

MINUTES of the meeting of the **DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM** held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Matlock on **Friday 14 June 2019**.

PRESENT

Chris Allen, Councillor Ron Ashton, Claire Brooks, Geof Cole, Ian Else, Charlotte Marrison, John Morrissey and Brian Nicholls.

County Council Officers:

Richard Taylor (Head of Countryside Service) and Gill Millward (Countryside Access Improvement Officer)

City Council Officers:

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

Observers: Bryony Haines (University student)

19/19	<u>Apologies</u> Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mike Carr and Richard Curzon.	
20/19	<u>Dr John Disney</u> It was with great sadness that the Chair announced the passing of Dr John Disney, the longest serving and founder member of the Forum. John was a Senior Lecturer at Nottingham Trent University, specialising in Business and Quality Management. He had a passion for walking, the countryside and rural affairs and campaigned actively to maintain integrated rail and bus services into hard to reach public places. He was frequently consulted on topics including HS2, rural rail and bus services, road user charging and workplace parking. John's knowledge and enthusiasm will be greatly missed by the Forum. In John's memory members stood for a minute's silence for reflection.	
21/19	<u>Membership and Recruitment</u> The Chair welcomed Bryony Haines, a student at Nottingham Trent University, to the meeting. Gill Millward was following up membership interest. Ben Seal had shown interest in the vacancy for water access, as an officer with British Canoeing. There were still a number of vacancies, including Transport and Disability categories. Claire Brooks stated that she had contact with a Mountain Biker group and it was agreed that she should approach the group to ascertain interest in Forum membership.	GM CB

22/19	<p><u>Minutes</u> The Minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2019 were accepted as a true record of the meeting.</p>	
23/19	<p><u>Matters Arising from the Minutes and Action Sheet</u> 4/19 - The workshop at the Derbyshire Records Office has been arranged for Monday 9 September 2019. Brian Nicholls reported that he had completed his volunteer passport training and was awaiting his documents. It was noted that other competences could be added to the passport by undertaking appropriate training. Richard Taylor reported that he would establish dates for future courses and inform LAF members. Richard also stated that a Land Rover, based at Clay Cross, was an additional resource solely for use by volunteer workers. This would require a short driver familiarity session and basic tools were in the vehicle. Richard would check if DBS checks were required. 5/19 - It was noted that the Countryside Service Review was expected to be considered by Cabinet in late summer. 6/19 - Ray Brown stated that the Derwent Valley Heritage Way would form part of the new cycle route and he would be talking to his Highway colleagues in respect of the waymarkers. 15/19 - The Livestock and Public Rights of Way guidance note would be published next week (w/c 17.6.2019). 16/19 - Ray Brown and Gill Millward would work towards publishing links to the Borough and District Council planning lists on the DADLAF page on the County Council's website. 67/18a - The outcome of the Countryside Service Review was awaited, before making any further changes to ease of use surveys. 67/18b - It was felt that it would be useful to receive 'back to basics' training for all members. 23/18 – The outcome of the Countryside Service Review was awaited before any action was undertaken on developing an on-line system for recording volunteer hours/ publicising work parties. 64/17 - An update on the Demand Responsive Bus Services will be on the agenda for the meeting on 6 December 2019.</p>	<p>RTT</p> <p>RTT</p> <p>RB</p> <p>GM</p> <p>RB/GM</p> <p>RB/GM</p> <p>LAF Secretary</p>
24/19	<p><u>Derbyshire County Council – Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Update</u> Gill Millward updated members on progress towards delivery of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan. A paper had been circulated summarising the main work in progress in relation to each of the five RoWIP aims.</p> <p>Aim 1: May's ease of use path condition survey results were being collated. The target for this year remained at 72.5% and why paths are failing the assessment would continue to be analysed. Repairs are due to commence on Hurstclough Lane, near Bamford on 29 July 2019 and expected to run for 6-7 weeks. Discussions continued on a solution for Bamford Clough and Chapel Gate. The proposal to make a Traffic Regulation Order prohibiting mechanically propelled vehicles from using Stoney Middleton Byway Open to All Traffic No.15, known as Jacobs Ladder, would be presented to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure on 19 June 2019.</p>	

	<p>Aim 2: Since the beginning of March 2019, an agreement has been brought into effect creating a 264m public bridleway between Mag Lane and Poulter Country Park, near Whaley Thorns, as part of the Archaeological Way. The joint Peak District/DADLAF Sub Group, concerned with issues surrounding Unrecorded Ways and the 2026 cut-off date, met on 17 May 2019 and the minutes were attached to the report.</p> <p>Aim 3: A total of 9.25km of new Greenways/ Cycle Routes was achieved in 2018/19, exceeding the 8km target for the year and brought the total length of the off-road network to 411km. Other projects have provided new surfaces/ drainage on parts of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail and High Peak Trail; completion of repairs to Hopton tunnel, sections of retaining wall and the installation of a temporary bridge to replace the one at Longcliffe damaged by a lorry strike in April, which enabled the High Peak Trail to be reopened. A total of £1,978,953 of Local Transport Plan (LTP3) funds have been allocated in 2019/20 to be spent directly on public rights of way or RoWIP related projects. However, progress on schemes would be very much dependent on the availability of Project Officer time. The County Council has recently accepted two grant offers from the Pennine National Trails Partnership on behalf of Natural England (totalling £36,707) towards the costs of employing a Pennine Bridleway Maintenance Officer and for carrying out works on the Trail in 2019/20. Confirmation of the grant award of £584,730 from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) towards the costs of delivering the Clowne Branch Line Greenway Project had been received. All three grants will be supported with match funding from Derbyshire County Council. A workshop was held at County Hall in West Bridgford, Nottingham on 18 April with partners and key stakeholders, including a representative from DADLAF, to provide an update on the on-going technical work to develop the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) for the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire (D2N2) area. The deadline for the draft Plan to be presented to the Department for Transport is November 2019.</p> <p>Aim 4: A programme of countryside events and festivals was underway at our destination sites across the county. The Countryside Service brochure also contains information about volunteering opportunities, public transport and the network of Public Rights of Way and Greenways across the county for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy. Printed copies and a downloadable version of the brochure were now available. It was anticipated that a report on the Derbyshire Cycling Plan would be presented to Cabinet in the summer in order to put in place a strategic network serving commuter travel, leisure and tourism needs, and to establish priorities for investment.</p> <p>Aim 5: Volunteers working with the Countryside Service in 2018/19 have contributed 2,463 days to rights of way/access work, estimated to be worth around £512,423. The Service Level Agreement/ Accord with the Peak District National Park Authority continued in 2018/19</p>	
--	---	--

	<p>with £20k funding from Derbyshire County Council and the Service Level Agreement with Groundwork Greater Nottingham (formerly Groundwork Creswell, Ashfield and Mansfield) was being extended for a further 12 months. The Rights of Way team continues to operate its minor maintenance scheme with around 82 parish/town councils actively participating and bringing added value to the work of the County Council. Members felt that all Parish/Town Councils should be encouraged to participate in this scheme. A press release/guidance note was being produced on the issue of Livestock and Rights of Way in conjunction with the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum and National Farmers Union to provide people with advice.</p> <p>Work was continuing towards the review of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan. It was intended to work closely with both Local Access Forums during the review process, mainly through the joint RoWIP Sub Group, to draw on members' invaluable knowledge and expertise. The LAFs' input would be used to inform any public/stakeholder consultation which was undertaken. The minutes of the Joint RoWIP Sub-Group held on 26 April 2019 would be circulated in due course.</p> <p>RESOLVED (1) That Forum Members note this progress report for delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan; and</p> <p>2) That Forum members note the minutes of the Sub Group meeting held on 17 May 2019 and endorse the action taken.</p>	GM
25/19	<p><u>Derby City Council – Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Update</u> Ray Brown reported on progress undertaken for Derby City's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.</p> <p>The Rights of Way Service within the Planning Division continued to carry out network management, including definitive map work and public path orders. The Highways Maintenance service continued to carry out rights of way maintenance and enforcement.</p> <p>Work continued to be carried out towards the production of the legal event modification orders. The first two orders for the former parishes of Allestree and Mickleover would be made imminently.</p> <p>A route has been proposed for the Derwent Valley Cycleway linking Haslams Lane in Derby to Little Eaton and planning applications for the scheme were to be submitted to Derby City and Erewash Borough Councils in due course. The Darley Park Cycleway was earmarked for construction for this financial year.</p> <p>Derby and Nottingham City Councils, with support from Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire County Councils, were planning to create a new cycling route running from Derby to Nottingham. The Derby section would follow the Spondon section of the former Derby Canal. The scheme was being funded through the Department for Transport's Transforming Cities Fund. Members asked if Bennerley Viaduct</p>	

	<p>would be included in the route and it was agreed to investigate this.</p> <p>Currently Derby's e-bike hire scheme has been suspended due to vandalism and theft of the bikes.</p> <p>The Derby Walking Festival took place from 18th to 26th May and appeared to be successful.</p> <p>An update on Derby's RoWIP was given to the joint DADLAF/Peak LAF RoWIP sub group in April 2019. There was discussion about the usefulness of a new city-wide path user survey to establish path users' current needs and concerns and resource implications of carrying out such a survey. There was also discussion about how best to gather up-to-date path network information.</p> <p>Amber Valley Borough Council has withdrawn its Submission Local Plan from examination. The Council would now have to set out a programme and timetable for a new plan. This has significance for the future location of housing and transport links (including off road paths and ways) in the wider Derby area.</p> <p>It was noted that the implementation of some parts of the Deregulation Act has been delayed and was under Government review.</p> <p>RESOLVED to note the report.</p>	RB
26/19	<p><u>Virtual Fences</u></p> <p>Brian Nicholls presented information and a visual example of virtual fencing systems for livestock.</p> <p>Conventional fencing methods were not always practical and could prevent or compromise livestock/grassland management or conservation grazing. Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) has researched the effectiveness of a partial virtual fence and the results, based on a cow collar incorporating a 'Sat-nav' location manager and a feature to emit a warning sound or negative electric stimuli can work.</p> <p>The system was used in a number of Countries and its use in Brisbane, Australia with wild deer and goats in Norway were highlighted.</p> <p>Members were asked if they could see a Virtual Fence System being acceptable to users groups and the general public.</p> <p>It was felt that one of the main problems would be the mobile network reception in rural areas and the public's perception taking into account that electronic tags for dogs have been banned.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Brian for his presentation and suggested that this might be a topic worthy of discussion at the East Midlands LAF Chair's meeting.</p>	IE

27/19	<p><u>Sub Group Reports</u></p> <p><u>(a) Public Rights of Way, Open Access and Unrecorded Ways</u></p> <p>It was noted that a meeting had been held on 17 May 2019 and the minutes were attached to Derbyshire's RoWIP report. Geof Cole thanked Gill Millward for progressing the meeting and facilities for researching appear to be moving forward. Will Steel from the British Horse Society had provided welcome assistance.</p> <p>In respect of P_Cloud the payment for storage needed to be resolved.</p> <p><u>(b) HS2</u></p> <p>On 6 June 2019, the Government announced the launch of a consultation on 11 proposed changes to the design of Phase 2b, Crewe to Manchester and West Midlands to Leeds.</p> <p>The Secretary of State would decide whether to include the proposed changes following consideration of the feedback to this consultation which closes on 6 September 2019.</p> <p>The consultation document can be found using the link below:- https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hs2-phase-2b-design-refinement-consultation</p> <p>There would be a series of public information events near each of the proposed changes, for details:- www.hs2.org.uk/phase2b</p> <p>Two reports have been published summarising the feedback received to the working draft Environmental Statement and working draft Equality Impact Assessment Report. Almost 40,000 responses were received and HS2 was continuing to take feedback into consideration as it develops the design for Phase 2b.</p> <p>The Secretary of State was also updating Safeguarding Direction for the Phase 2b route to broadly reflect the land that was included in the working draft Environmental Statement.</p>	
28/19	<p><u>Regional and National Matters</u></p> <p><u>East Midlands LAF Chairs' Meeting</u></p> <p><u>(a) Minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2019</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2019 were noted.</p> <p><u>(b) Next East Midlands LAF Chairs' Meeting</u></p> <p>The next meeting would be held on either 8 or 15 October 2019 at Loxley House, Nottingham.</p>	
29/19	<p><u>Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs)</u></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>	
30/19	<p><u>Huddle</u></p> <p>Ray Brown stated that he had checked Huddle and currently there was nothing of interest to report.</p>	

31/19	<p><u>Cycle Champion</u> Chris Allen reported that planning applications continued to be an issues for proposed cycling routes.</p> <p>Only minimal provision had been made for infrastructure for the Waterside Development in Chesterfield, which was disappointing for future generations.</p>	
32/19	<p><u>Potential Press Releases</u> The Livestock and Public Rights of Way advice note would be published next week.</p>	GM
33/19	<p><u>Local Plans and Major Planning Applications</u> It was agreed that Ray Brown and Gill Millward would provide links to Derbyshire's District/Boroughs' weekly planning lists. This would be loaded onto the Local Access Forum page of the County Council's website.</p>	RB/GM
34/19	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u> It was agreed that the next meeting be held on Friday 27 September 2019 and not 20 September 2019 as previously programmed. Agenda items would be required by 23 August 2019.</p>	LAF Secretary
35/19	<p><u>Accessibility Presentation – Miles without Stiles</u> A presentation to the Forum was given by Sue Smith, Access & Rights of Way Officer, Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) on Miles without Stiles.</p> <p>The aim of the scheme was to provide accessible, well-maintained and graded routes to get more people, more active, more often. Accessible National Parks were a collective aspiration.</p> <p>Sponsorship to promote these accessible routes in the PDNP was provided by Yorkshire Water.</p> <p>The routes were colour coded Paths for All (purple) - for everyone, including people operating their own wheelchairs and pushchair users; Paths for Many (aquamarine) - for assisted wheelchair users and those with more robust, all-terrain type buggies and trampers; and Paths for Some (orange) - for more robust all-terrain type buggies and trampers. Routes were identified as free from stiles, steps and obstructions; manageable terrain & surfacing; car parking at the start and nearby accessible toilets. Details of route identification, route selection, infrastructure and other aspects to be considered were conveyed.</p> <p>Twenty easy access routes have currently been selected and mapping included grading of routes, clarity of mapping and descriptions, direction of travel and points of interest. The routes were also downloadable.</p> <p>A focus on accessibility has included Accessibility Days at PDNPA</p>	

	<p>properties; Access Guides for PDNPA properties; Ranger events on accessible routes; health walks expanded with roll and stroll and dementia walks and inclusive cycle hire.</p> <p>Partnership working to identify and take forward opportunities for more Miles without Stiles was the next step.</p> <p>Following questions from Forum members it was noted that work continued to link appropriate activities to each route; the PDNPA would like to work with partners to expand this project; route discs were placed at the start of the route and where necessary pointer marks would be considered and it was hoped to get the routes on 'View Ranger'.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Sue for her presentation on this wonderful project.</p>	
36/19	<p><u>Presentation of Research Findings on Public Access to Woodlands in North East Derbyshire</u></p> <p>Dr Viv Lisewski-Hobson, a former DADLAF member, attended to present her research findings on Public Access to Woodlands in North East Derbyshire.</p> <p>The study comprised of a year-long observation exercise in Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire and Bolsover District. 58 woods were analysed and 1095 woodland users were observed. In addition 102 woodland users (on foot, bicycle and horseback), 80 local residents and 26 landowners were interviewed.</p> <p>The main headlines were :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official public access was very poor in privately owned woods • Practical (actual) access was much better than official sources would suggest: Many woods were widely trespassed • Awareness of the status of paths is low among woodland users • Peace/quiet/calm was the most dominant positive theme while motor vehicle trespass was an almost universal complaint • Private ownership types are changing with newer owners having a larger personal stake in their land <p>The sample for this study contained 52 1km grid squares. Measured woodland cover was 10.7%. This is broadly similar to the English average of 10%. However, most of these woods were small, the vast majority under 10 hectares in size with over a quarter being under 2 hectares. Well over a third were narrow belts of trees less favoured by the public (Coles and Bussy, 2000) and only 9 out of the 58 were above the 20 hectares recommended by the Woodland Trust's woodland access standard (Collinson, 2004). The summary detailed access patterns, access for cycles and horses', stakeholder motivations and the ideal of quiet enjoyment and ownership patterns and owner-public interactions.</p> <p>The conclusion was that there are a number of areas worth considering for future policy decisions, in particular:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are poor levels of official access to ancient and long-standing woodlands, coupled with limited accessibility for horses and cyclists. • Levels of informal access were high amongst a public with poor awareness of rights of way and mechanisms to claim them. • A fragmentation of ownership is leading to conflicts with woodland users as many new owners try to clamp down on unofficial access. This fragmentation is also likely to affect the implementation of further long-distance routes. <p>The Chair thanked Viv for this fascinating presentation and congratulated her on her PhD.</p> <p>Following questions from members, it was noted that Natural England did not include access in their woodland grants; private owners did not access woodland grants unless they engaged consultants; people frequently ignore the 'No Access' signs erected by landowners; and people continue to use woodland access if it has been traditionally used in the past .</p> <p>Viv thanked LAF members for their help and support during her project.</p>	
--	---	--