

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: Thursday 15 June 2017

Item: 10

Title: Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Update

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Purpose of Report

To present Forum members with an update on progress towards delivery of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Progress to June 2017

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

Aim 1: Existing Public Rights of Way network

- **Path condition surveys** to assess the ease of use of the network are still continuing, with results from May's survey currently being collated. There has been a steady decline in the overall pass rate from 74.3% in 2013/14 to 67.1% in 2016/17. The target for this year remains at 72.5% and we will continue to analyse why paths are failing the assessment

Aim 2: Definitive Map and Statement

- In terms of dealing with the **backlog of legal orders**, since the beginning of March 2017, one order has been made and four orders have been confirmed and brought into effect, adding three public footpaths to the Definitive Map in the parishes of Alfreton, Curbar and Ripley. During this period the Planning Inspectorate has issued start date notices for a further four opposed Definitive Map Modification Orders, involving written reps, two hearings and a Public Inquiry

Aim 3: An improved network

- **Greenway/ Cycle Route Development and Maintenance in 2016/17:** new cycle route developments achieved by all agencies in the county are monitored and collated to measure the scope of the entire Cycle Route Network in Derbyshire and assess the County Council's asset for maintenance and management. Over the last 10 years, significant development has taken place year on year with an average of 14.5km of new route being added to the network each year. The table below shows the schemes achieved in the financial year 2016/17, along with the maintenance which was carried out on existing routes.

New Routes completed in 2016/17		km
Quarter 1: April to June		
A61 Alfreton Hill shared use cycle path		0.30
Erewash Canal - Ilkeston Gateway (Awsorth Road to Potter Bridge)		1.70
Clowne Connection - Mitchell Street bridge replaced with new ramp to Linear Park		0.10
Shared use routes associated with MEGZ - previously unclaimed + Seymour Link Road		3.90
Findern Bridleway 11 - new build around sewage works to join Trent and Mersey Canal		0.25
Total length - 1st quarter =		6.25
Quarter 2: July to September		
Chesterfield Station Link - Hipper Valley East Extension and route to Railway Station		1.10
Millership Way, Ilkeston - traffic free shared use route previously unclaimed		0.90
White Peak Loop East - Phase 4 Harrison Way to Old Station Close, Rowsley		1.30
Archaeological Way - Poulter Country Park to Mag Lane link (opens up a 12km route)		0.30
Total length - 2nd quarter =		3.60
Quarter 3: October to December		
White Peak Loop East - Phase 2 Station Road to Church Road, Darley Dale		0.80
Total length - 3rd quarter =		0.80
Quarter 4: January to March		
Total length - 4th quarter =		0.00
2016/17 Target = 8km	Total cumulative annual length in km =	10.65
Derbyshire Cycle Network (on + off road)	After Q4	490.52
Derbyshire Greenways (off-road only)	After Q4	392.77
Derbyshire Countryside Sites	After Q4	105.97
Derbyshire LTP3 (2011-2026)	After Q4	79.62
Maintenance Schemes completed in 2016/17		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trans Pennine Trail, Westwood, Brimington resurfaced to improve access for all users • High Peak Trail/White Peak Loop (Hopton Top to Longcliffe) resurfaced - 2km • Pennine Bridleway National Trail – resurfaced Highstool Lane near Chelmorton - 1.3km • Sett Valley Trail – rebuilt failed culvert at Wilde’s Crossing, filled in large sink hole and reconstructed 0.5km of trail damaged by flooding and resurfaced a further 1km 		

- **On-going Greenway/ Cycle Route Projects:** a summary of the main projects which are underway across the county can be found in Appendix 1. In addition, a 400 metre extension to the Adventure Bike track in Williamthorpe Local Nature Reserve, NE Derbyshire has been delivered, creating a 2km circular loop for cyclists off the Five Pits Trail
- The final report for the **Pedal Peak II Cycling Project** is now available online and can be viewed here in the related documents section: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/pedalpeak
- **Investment:** a total of £1,290,000 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 further work to be carried out on several Greenway schemes, including Clowne Branch Line, White Peak Loop and Archaeological Way in Bolsover. It will also pay for repairs on parts of the Sett Valley Trail, High Peak Trail, Pennine Bridleway (The Roych), Mickleover Greenway and Shallcross Incline in Whaley Bridge
- **Other external funding** includes a £56k grant from Natural England for continued maintenance of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail in 2017/18, with match funding from the County Council. Contributions towards the 0.3km Archaeological Way link from Mag Lane in Whaley

Common to Poulter Country Park came from the Tarmac Landfill Communities Fund and Limestone Journeys legacy

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

- A programme of **countryside events** is underway, with several talks and guided walks to help promote the use of our trails, including the Archaeological Way and High Peak Trail (marking 50 years since this closed as a railway line). Countryside Service staff will also be supporting the Eroica Britannia Cycling Festival and Ride taking place on 16 - 18 June
- **Visitor Economy:** a consultant has now been appointed to develop a Destination Plan for the *Visit. Sleep. Cycle. Repeat* project in North Nottinghamshire and North Derbyshire with just over £29k of European funding which the Bolsover Countryside Partnership helped to secure
- **The Derbyshire Cycling Plan:** latest news and progress can be found here: www.derbyshiresport.co.uk/latest-news-and-progress-on-the with the launch of a Cycle for Health scheme in Erewash and a public self-service cycle hire scheme in Derby being just two examples of initiatives being developed around cycling

Aim 5: Greater community involvement

- **Volunteer contribution:** volunteers working with the Countryside Service in 2016/17 have contributed 3,608 days, estimated to be worth around £752,000
- The Service Level Agreement/Accord with the **Peak District National Park Authority** continued in 2016/17 with £20k funding from Derbyshire County Council. National Park Rangers and volunteers delivered improvements on around 120 individual routes, involving signposting/waymarking, path furniture, drainage and vegetation clearance
- The Service Level Agreement with **Groundwork Creswell** has been extended for a further 12 months. Again an incredible amount was achieved last year working with groups of dedicated volunteers in areas of South Derbyshire and the High Peak, including the Pennine Bridleway, Clowne Branch Line/ surrounding rights of way, as well as helping to support a newly formed group in Heage and Nether Heage
- The Rights of Way team has updated the Ploughing and Cropping leaflet as part of its wish to **work with farmers/ landowners** to improve the county's network of paths
- A press release was issued at the beginning of April on the issue of **Livestock and Rights of Way** in conjunction with the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum and National Farmers Union

Recommendation

That Forum Members note this progress report for delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan.