

Peak District Local Access Forum

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Item: 10a

Title: Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Derbyshire
Interim Progress Report for 2010/11

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Purpose of Report

To provide Forum members with an update on progress towards delivery of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) in 2010/11.

Progress September to December 2010

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

Aim 1 - Existing Network

- Aim 1a): work is underway to collate the results for November's ease of use survey. Following the success of the first half of the survey in May, a 70.4% pass rate is required to meet the end of year target of 72.5%
- Aim 1a): the Rights of Way Charter, which aims to provide a priority framework for responding to enquiries about the public rights of way network, was sent out to countywide stakeholder groups for a six week consultation period which closed on 14 December 2010
- Aim 1a) ii: a contract has been issued for 266 roadside signposts to be installed across the county
- Aim 1c): a press release and newly revised leaflet have been circulated to remind farmers to keep paths clear during the ploughing season. They also provide further information and advice about how the County Council can help eg with signposting/ way marking and grants for stiles and gates on public rights of way
- Schemes are being drawn up and starting to be delivered on the ground for the £624,000 of LTP funds allocated to the RoWIP and public rights of way projects in 2010/11

Aim 2 - Definitive Map and Statement

- Aim 2a) i: 84% of paths in the Borough of Amber Valley are now accurately digitised and the team is on target to complete this area by the end of March 2011 when work will focus on the rest of Derbyshire Dales
- Aim 2: the four additional members of staff (2 within Legal Services and 2 within the Rights of Way Mapping team) are now in post for the next two years and making progress with work to bring the Definitive Map

and Statement up to date, as well as assisting with the backlog of legal orders

- Aim 2c) i & ii: detailed work programmes are being developed in both departments to deal with these areas of work

Aim 3 - Connected, safe and accessible network

- Aim 3a) iii: Pennine Bridleway - a Pegasus crossing has been installed on Glossop Road (A626) at Gamesley and work has started on the Monks Road crossing just outside Charlesworth
- Aim 3 c) i & ii: Easy Access work - several gates have been removed from a section of the High Peak Trail near Middleton Top to facilitate easier access for all users, including those people hiring out the “tramper” mobility scooter from the visitor centre. A £15 annual membership, allowing unlimited use of the trampers, is now available and the hire centres also cater for one off use
- Aim 3e) iii: we are still on target to provide an extra 8km of new Greenways in 2010/11, including the Shallcross Incline at Whaley Bridge and a section of the Peak Forest Tramway between Bugsworth and Chinley

Aim 4 - Promotion and Publicity

- The 2009/10 RoWIP “highlights” report is being finalised for wider circulation
- Aim 4c): Website improvements - progress continues to improve the information provided on the County Council’s website. The changes planned for early 2011 should also make it much easier for people to navigate through the countryside service web pages and allow them to be updated on a regular basis
- Aim 4c): The new Countryside Service banner “Enjoy Your Countryside” is now complete. This provides details about the location, features and main facilities at each of our sites across Derbyshire. The 2011 Countryside Events Booklet, with over 90 different events will be available from mid December onwards
- Aim 4e) i: Promotion - we organised and hosted this year’s Woodland Festival at Black Rocks, near Wirksworth at the beginning of October

Aim 5 - Community Involvement in local rights of way

- Aim 5a): work is being undertaken in conjunction with Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire to improve further sections of the Limestone Way to complement the improvements carried out by the Peak District National Park Authority to the north west of Bonsall during 2008/09

Recommendation

That Members of the Forum note this interim progress report for delivering Derbyshire’s RoWIP in 2010/11.