

## Peak District Local Access Forum

**Date:** Thursday 19th June 2014

**Item:** 11

**Title:** Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Progress Report

**Author:** Gill Millward, Countryside Access Improvement Officer, Derbyshire County Council

### **Purpose of Report**

To present Forum members with an update on progress towards delivery of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) in 2014/15.

### **Progress to June 2014**

Below is a summary of the main work in progress in relation to each of the five RoWIP aims:-

#### **Aim 1: Existing network**

- Work is continuing with the path condition surveys to assess the ease of use of the network. In 2013, November's sample survey returned a 73.6% pass rate, which combined with the results from May (75.2%) produced an overall pass rate of 74.4% for the year, exceeding the target of 72.5%
- a contract has been issued to install 307 roadside signposts across the county with details of destinations and distances where appropriate. Countryside area teams are dealing with a further 86 requests
- £10,000 is available for path furniture to improve the accessibility of the network, including replacing stiles with gates
- Work is underway to deliver a programme of £343,000 of capital maintenance through the Local Transport Plan (LTP3) on six paths including: Barlow Restricted Byway 69, Holmesfield Bridleway 51, Brampton Bridleway 73, Charlesworth Bridleway 43, Curbar Bridleway 6 and New Mills Bridleway 3. It will also fund surface improvements to sections of the Riverside path into Derby City, Trans Pennine Trail, Five Pits Trail and Mickleover Greenway
- A further £140,000 of repairs will be undertaken on vehicular routes identified in the Green Lane Action Plan

## **Aim 2: Definitive Map and Statement**

- The on-line public rights of way information which can be accessed via the Derbyshire Mapping Portal continues to be kept up to date to reflect any legal changes affecting the network
- In terms of dealing with the backlog of legal orders, since September 2013, 39 cases have been reported to committee, 24 progressed to order making stage, 22 orders have been confirmed and brought into effect and 5 referred to the Secretary of State for determination

## **Aim 3: An improved network**

- Work is underway to deliver the Pedal Peak II cycling project using the £5 million funding awarded by the Department for Transport. The County Council is directly responsible for two of the main schemes:
  - Hope Valley Link - Phase 1 has been completed by widening 2.5km of footway alongside the main road between Hathersage and Bamford Garden Centre. The public will be consulted on Phase 2 which is to be carried out later in the year between Bamford and Hope
  - White Peak Loop – For the western section (around Harpur/Staker Hill) 220m of route have been surfaced along the old tramway from the entrance to Grinlow Country Park towards Ladmanlow. Since the Health and Safety Laboratory withdrew from the scheme, plans are being drawn up to build the remaining section from Axe Edge Road via Staker Hill through to Harpur Hill and signpost a temporary road route into Buxton. For the eastern section (Matlock to Bakewell) there have been on-going negotiations with Derbyshire Dales District Council, Peak Rail and Haddon Estate to identify a possible route and commission surveys
- The Broomfield section of the Great Northern Greenway in Erewash has been completed on the ground, bringing the total length of new Greenways provided in 2013/14 to 14km, exceeding the target for the year by 4km
- A total of £1,465,000 of Local Transport Plan (LTP3) funds have been allocated to be spent directly on public rights of way or RoWIP related projects and will enable work to commence on several Greenway schemes, including the Pennine Bridleway National Trail, Leabrooks at Sleetmoor, Clowne Branch Line, Little Eaton Branch Line, further sections of the Archaeological Way in Bolsover and have allowed repairs to get underway on a collapsed retaining wall which closed part of the High Peak Trail at Sheep Pasture Incline near Cromford. Other routes which will benefit include Findern Bridleway 11, Derwent Bridleway 5, two new footpaths at the Intakes in Little Hayfield, Matlock Footpath 18 and the final section of surfacing for the Cromford Canal towpath to enhance its accessibility

- Other external funding includes grants from Natural England for the continuing development of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail around Glossop

#### **Aim 4: Provision of information**

- The Cycle, Horse Ride and Access Derbyshire leaflets have been updated and reprinted. These have been widely distributed through county libraries and tourist information centres. They are also available from the Call Centre and through DCC's website
- Derbyshire County Council's cycling web pages have been updated to include information on the Summer of Cycling and Pedal Peak II <http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/access/cycling/default.asp> For Pedal Peak II, there are also plans in place to produce regular electronic newsletters which people will be able to sign up to receive via the website
- Countryside Service attendance at the Derbyshire Food and Drink Fair held at Elvaston Castle was a good opportunity to provide information and get key messages across to a diverse audience
- The new display banners which have been produced will be used at other shows and events to highlight the opportunities that Derbyshire has to offer for horse riders, cyclists and access for all

#### **Aim 5: Greater community involvement**

- The new Countryside Service Volunteer Policy was approved by Cabinet on 25 March
- Our Countryside Officer for community engagement is continuing to supervise volunteer tasks days and work with an increasing number of groups to carry out improvements to the rights of way network
- Service Level Agreements are continuing with Groundwork, The Conservation Volunteers and Peak District National Park Authority
- During 2013/14, 100 parish and town councils utilised funding allocated under the Minor Maintenance Scheme for vegetation clearance, surface repairs and the way marking of paths. So far this year, 56 councils have indicated that they will be carrying out work on their local path networks
- £30k of LTP funding is available for local rights of way and access projects to be undertaken in partnership with local councils and voluntary groups

#### **Recommendation**

That Forum members note this interim progress report for delivering Derbyshire's RoWIP in 2014/15.