planning applications can affect access matters. Its first task is to produce a guidance document and statement on the Statement of Community Involvement for the Planning Authorities.
 - * A new Matlock Forest/ Open Country sub group was created to look at linkages between the open moorland, the areas of Forestry Commission woodland that have been dedicated as open access land and the Rights of Way network above Matlock.
- Forum members have represented the Forum at meetings, seminars, regional and national events.
- Forum members have used their own networks of contacts to gather information and to help the authorities to disseminate information.

3.2 Working with the City and County Councils

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



- It provided comments and advice to both Councils on the production and subsequent delivery of their **Rights of Way Improvement Plans**. The Forum considered the outline annual work programmes from both Councils for 2011/12 as well as detailed annual monitoring reports for 2010/11. It also began to look ahead to the possible content for the next **Improvement Plans** due to be published in 2012. The two sub groups that look into **Improvement Plans** delivery in more depth have provided both Authorities with some very helpful comments particularly regarding overall reviews of the current **Improvement Plans** as well as some detailed suggestions for the next ones.
- It provided comments to the City Council's consultation on the **Derby Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026**. The Forum also endorsed the comments made by its Derby RoWIP sub group about the County Council's draft Local Transport Plan (LTP) document.
- It provided comments to the County Council's consultation on the **Derbyshire Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026**. The Forum also endorsed the comments made by its Derbyshire RoWIP subgroup about the County Council's draft LTP document.
- It provided comments on the draft **Public Rights of Way Charter** produced by the County Council to provide details on how it proposes to prioritise reported problems. The Charter was approved by County Council's Cabinet on 12 July 2011. In connection with the Charter, the Forum also continued a dialogue with the County Council on how it dealt with **legal orders affecting the Definitive Map**. The Charter sub group also met with officers to express its concerns on this matter.
- It provided comments on the **Derbyshire County Council (Off Street Car Parks) Order 2010**. Forum members commented that charges should be moderate so that they did not deter public access to the countryside.
- It considered member feedback from the **Local Access and the Planning System** regional Planning Aid workshop for Local Access Forum members which resulted in the creation of the new Planning sub group.
- It provided comments to the County Council's Public Transport Unit consultation on **Supported Bus Journeys**.
- It considered the funding situation for the Matlock to Oker section of the Derwent Valley Greenway/Cycle Route.

3.3 Other matters discussed and information received

The Forum has **standing items** on all of its agendas to receive progress reports from both Councils on their Rights of Way Improvement Plans, to consider issues relating to Open Access Land and Town and Village Greens, Vehicles in the Countryside, Gating orders and Press releases.

Forum members have received the following **presentations** during the year:



- Derby Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026 Consultation - by Catherine Martin, Transport Planning Officer and Cassandra Shardlow, Transport Technician, Derby City Council;
- Derbyshire Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026 Consultation - by Steve Cannon, Derbyshire County Council;
- Supported Bus Journeys - by Steve Cannon, Derbyshire County Council.

The Forum also had a **site visit** following the May meeting to view the proposals for the Matlock to Rowsley Greenway and Cycle Route.

The Forum considered two **consultations** aside from those by the City and County Councils during the year:

- The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published a key discussion document 'An Invitation to Shape the Nature of England' - the Forum expressed concern that there was no reference to Access and Recreation.
- Defra carried out a general consultation on 'Moving Inland Waterways into a charity in England and Wales - the Forum responded to Defra's questions based on the government's proposals.

The Forum received the following **briefings/information items**:

- The Forum received briefings by City and County Council officers on the proposed cuts to the budgets of both Authorities and the possible effects on rights of way and countryside service functions.
- The Forum also received a considerable amount of information during the year including information from Defra (Access Newsletters), Natural England (general updates), and copies of local, regional and national newsletters relating to access matters.

3.4 Liaison with others

- Members of the Forum once again attended a "Meet your Local Access Forum Member" walk promoted as part of a festival of walks in Derby City during May.
- The Forum was represented at the regional meetings organised by Natural England for Local Access Forum Chairs (or their representatives) to discuss regional issues such as training requirements and other regional matters.

4 The way ahead

The Forum continued to build on the ideas stated within its 15 June 2007 report, which contained ideas about future working and the way ahead for the Forum. Two new sub groups were created during the year to cover Planning and Forestry/Open Country matters. This will allow more access related issues to be looked at in depth.



Members have had considerable input into the two Local Transport Plans that were published in April 2011. These Local Transport Plans, like the ones before them, will have a considerable bearing on the next Rights of Way Improvement Plans due to be published in 2012. The Forum and its sub groups have been reviewing the two current Rights of Way Improvement Plans in order to explore their strengths and weaknesses and intend to use the results to inform in the development of the next two plans.

The Forum is also keen to help the Authorities make the best use of their resources in this time of central and local government cuts and the resulting service reductions.

The Forum has expressed an interest in disability awareness training, particular issues facing visual impaired people.

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 originally appointed in July 2003, plus two Councillors, one from each Authority.

A full list of the members of the Forum during the period September 2010 – August 2011 can be found in Annex 1, together with details of their fields of interest. Annex 2 provides details of member's attendance record at the formal meetings

5.2 Contact details

Further details about the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum and minutes of the meetings 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 or www.derby.gov.uk

Members of the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum can be contacted by writing to the Secretary of the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum, c/o Director of Legal Services, Derbyshire County Council, County Hall, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3AG (for the attention of Anne Barrett).



Annex 1 Membership of Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum 2010-11

Name	Representing	Other Interests
Robert Bacon	Land use (farming)	Walking
Mike Benten (Vice Chair)	Conservation and access	Walking and bird watching
David Blackburn	Walking interests	
Councillor Michael Carr	Derby City Council	Climbing and walking
John Clarke	General rights of way	Historical routes, walking
The Honourable Richard Curzon	Land use (farming)	Local History, Parish councils
John Disney	Small business and sustainable transport	Walking
Joan Dryburgh	Community/volunteering	Walking
Ian Else	Land use (estate management)	
Richard Felton	Community/disability	Volunteering
David Giles	Motor vehicles interests	Mountain leadership and canoeing
Irene Hayward	Cycling	Conservation
Edward Hickling	Land use (farming)	Disability issues
Councillor Garry Hickton	Derbyshire County Council	Environmental issues and sustainable communities
Councillor Chris Jackson	Derbyshire County Council	Environmental issues and sustainable communities
Lyndsay Jones	Equestrian interests	Walking, cycling, education and environmental issues
Martin Pape	Walking interests	Cycling, orienteering
Boyd Potts	Access, conservation and outdoor recreation	Walking, climbing, caving and community involvement
Andrew Shirley (Chair)	Land ownership	Rural business
Noel Walsh	Disability/visually impaired issues	Walking
Councillor Jean Wharmby	Derbyshire County Council	Environmental issues and sustainable communities
John Wiltshire	Land use (forestry)	Walking, education, access and conservation
Bill Woodrow	Disability issues/wheelchair/ scooter users	Countryside access



Annex 2

Members attendance register 2010-11

Dates of meetings	24 Sept 2010	21 Jan 2011	27 May 2011
Robert Bacon	✓		
Mike Benten (Vice Chair)	✓	✓	✓
David Blackburn	✓	✓	✓
Councillor Michael Carr	✓		✓
John Clarke		✓	✓
The Honourable Richard Curzon	✓		✓
John Disney	✓	✓	
Joan Dryburgh	✓	✓	✓
Ian Else			✓
Richard Felton	✓	✓	✓
David Giles	✓	✓	✓
Irene Hayward	✓	✓	✓
Edward Hicklin	✓		
Councillor Gary Hickton	n/a	✓	n/a
Councillor Chris Jackson	✓	n/a	n/a
Lyndsay Jones	✓	✓	✓
Martin Pape	✓	✓	✓
Boyd Potts	✓	✓	
Andrew Shirley (Chair)	✓		✓
Noel Walsh	n/a	n/a	✓
Councillor Jean Wharmby	n/a	n/a	✓
John Wiltshire	✓	✓	✓
Bill Woodrow	✓	✓	n/a