

North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

Minutes of the meeting held at Community House, Portholme Road, Selby on 11 April 2018, commencing at 10 am

Present

David Barraclough, Michael Bartholomew, George Bateman, Rachel Connolly, Roma Haigh, County Councillor Robert Heseltine, County Councillor David Jeffels, Barrie Mouny, Sue Raper, Paul Sherwood and Richard Smith

Officers: James Gilroy and Samantha Raine (Business and Environmental Services, North Yorkshire County Council) and Kate Arscott (Legal and Democratic Services, Secretary to the Local Access Forum)

224 Election of Chair

Resolved -

That Roma Haigh be re-elected as Chairman to serve until the end of LAF members' term of office on 3 November 2018.

225 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Doug Cartwright and Edward Dennison. Members noted the resignation of Tom Halstead and signed a card to thank him for his service to the Forum.

226 Election of Vice-Chair

Resolved -

That Doug Cartwright be re-elected as Vice-Chairman to serve until the end of LAF members' term of office on 3 November 2018.

227 Minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2018

Resolved -

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2018 be agreed as a correct record and be signed by the Chair.

228 Matters Arising from the minutes

With regard to minute 212, Harrogate Publication Draft Local Plan, the Chair recorded the LAF's thanks to Richard Smith for his extensive work in drafting the Forum's formal response.

In relation to minute 215, Definitive Map Team Update, a member expressed concern that, although the team does routinely comment on district council planning applications with regard to public rights of way, the standard response did not always feel adequate in generating action by way of response.

Roma Haigh provided an update on the temporary TRO in place at Kirby Misperton and the expectation that the route would be re-opened very shortly.

The Forum welcomed the news that the oversight of UURs had recently transferred from Highways to the Countryside Access Team. It was agreed that the Secretary would circulate a copy of the report setting out the new arrangements.

In relation to minute 220, Secretary's Update Report, it was agreed that the Chair would draft a brief supportive comment on access in response to the Transport for the North Strategic Transport Plan consultation, for email circulation and agreement by all members. The Secretary would submit the formal response to meet the consultation deadline of 17 April 2018.

Resolved –

- a) That the Secretary circulates a copy of the report setting out the new arrangements for the management of UURs
- b) That the Local Access Forum submits a brief response to the Transport for the North Strategic Transport Plan.

229 Public Questions or Statements

There were no public questions or statements.

230 Cycling

The Forum considered a presentation by James Gilroy and Samantha Raine, Transport Planning Officers, North Yorkshire County Council, advising the Forum of the Council's approach to promoting and encouraging cycling across the county.

The presentation covered

- aspects of road safety and travel awareness, including training, information, promotion and education;
- details of successful funding bids under the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, 'Open North Yorkshire' Access Funding, and National Productivity Investment Fund
- Utility cycling and Leisure cycling in the context of the North Yorkshire County Council Transport Plan 2016-2045
- Cycling sports events including the Tour de France, Tour de Yorkshire and UCI Road World Championships
- Other areas of involvement such as air quality, strategic support and development control
- Engagement with third parties including the LAF

The following issues were raised in discussion:

- Members requested data on the annual casualty rates in the county
- The importance of educating cyclists and other road and PROW users on sharing routes was stressed
- Members commented on the focus of funding bids on the main urban settlements such as Scarborough, Skipton and Harrogate. It was explained that this reflected the greatest potential for modal shift in transport choices and the worst areas for congestion
- The strong links to the public health agenda were noted
- Members felt that more could be done to promote leisure cycling, particularly family friendly cycling, taking advantage of the natural environment. Officers referred to the Break for Cake rides in the North York Moors National Park as an example of initiatives in this regard
- Members were keen to see a stronger emphasis on cycling provision and a more proactive stance being taken by county council officers in commenting on planning applications and new housing developments to District Councils

- Concern about the condition of roads and especially verges, and the impact of this on cyclists. It was noted that changes had taken place to recognise more highly used cycle routes in the prioritisation of routes for maintenance
- Members requested that the LAF be involved in inputting to the planned development of a cycling strategy at an early stage
- Members would like to see the county council engaging more proactively with schools with regard to promoting cycling, including setting a target figure for the number of children able to cycle to school

Resolved -

(a) That James and Samantha be thanked for the presentation and discussion.

(b) That the Chair follows up the presentation in writing to the officers, highlighting potential areas for future joint working.

231 HS2

The Forum considered a report of the Secretary providing details of work undertaken by former LAF member Tom Halstead setting out where the proposed route of HS2 may affect the public rights of way network in North Yorkshire, and highlighting the work being undertaken at the regional LAF. Members were asked to consider whether the LAF should undertake any specific work in relation to HS2.

It was agreed that the most appropriate approach was to continue to pursue this through the sub-committee set up by the regional LAF and that Barrie Mouny, as the Selby district lead, would support the Chair in this work.

Resolved –

That the Chair and Barrie Mouny represent the LAF in any regional LAF work being undertaken in relation to HS2.

232 England Coast Path Consultation

The Forum considered a report of the Secretary advising of the current consultation by Natural England on the Easington to Filey Brigg stretch of the England Coast Path, and inviting the Forum to consider its response to the consultation. The area of relevance to the Forum was from Filey south to the county boundary.

Members noted that coastal erosion and geology impacted on the options being considered for the path, with a view to future proofing of the route.

Resolved –

That Roma Haigh draft a response to the England Coast Path Consultation which will be circulated by email for all members' comments prior to formal submission to Natural England by the Secretary.

233 2026

The Forum's standing item enabling members to discuss any new information regarding the 2026 cut-off date for the recording of public rights of way within the Definitive Map and Statement.

Richard Smith reported that the Ramblers had made a central appointment to take the lead on 2026. Richard was representing the West Riding in terms of liaison and co-ordination of information.

Richard shared an example of an unofficial diversion where he had carried out research to establish the existence of a previous route. The Chair requested that Richard share his experience with the LAF and take the lead for the LAF on matters relating to 2026.

It was agreed that Richard would provide his research guide to the Secretary for circulation to LAF members.

Resolved –

- a) That Richard Smith take the lead for the LAF on matters relating to 2026
- b) That the Secretary circulates Richard Smith's research guide to LAF members.

234 District Council and LAF Project Updates

The Forum considered a report of the Secretary providing an update on liaison with District Councils, and project involvement from LAF representatives, including:

- response to Publication Draft Craven Local Plan
- comment on planning applications in Hambleton
- response to Publication Draft Harrogate Local Plan
- comment on planning applications in the Ryedale Area
- response to Network Rail consultation
- A66
- A1
- A59 Kex Gill
- Yorkshire Wolds Way Partnership
- Teesdale Way

The Chair thanked all members for an impressive record of activity between formal meetings.

Rachel Connolly circulated a draft comment on the cycling provision for a planning application at Northallerton School. Members agreed that these comments should be formally submitted as the LAF's views. It was also agreed that a copy should be forwarded to James Gilroy following on from the earlier discussion on cycling.

It was reported that, following issues highlighted in liaison with the Ramblers, the LAF may wish to engage with Network Rail in relation to matters of safety and access in the Hambleton and Richmondshire area, and in particular the East Coast Main Line. It was agreed that the Secretary should make contact with Network Rail in the first instance in order that the Chair could consider whether it would be relevant to invite Network Rail to a future meeting.

Paul Sherwood reported that the next meeting on the Teesdale Way had been set for 23 May, but there may be less of a role for the various LAFs as the Combined Authority was now taking a lead.

Rachel Connolly reported on a wash up meeting with Highways England regarding outstanding issues relating to the A1 project.

Included on the agenda were copies of a letter sent by the LAF to David Bowe raising concerns about the A1 Local Access Roads, and the response provided by Barrie

Mason. Rachel Connolly circulated a proposed further response, highlighting outstanding concerns and seeking members' comments. Members debated the interpretation of the Inspector's conclusions at the Public Inquiries, the details of the approved scheme and the subsequent implementation of margins for cyclists and horse riders.

Following extensive discussion on the issue, County Councillors Robert Heseltine and David Jeffels proposed that a face to face meeting between LAF representatives, including themselves, and the relevant officer(s) would be more fruitful than further exchange of correspondence. It was agreed that the Secretary would follow this up with Barrie Mason and request that he meet with Rachel Connolly and the County Councillors.

Roma Haigh reported that she had been unable to attend the last meeting of the Yorkshire Wolds Way Partnership and the next meeting would take place in September. It was noted that the Partnership had a budget.

Resolved -

a) That the report and updates be noted.

b) That the comments on the planning application at Northallerton School be formally submitted by the Secretary.

c) That the Secretary makes contact with Network Rail in order that the Chair can assess whether it would be relevant to invite them to a future meeting of the LAF.

d) That the Secretary pursues a meeting with Barrie Mason regarding the A1 Local Access Roads on the basis set out above.

235 Secretary's Update Report

The Forum considered a report of the Secretary updating the meeting on activity since the last meeting. The report covered the following items:

- Consultation submissions and responses since the last meeting
- Local Development Plans – latest position
- Regional Forum agenda items
- NYLAF Webpage - still to be created

Members noted that the Open Access notifications that are circulated periodically from Natural England do not include reasons for the restrictions, and it was suggested that these could be added. It was feared that the notices may put some walkers off. The Secretary was asked to check and confirm to all Members whether the Countryside and Rights of Way Act required reasons to be provided.

The Chair reported that nine of the thirteen LAFs had been represented at the regional meeting on 22 March, and Andy Mackintosh from Natural England had attended. There had been some discussion regarding the future of the regional LAF and the general consensus had been in favour of continuing with two meetings a year. It was noted with sadness that the Chair of the regional LAF, Jerry Pearlman, had recently died.

Resolved -

(a) That the report be noted.

- (b) That the relevant District Council liaison representative be authorised to work with the Chair and the Secretary of the Forum to prepare a draft response on behalf of the LAF to any relevant consultations with a closing date before the next meeting of the LAF on 25 July 2018. This would then be circulated for consultation by the Secretary and a formal LAF response submitted by the Secretary to meet the deadlines for each consultation.
- (c) That the Secretary checks and confirms to LAF members whether reasons are required to be provided for Open Access notifications.

236 Forward Plan

The Forum considered a report of the Secretary inviting members to consider items of business for future meetings.

Members requested that the scheduled report in October reviewing the Public Rights of Way framework after a year of operation be supplemented by an update on other aspects of PROW policy review.

The cycling strategy was identified as a future agenda item, following the discussion earlier in the meeting.

A member commented that it was very difficult to trace the original planning conditions on North Yorkshire County Council planning applications to vary conditions, without resorting to contacting planning officers. The Secretary was asked to inquire whether there was a way to make this easier for the public.

It was agreed that, following the appointment of the new LAF membership at the end of the year, North Yorkshire LAF should seek to meet with the North York Moors LAF and Yorkshire Dales LAF to share good practice. It was also agreed to revisit the LAF Principles in relation to new developments in 2019.

Members noted that an initial meeting was due to take place shortly to discuss the recruitment process for future LAF membership.

Resolved –

- (a) That the issues identified during the meeting and recorded in the minutes be incorporated into the Forum's Forward Plan.
- (b) That the Secretary investigates whether there is a simple way to link applications to vary planning conditions with the original conditions.

237 Dates of Next Meetings

The next meetings of the Local Access Forum will be held at 10am on
Wednesday 25 July 2018
Wednesday 17 October 2018
Wednesday 16 January 2019
Wednesday 10 April 2019

The meeting concluded at 12.50pm

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