

**Peak District Local Access Forum
Access Sub-group
Aldern House
20 April 2016**

Attendees:

Edwina Edwards (Chair), Bob Berzins, Jon Stewart, Terry Howard, Henry Folkard, Sue Weatherley, Ally Turner
Sue Smith Gill Millward, Mike Rhodes (part)

Apologies:

John Thompson, Charlotte Gilbert

1. Notes of Meetings

LAF members enquired about the contact at the NPA for taking forward the HLF Wild Play bid. Sue S advised that the bid was being led by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust.

ACTION: Sue to investigate contact at NPA.

Date of South West Peak Landscape Partnership meeting identified to consider the routes for the better outside project. Sue W and Clare can't attend; Ally can.

ACTION: Sue to provide final version of the proposal to the LAF.

No dates identified as yet re the LAF sub-group meeting on the NP Management Plan. LAF keen to assist and advise on input, process and way forward.

List of mountain biking opportunities provided by Adge and circulated.

2. National Trust Activity Licencing

Jon reported on the National Trust's proposals to license activities on their land. A pilot would take place until September which would be reviewed by November for a communications plan November/December 2016. The licensing would be put in place February for roll out in March 2017 and would be co-ordinated nationally.

It was noted that permission would not be required on CRoW land unless it was a profit-making enterprise and that it wouldn't be possible to license something that was legally allowable. A distinction was therefore seen between chargeable and open access properties. LAF members considered that alternatives were available to invite engagement via a voluntary principle. There was also the opportunity for educational group membership which could pick up on the difference between licencing and charges. Concern was also expressed that the vetting process and any resource implications could create a blockage to freedom of movement.

3. Access Fund and Wish List

Sue reported on the donations received this year and that the Access Fund had a healthy balance. Several access initiatives were being pursued.

Gill reported that Derbyshire CC had made available £20k for partnership working and which could be used for access points.

LAF members discussed whether to include more information on the wish list and to consider prioritisation. It was felt that the list could be accompanied by a map which could be used to promote opportunities in contacts with landowners.

ACTION: Sue S to provide a map for comment at the next sub-group meeting.

4. PDNPA Woodland Disposals

The LAF made clear that although they held a general presumption in favor of dedication of the woodlands prior to disposal, this was not an insistence but to be determined site by site.

The third batch of woodland disposals were considered by members:

- (i) Bradshaw Edge – land is open access. Review access points to ensure that they're sufficient.
- (ii) Stonepit – consider whether there could be some control on the woodland remaining as woodland. The presence of the Pennine Bridleway was noted.
- (iii) Heathfield Nook – layby available to access the wood. Considered to be an important landscape feature.
- (iv) Smalldale – entrance is used as a layby. Consider potential to dedicate links.
- (v) Brierlow – Considered to be a significant feature in the landscape. Future management is important.

Sue reported on the progress with the disposals and Members asked for an overview to be provided for future disposals and those to be retained. Members also asked for a map of the Authority's woodlands to be provided.

ACTION: Sue to provide a woodland summary to the LAF.

5. Yorkshire Water Update

Sue reported on the Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust's HLF proposal which could be a means to take forward some of the issues identified in the partnership with Yorkshire Water. It was noted that Langsett was proposed to be included in the bid.

ACTION: Sue to notify the Forum if a letter of support was required. (See Appendix 1).

6. Hayfield Consultation

LAF Members discussed Derbyshire County Council's Countryside Service Restructure which includes the possible closure of visitor services at Hayfield Countryside Centre.

ACTION: Gill to circulate bullet points for incorporation into a submission from the PDLAF. (See Appendix 2).

7. DoNM

28 July 2016
Appendix 1



Peak District Local Access Forum
c/o Peak District National Park Authority
Aldern House
Baslow Road
Bakewell
Derbyshire DE45 1AE

Sue Smith
Access and Rights of Way Officer
Peak District National Park Authority
Aldern House
Baslow Road
Bakewell
Derbyshire
DE45 1AE
Dear Sue

17 May,2016

Partnership Project Proposals - City to Shore and Moor - and HLF Funding Bid

As the statutory body advising the Peak District National Park Authority and Derbyshire County Council on recreation and access matters within the Peak District Local Access Forum's (LAF) area; we wish to support the partnership proposals being developed with Yorkshire Water and put forward for Heritage Lottery Funding support. We welcome the attached summary of proposals and in particular the plan to:

1. Create Memorable Experiences
2. Build Inclusive Partnerships and Communities
3. Improve Accessibility with scope to deliver some of the aspirations for access improvements in the "Wish List" which our LAF has contributed to and keeps under regular review.

We are appointed jointly by the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) and Derbyshire County Council (DCC). The LAF covers the National Park area and the countryside of north-west Derbyshire around Buxton, New Mills and Glossop. Our role is to act as a statutory advisor to both the authorities on the improvement of public access and opportunities for the purpose of open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area. In doing this, we have due regard to the needs of land management and conservation of the natural beauty of the area. The Forum represents a wide range of different interests (recreation, conservation and land management and user groups), and takes a balanced view of issues.

The Peak District LAF believes its work on Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP's), and other access provision is key to sustaining and improving access provision and responding to the health agenda which benefits directly from provision and awareness of appropriate access.

Several members of our LAF had the opportunity to meet with Peak District officers, members of the Barnsley and Sheffield Local Access Forums, local authority and community representatives at Langsett on Friday 3 July. This followed on from excellent presentations at the LAF meeting in Bakewell that morning on accessibility and water recreation opportunities.

The scope for partnership working to deliver suggestions in your summary document which has followed on from the partnership coming together is tremendous and can build on an excellent record of working together and the Yorkshire Water vision and approach which reflects National Park Management Plan policies. In the Peak District, joint working with very positive input from Yorkshire Water, has previously resulted in excellent achievements related to most of its reservoirs through the Upper Don Partnership Joint Plan, and the moors through the Moors for the Future project which has now spread northwards beyond the Peak District. There is huge potential for the ongoing

development of this work, building on what's gone before and the partnership involvement to inspire new access to enhance awareness, understanding and enjoyment. There is a good track record of Project delivery by the Peak and partners to encourage confidence in achievement of these proposals. There is also a need to take forward and develop further water recreation opportunities in the Peak District which this Project could assist to flourish.

The proposed elements of your bid are summarised in the annex. There is great scope here to make a real difference to creating memorable experiences, through partnerships to benefit communities and visitor experiences with increased accessibility for all.

I hope these comments and our support will be sufficient at this stage, but please let me know if we can assist further.

Yours sincerely

John
John Thompson

Vice Chair
Peak District Local Access Forum

Copies to: Edwina Edwards (Chair), Mike Rhodes (Secretary), Sarah Fowler (Chief Executive) and Simon Malcolm (Director of Commercial Development and Outreach), Peak District NPA, all Peak District LAF members

Appendix 2



Peak District Local Access Forum
c/o Peak District National Park Authority
Aldern House
Baslow Road
Bakewell
Derbyshire DE45 1AE

6th May 2016

By e-mail: ETECountrysideService@derbyshire.gov.uk

Dear Gill

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the possible closure of visitor services at Hayfield Countryside Centre.

The Peak District Local Access Forum is a statutory body of volunteer members, appointed jointly by the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) and Derbyshire County Council (DCC) under the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. It covers the National Park area and the countryside of north-west Derbyshire around Buxton, New Mills, Hayfield and Glossop. Our role is to advise both the authorities on the improvement of public access and opportunities for the purpose of open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area. We believe we present a balanced view based on members' knowledge of the area and its facilities.

Hayfield is a major 'gateway' in all sorts of ways. The Sett Valley Trail which it serves is a key starting point for many users new to the outdoors and these are the very people who need help and support in taking their first steps towards a healthier lifestyle. More generally, people using the area can broaden their horizons as they become more confident and knowledgeable. The location of the countryside centre on a bus route, within a large car park and with direct access into the surrounding lower lying hills of the Peak District National Park, as well as being within close proximity to Kinder Scout, makes it an extremely attractive and popular visitor destination, bringing people looking for information, refreshments and toilet facilities etc.

Another very important function of Hayfield Countryside Centre is to provide information about the current conditions on Kinder and advice on how to enjoy it safely. Kinder is a relatively benevolent mountain, but it is still very easy for the inexperienced and also sometimes those who should know better, to be caught out by bad weather, or to underestimate it (e.g. going up without a map or without suitable gear). To lose this may put people at risk and potentially place a significant burden on other services such as the police or mountain rescue.

The Sett Valley Trail itself is a multi-user route for walkers, cyclists and horse riders between New Mills and Hayfield, also forming part of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail. By its very nature, it allows people with quite significant mobility limitations to come and enjoy some beautiful scenery. The closure of the information centre/small shop, its toilets and the loss of the Trammer hire service which it provides has the potential to deny or at least impose a

restriction on access to the outdoors for people who are less mobile, including families with young children.

We understand that several other bodies have expressed an interest in the Hayfield Centre as a shared facility for both visitors and the local community, including the National Trust, Community Transport, Friends of Kinder Trespass and the Kinder Mountain Rescue in conjunction with DCC and possibly the Parish Council. We would urge the County Council to explore the opportunity to work in partnership with these other organisations to maintain a presence in Hayfield in a way which helps to ease the pressure on its countryside service budget and which could result in generating some much needed additional income eg through the provision of good quality cafe.

We think this is a facility that should be retained as once it is lost it will be difficult to start again in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Edwina Edwards
Chair

John Thompson
Vice-chair