

# Peak District Local Access Forum

## Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 11 September 2014 at Moorland Discovery Centre, Longshaw.

### Members Present:

Jon Clennell  
Richard Entwistle  
Henry Folkard  
Charlotte Gilbert  
Clare Griffin  
Terry Howard  
Mike Johnson

Edwina Edwards (Chair)

James Kellie  
Adge Last  
Jon Stewart  
John Thompson  
Ally Turner  
Nicola Turner

### Others Present:

Mike Rhodes (PDNPA) Secretary  
Mary Bagley (PDNPA)  
Rod Jackson (Barnsley LAF)  
Andrew McCloy (PDNPA)  
Gill Millward (DCC)  
Adele Metcalfe (PDNPA)

Carol Parsons (PDNPA)  
Sue Smith (PDNPA)  
Richard Taylor (DCC)  
Les Seaman (Sheffield LAF)  
Peter Price (Sheffield LAF)  
Jason Spencer (Minutes)

### Apologies

1. Apologies had been received from Bob Berzins, Damien Greenhalgh, Caroline Hanson, John Hall, Richard Peart and Sue Weatherley.

The Chair welcomed representatives from the Sheffield and Barnsley Local Access Forums and Andrew McCloy, the Chair of the National Park Authority's Audit, Resources and Performance Committee to the meeting.

The Chair also advised members of the arrangements for the visit to Long Causeway and the North Lees Estate which would take place following the meeting.

### Minutes from the last Meeting

2. The Minutes of the meeting held on 19 June 2014 were approved as a correct record.

### Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting

3. P2 Sheffield Moors Partnership and National Trust High Peak Moors Project – Terry Howard requested that this be discussed at the December meeting of the Forum in the context of the development of the Sheffield Moors Vision.

P3 Peak Horsepower and the Motoring Organisations' Land Access and Recreation Association (LARA) – It was confirmed that the proposed meeting between Peak Horsepower and LARA had taken place and had resulted in a positive discussion between the two organisations.

P4 Walking for Health – Gill Millward confirmed that she had met with Mary Jones to discuss how Derbyshire County Council and the Walking for Health project could work together to deliver access improvements.

P4 Managing Large Scale Events – Andy Farmer provided an update on the stakeholder and partners meeting. It was noted that the majority of those present represented landowners who confirmed that there was a perception that this was a growing issue. At the meeting it was agreed that the Authority would set up a working party to consider issues around managing and co-ordinating events.

Right to Roam 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – In recognition of the anniversary Terry Howard acknowledged the role of Longshaw Estate in inspiring generations of access campaigners.

P6 Media reports of Raptor Sightings – Charlotte Gilbert highlighted a recent newspaper article on Hen Harrier hatchings. Jon Stewart confirmed that of the 5 that had hatched 3 had subsequently died, highlighting the importance of continuing to protect the birds and their eggs.

P6 Dambuster bus – The Chair reported that the launch event had been well supported and was effective in generating interest in the service.

### **National Park Authority Recreation Strategy**

4. Following discussions at the June meeting of the Forum, Adele Metcalfe, PDNPA Village and Communities Officer, introduced a report asking the LAF to support the principle of taking over responsibility for guiding the implementation of the Peak District Recreation Strategy, a role previously undertaken by the Recreation Strategy Steering group.

Before reaching a final view on the proposals the Forum considered the following issues:

- The cumulative impact of a number of new roles on carrying out the core work of the Forum.
- Changes to the Membership of the Forum to reflect new responsibilities.

In response to the issues raised, as secretary to the Forum, Mike Rhodes confirmed that although the changes would provide an opportunity to refresh Membership of the Forum this will not impact on the current voluntary basis upon which the current membership is appointed. He also gave assurances that the proposals would not have a significant impact on the workload of the Forum but would build on its existing responsibilities. It was also confirmed that if there were specific tasks or issues relating to the recreation strategy which required more detailed consideration it would still be

possible to establish a smaller sub-group to progress them.

## **ACTIONS**

**To support in principle the proposition of taking responsibility for steering the implementation of the Peak District Recreation Strategy and to receive a report with further details of the operation and membership at the next meeting of the Forum. ACTION MR/AM**

### **Update on the Wider Peak District Cycle Strategy**

5. Carol Parsons introduced an update report prepared by Tim Nicholson who had passed on his apologies as he had to attend a meeting of the Cycle Strategy Steering Group. Adge Last expressed concern that due to the clash he had been unable to attend the Steering Group meeting to which he had been appointed to represent views of the Local Access Forum. It was confirmed that his concerns had been noted and Rachel Gillis, PDNPA Assistant Director Policy and Partnerships had already been contacted about this issue.

In discussing the update the Forum expressed concern about a limited number of references to mountain biking in the strategy and action plan, particularly as this was a sport that had experienced a rapid growth and had a significant impact on access issues. It was acknowledged that this was a gap which would be addressed through a specific action plan for this activity to be developed with key partners and the mountain biking community. Charlotte Gilbert confirmed that she was able to provide NPA Officers with contact details for mountainbiking groups operating within the Peak District.

It was noted that the final Strategy and action plan would be considered at the National Park Authority meeting to be held on 3 October 2014.

## **ACTIONS**

**To endorse the representations of the Forum made in response to consultation during April/May 2014.**

**To circulate the latest version of the Strategy to Forum members who would be asked to pass on their comments to Adge Last before 19<sup>th</sup> September to be then raised with Emily Fox, PDNPA Transport Policy Manager before the publication of the PDNPA meeting agenda.**

**ACTION ALL**

### **Stanage/North Lees report**

6. In introducing this item Mary Bagley circulated information relating to the development of the Stanage and North Lees Estate vision and provided details of a report to be considered at a meeting of the National Park Authority's Audit, Resources and Performance Committee (ARP) to be held on 19 September. It was noted that the report had been prepared on the principle

that management of the estate would remain in-house but operated in such a way that it covered its own costs and was established as a best practice example of good land management. A key element of achieving this would be the appointment of a North Lees Property Manager which would be made following interviews on 10 October.

In response to a draft copy of the report to ARP, Henry Folkard made observations on the impact of the proposals, concerns on reductions in the provision of an on-site warden and the potentially detrimental impact of the proposals on the Authority's relationship with engaged stakeholders.

As Chair of ARP Andrew McCloy responded to the concerns highlighting the reasons for the proposed changes, offering assurances that decisions made aimed to secure the long term future of the Estate and confirming that concerns around the provision of an on-site warden would be looked at.

John Thompson confirmed that he had previously addressed ARP on behalf of the Forum and was encouraged that some elements had been taken on board and addressed in the proposals. It was suggested that parts of the estate should be designated for open access in the same way that woodland also in the ownership of the Authority had been.

#### **ACTION to note the update**

#### **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Open Access and the Access Fund**

7. Sue Smith provided information on a joint event to take place on 19 September, arranged by the National Park Authority, the British Mountaineering Council (BMC) and the Ramblers to celebrate 10 years of open access and launch the access fund. The event which provided an opportunity to raise awareness of access would include a range of talks from access champions and a walk led by Andy Cave.

It was noted that the new fund, which would help to offset the impact of other discontinued sources of funding, would be available to provide access points and concessionary access. It was noted that an annual report would be brought to the Forum to identify improvements delivered through the fund.

It was also noted that the first edition of a regular newsletter on access was due to be published which included a piece prepared by Terry Howard.

Terry advised that Sheffield City Council intended to designate all woodland as open access and expressed concern about the impact changes to the management of Forestry Commission land would have on permissive access.

#### **ACTION to note the update**

#### **Derbyshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) update**

8. Gill Millward tabled an update report, highlighting some of the main work in

progress in relation to each of the five RoWIP aims. A copy of the report would be made available on the LAF's web page. It included an update on delivery of the Pedal Peak II Cycling Project and the recent community consultation for the proposed 7 mile extension of the Monsal Trail between Bakewell and Matlock, as part of the White Peak Loop. Forum members were encouraged to complete the on-line survey and although the closing date for comments was 15 September, a response from the full LAF would still be welcomed. It was noted that alternative route options for horse riders were being investigated between Rowsley and Matlock as a trail alongside a working railway would not be suitable. It was agreed that as this was a cross boundary route, Gill would try and arrange a joint meeting with the Derby and Derbyshire LAF to consider the extension proposals.

**ACTION GM**

The next stage would be to submit the necessary planning applications.

The Forum asked Gill to pass on their thanks to all those at DCC who had attended consultation events and supported the process.

It was noted that the Trail Riders Fellowship intended to seek a judicial review on the Secretary of State's decision to confirm Bradley Lane as a public bridleway.

Mike Johnson provided details of a priority routes survey being carried out as part of an easy access initiative which aimed to develop routes for people with a disability. Mike agreed to discuss his findings with Gill to flag up key areas for improvements on routes within Derbyshire.

**ACTION GM/MJ**

**ACTION to note the update and confirm that the Forum is supportive of the proposed extension to the Monsal Trail.**

**Access Update - Review of Directions to Restrict Access**

9. Sue Smith presented an update on the process for reviewing long term directions for exclusion of the public to open access land, confirming that the current reviews at Deer Hill, Meltham, Diggle Rifle Range and West Nab, Bradfield had now been completed with further reviews due in 5 years' time.

It was noted that the next review related to Hollins Hill, Hollinsclough and Forum members were welcome to submit representations prior to consideration at the Access Sub-Group.

The Chair thanked John Thompson for pulling together formal responses to the consultation on behalf of the Forum.

**ACTION to note the update**

**Green Lanes Update**

10. Sue Smith presented a report which provided an update on progress with managing recreational motor vehicles in the National Park. It was noted that a traffic regulation order (TRO) had been made on Long Causeway and would

come into force on 18 September 2014. Details of the order had been sent to consultees, land owners, all those who had made comments and had been published on the PDNPA website.

The report also identified progress with the Accessibility Group, the outcome of a meeting with vehicle user groups and initial feedback from the Green Lanes Sub-group on visits to look at priority routes in Staffordshire.

Henry Folkard welcomed the positive update and reported that BMC and the Ramblers were actively lobbying political parties to secure manifesto commitments relating to access in the run up to the 2015 parliamentary elections.

Terry Howard advised that the Ramblers would be meeting the Deputy Prime Minister, Nick Clegg at Redmires where he intended to raise issues relating to the TRO process and Stanage.

### **Any other business**

- 11.** None

### **Date of next meeting**

- 12.** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014, Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell.

It was agreed the Chief Executive of the NPA, Jim Dixon should be invited to the next meeting of the Forum as he would be leaving the Authority in December after 11 years in the role.

**ACTION MR**

Meeting ended – 12.45pm