

North Yorkshire Local Access Forum

Draft Minutes of the meeting held at County Hall, Northallerton on 20 November 2019, commencing at 10 am

Present: Paul Sherwood (Chair), Doug Cartwright, Rachel Connolly, Roma Haigh, County Councillor Robert Heseltine, County Councillor David Jeffels, Barrie Mouny, Carol Murray, Paul Sheard and Helen Soutar.

Officers: Kerry Green – Interim Countryside Access Manager (Business and Environmental Services, North Yorkshire County Council), Ben Jackson NYCC PROW Officer, Neil Leighton, and Melanie Carr (Legal & Democratic Services - Secretary to the Local Access Forum)

289. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2019

In regard to Minute 288, Members reminded the Secretary to invite North Yorkshire Police to attend the next meeting.

Resolved -

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2019 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

290. Public Questions or Statements

There were no public questions or statements.

291. Briefing on North Riding Unclassified Roads

A report from the Chairman of Redcar & Cleveland Local Access Forum on his extensive research on North Riding unclassified roads.

Paul Sherwood introduced John Sugden, Chairman of Redcar & Cleveland Local Access Forum and welcomed him to the meeting.

John Sugden introduced his report giving an overview of his extensive research on unclassified roads across the old North Riding., which was subsequently consumed into a number of counties - Durham, Cleveland and North Yorkshire.

Members noted:

- In 1930 the North Riding produced its first comprehensive record of unclassified roads in the form of maps and schedules
- In 1941 the record was redrafted, broken down in to 5 categories, resulting in the first record of green lanes. Those records were kept up to date with new adoptions up to 1974. Almost all of the green lanes still recorded in 1974 had been present since the original assembly of data in 1930.
- Those records were only kept for North Ridings own operational needs as there was no legal requirement for them to do more, and so the quality and quantity of the records made available by the old counties varied considerably, and some historic maps have been lost.

- 139 roads on the North Riding record have since disappeared. Some were downgraded and subsequently appeared on the Definitive Map. Others disappeared without a recorded explanation – John Sugden highlighted a couple of examples across North Yorkshire and Members discussed the possible reasons for their disappearance e.g. their suitability for motorised use, or informal agreements with farmers.
- There was no record of public paths before the introduction of the Definitive Map in 1956
- The public record of streets did not exist pre 1974 as there was no requirement for such a record.
- NYCC are obliged to maintain a public record of the streets they maintain, including public paths, but are not required to publish information on the status of those streets. They are also required to contribute to the National Street Gazetteer (NSG) which was set up in 1991 as a record of all highways, and roads giving access to more than one property.

Neil Leighton, NYCC Senior Highways Technical Officer, clarified the information currently held by NYCC and confirmed there was an ongoing project being led on by NYCC Technology & Change to add all PROW to the NSG.

In regard to the issue of the unknown status of some roads on the NSG, John Sugden argued that the classification of those roads should be based on the record of roads passed over by the North Riding in 1974, as his evidence showed that they were considered by North Riding to be vehicular highways

Members thanked John Sugden for his interesting report and his attendance at the meeting.

Resolved - That the report be noted
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292. Secretary's Update Report

Considered -

The report of the Secretary which updated on developments since the last meeting.

The Chair drew members' attention to the Regional LAF Minutes he had circulated by email on 20 September 2019, and the discussion that had taken place at that meeting about planning applications that affect public rights of way. Members also noted the correspondence received from Richmondshire Ramblers and the feedback from the Countryside Access Team (CAS).

Concern was expressed about the apparent lack of notice given to the advice provided by CAS to District Councils, and perceived lack of advice from District Councils to planning applicants where a PROW was likely to be affected. Kerry Green confirmed her intention to identify an appropriate mechanism for working with District Councils to ensure that applications to them under the TCPA had proper regard to PROW, and the measures she intended utilising in the meantime (as detailed at paragraph 3.12 of the report).

Rachel Connolly offered to provide some training at the next meeting on planning, specifically the relationship between District Councils and the LAF, and suggested the need for a stronger working relationship with NYCC to support them in objecting to planning applications.

Rachel Connolly also raised the issue of the use of countryside volunteers and Kerry Green provided an overview of how they are used at present (in part detailed at paragraph 3.11 of

the report). She also confirmed their mileage was paid by CAS and that jobs were issued in clusters in order to utilise volunteers' time effectively.

Doug Cartwright questioned whether a volunteer could remove a misleading or wrongly placed sign and agreed to pass on information on one he was aware of.

that a member of the public could report an issue either via NYCC Customer Services or via the paths email address.

Finally, Kerry Green confirmed that work was ongoing to upgrade CAMS which would provide an Improved facility for reporting issues and tracking real time updates, and mobile CAMS web capability for officers and volunteers. She agreed provide a full update at the next LAF meeting

Resolved - That:

- i. The update be noted.
- ii. That planning training and a CAMS update be added to the work programme for the meeting in March 2020

293. District Council & LAF Project Updates

Considered –

The report of the Secretary giving LAF members the opportunity to update the Forum on District Council liaison and other LAF representative project activity since the last meeting.

In addition to the information provided for the report, Rachel Connolly provided a verbal update on a number of issues:

- In recent discussions with Richmondshire District Council on some forthcoming major developments in the pipeline for the Ministry of Defence, it had become apparent that Planners considered the NMU requirements secondary to the Highways mechanical requirements, and that Highways advice was often contrary to LAF advice. She also raised concern about the potential lack of conformity to the National Planning Policy Framework in regard to Access.
- In a recent discussion and site visit with Highways England there had been some acceptance of their neglect of the verges on the LAR and a proposal to invest in their improvement/management. She confirmed they had agreed to produce a list of the remedial works they were prepared to carry out and a list of some additional works they were prepared to fund.

In regard to County Councillor David Jeffels' update on the Goat Scheme, he confirmed he would provide a further update for the next meeting on a scheme in Ripon that had been derived from the original GOAT scheme idea, as he believed it might be suitable for expansion into other communities.

Resolved -

That the additional information provided at the meeting be noted alongside the written updates provided in the report.

294. Forward Plan

Considered -

The Secretary drew members' attention to the draft Forward Plan provided at Appendix 1 to the report, and invited members to identify any additional items of business to be added.

Rachel Connolly referred to her previous suggestion that North Yorkshire Police be invited to attend a future meeting. She confirmed her previous conversation with an NYP representative and stressed their keenness to attend. Doug Cartwright also expressed his interest in meeting with NYP and Members agreed that they be invited to the next meeting in March 2019.

Kerry Green reiterated that March 2020 would be an appropriate time to provide an update on CAMS.

The Secretary confirmed that NYCC's corporate calendar was in the process of being finalised and that future meeting dates for 2020/21 would be circulated shortly.

The Chair suggested a change to the timetable of scheduled meetings, proposing that the three meetings held yearly be moved to May, September and January, which Members agreed would be better than having a meeting in July when there was a possibility of the meeting clashing with Members' holidays.

It was noted that the next meeting would be the first meeting for some new Members (following the completion of the current recruitment exercise) and therefore the Chair proposed that the March 2020 meeting go ahead as planned, and that a further three meetings be scheduled as per his proposal.

Resolved -

That:

- i) The following be added to the work programme for March 2020:
 - Attendance of North Yorkshire Police Representative
 - Update on CAMs
 - Update on Ripon Scheme from Councillor Jeffels
- ii) The timetable of meeting for 2020/21 be revised in line with the Chair's proposal

The meeting concluded at 12pm
MLC