

Peak District Local Access Forum

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Item: 10b

Title: Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Derbyshire
Outline Work Programme for 2010/11

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Purpose of Report

To present Forum members with an outline of the annual work programme for delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) during 2010/11.

Background

Both Local Access Forums continue to play a crucial role in providing advice and guidance to the County Council on the implementation of the RoWIP.

The annual work programmes which support the RoWIP's Statement of Action demonstrate how the Authority intends to implement the action points identified for countywide delivery through the RoWIP. They are subject to regular monitoring and an end of year progress report showing what has been achieved in relation to the targets and specific actions.

The Outline RoWIP Work Programme for 2010/11

This report highlights the key areas of work which will form the focus for Year 4 of RoWIP delivery. A more comprehensive document, based on the format already agreed by the LAFs, is being produced and will describe all the proposed actions due to be delivered during 2010/11 once budgets have been agreed. It will also provide details of the work that Derbyshire County Council and its partner organisations will undertake in relation to specific actions, along with the resources which are currently available.

All of the actions listed below are taken from the Statement of Action within the full RoWIP and provide a summary of the key work areas.

Aim 1: Ensure that the existing and future public rights of way network is open and available for use

- Continue to carry out sample path condition surveys and provide information in line with the former national BVPI 178 survey, which will still be used as a local performance indicator
- Continue with roadside signposting
- Deliver a programme of paths needing surface repairs or improvements within the LTP capital maintenance programme if successful with the LTP bids
- Continue to address ploughing and cropping issues
- Finalise the Public Rights of Way Charter for how to prioritise enquiries regarding the state of the network
- Continue to explore opportunities for LTP and external funding

Aim 2: Provide an up to date and widely available Definitive Map and Statement

- Complete digitisation of public rights of way in the Amber Valley area and start work on the Derbyshire Dales District, publishing each route on line as it is completed
- Explore options for putting more resources into digitising rights of way information and providing an up to date Definitive Map
- Progress the strategy for prioritising legal order work in relation to the Definitive Map

Aim 3: Provide a more connected, safe and accessible network suitable for all users

- Continue to develop the section of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail through Glossop
- Develop the Hopwell to Dale and Long Horse Bridge sections of the Midshires Way if the relevant legal work can be progressed before March 2010
- Deliver new schemes to provide additional routes and missing links or improved access to services and places of interest within the public rights of way network
- Target three new easy access links within the network including Phase III of the improvements to the Sett Valley Trail in New Mills
- Continue to improve path furniture and purchase gates to replace stiles
- Complete ten year review of East Derbyshire Greenway Strategy
- Continue to develop the Greenway network using funding through the LTP and via external funding opportunities, particularly to extend the Great Northern Greenway through Broomfield
- Identify and promote new circular routes from the Archaeological Way to provide links to local communities and places of interest in the Bolsover area in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery funded Limestone Journeys project

- Finalise the review of the Policy on the Use of Motorised Vehicles in the Countryside and progress sustainable management plans for a further 8 priority routes within the Peak District National Park

Aim 4: Improve the promotion, understanding and use of the network

- Continue to improve signage on the network, providing destination and distance information if requested and to signpost local services and businesses
- Develop a code of conduct for all users in conjunction with the two Local Access Forums in the County
- Improve the quality of the information provided on DCC's web site and provide links to other relevant web sites
- Produce improved information to promote the County's Greenway network and easy access routes in general
- Focus more on the Health and Physical Activity agenda, to promote the network as a resource to be used and to work with partners to promote and encourage increased participation in physical activity. Examples include Walking for Health initiatives and Jog Derbyshire
- Explore with others the use of new technology to promote the network such as electronic downloads to mobile phones and MP3 players

Aim 5: Encourage greater community involvement in managing local rights of way

- Continue to implement work with local councils through a Service Level Agreement with Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire to deliver work with seven parishes during the year in the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales areas
- Review the existing Minor Maintenance Scheme for working with Parishes
- Continue with Parish Path surveys
- Continue to work directly with user groups, volunteers and Parish Councils to deliver added value to schemes

Recommendation

That members of the Forum note the key areas of work which will form the basis for delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan in 2010/11.