

Peak District Local Access Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 6 December 2012 at Losehill Hall, Castleton

Members Present:

Edwina Edwards (Chair)	Terry Howard
Bob Berzins	Mike Johnson
Jon Clennell	Adge Last
Richard Entwistle	Jon Stewart
Henry Folkard	John Thompson
Charlotte Gilbert	Ally Turner
Clare Griffin	Nicola Turner
John Hall	Sue Weatherley
Caroline Hanson	

Others Present:

Mike Rhodes (PDNPA) Secretary	Carol Lavell (PDNPA)
Lesley Rechert (PDNPA)	Lucy Atkins (PDNPA)
Sue Smith (PDNPA)	Gill Millward (DCC)
Carol Parsons (PDNPA)	Joan Dryburgh (DADLAF)
Judy Gould (PDNPA)	Matt Easter (Sustrans)
Richard Pett (PDNPA)	Jeanette McMurdo (SPEED)
Tim Nicholson (PDNPA)	Louise Ewbank (SPEED)
Nick Sellwood (SMP)	

1. Apologies and introductions

Apologies had been received from Richard Peart, Jean Wharmby, Richard Taylor (DCC) and Elizabeth Barnicott (Natural England). Edwina welcomed Joan Dryburgh (Chair of the Derby and Derbyshire Local Access Forum) to the meeting.

2. Minutes from the last Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2012 were agreed as a correct record.

3. SPEED Presentation

Two members from SPEED (Safe Pedestrians, Equines, the Environment and Drivers) gave a presentation on the work of this local action group which was formed 12 months ago after a horse fatality on the A626 - a busy commuter route into Manchester. The group has the common interest of improving road safety in the villages of Charlesworth and Chisworth for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and drivers.

Four sub groups have been set up, including one for bridleways. The focus for the bridleways sub group is to open up more safe routes for local horse riders which will in turn benefit cyclists. The aim is to create a more connected, off road bridleway network, including a continuous riding loop, in the area which is served by the Trans

Pennine Trail and Pennine Bridleway. This will be achieved by working together to open up previously ridden routes and negotiating new routes with the permission of landowners. There is also potential to work with Peak Horsepower on its Kinder Loop which passes through Charlesworth. Other activities include organising local rides, fund raising events and providing road safety advice to young riders. The group would also like to become a BHS approved bridleways association/ registered charity so it can raise money to carry out work on the ground.

For more information visit SPEED's website at: <http://www.speed.btck.co.uk/>

LAF members thought the group had adopted a sound approach and mentioned the Paths for Communities scheme as a possible source of funding. It was good to hear that they were trying to establish new bridleways and not just upgrading existing footpaths. Nicola Turner referred to some examples of initiatives in Kirklees which have worked well in helping to slow traffic down.

4. Access issues

a) LAF Sub Group Report

Lesley Rechert tabled the minutes from the last Access Sub Group meeting on 21 November 2012. There was some discussion about the items on the Access Wish List which would make good links in the access network. These have been highlighted with the relevant people eg Rangers so they are at the forefront of everyone's minds if any opportunities arise. Reference was also made to Natural England's intention to dedicate National Nature Reserves as open access. Lesley will be liaising with NE and will report back to a future LAF meeting. **ACTION: LR**

Henry wondered if there was any potential to expand this to include some of the quarries along the A515 corridor for recreation etc.

b) DCC's Open Access Land

Gill Millward reported that the County Council is responsible for several areas of open access land outside the National Park but still within this LAF's remit, such as Combs Moss and Turncliff Common, near Buxton. There is some really good potential to improve access to these areas and she would like to work with the Access Sub Group to develop this. It was agreed that Gill would circulate some ideas in advance of the next sub group meeting on 8 May. **ACTION: GM**

Joan Dryburgh, Chair of the Derby and Derbyshire LAF, said that several DADLAF members had formed a small group which has visited and photographed the nine open access sites in its area and will be reporting back on how to take their ideas forward. Terry Howard mentioned the work that Sheffield City Council has undertaken. He also pointed out that fencing is an issue under the Higher Level Stewardship when it is paid for without any access provision being required. Terry thought this was an oversight and Mike Rhodes agreed to raise this with Natural England. **ACTION: MR**

5. Consultations on moorland management planning

There are currently three major initiatives underway for the Eastern Moors, Sheffield Moors and High Peak Moors:-

a) Forum members endorsed Henry and Terry's involvement on the stakeholder group for the Eastern Moors where the implementation of the Management Plan is being

progressed. It was also suggested that it would be useful to have an annual meeting of the different groups in this area, like the Stange Forum.

b) Nick Sellwood from the Sheffield Moors Partnership (SMP) provided an update on the SMP Masterplan. The consultation process has just ended and the results are being analysed, with a view to finalising the plan in 2013. A series of individual management plans will sit beneath this. The aim is for a more joined up and collaborative approach eg for a more integrated bridleway network. Nick confirmed that he was keen to involve the LAF at all stages and Terry Howard was happy to be the representative at any future meetings.

c) Henry welcomed the National Trust's consultation on the High Peak Moors Vision and Plan, which gave local people the opportunity to express their views on this important area. John Thompson had circulated an initial draft response for LAF members to consider at the meeting. There were a number of suggestions which John agreed to incorporate in a revised letter. Caroline Hanson has submitted a response on behalf of the Moscar Estate which she offered to circulate to LAF members. **ACTION: CH**
It was recognised that the LAF had a future role in helping to develop some of the ideas relating to the provision of new routes and visitor code of practice. **ACTION: ALL**

6. Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan Update and Consultation

Gill Millward circulated a report summarising the main achievements for each of the five RoWIP aims. Some of the highlights include the amount of money which is still being secured for rights of way and access projects; public rights of way in all areas of the county have now been digitised and are available to view electronically through the mapping portal; work has started on site to construct a 3km section of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail between Monks Road and High Lane, near Charlesworth.

Future liaison with National Trust, Eastern Moors and Sheffield Moors Partnerships looks promising in terms of helping to improve existing bridleways and develop new routes. The RoWIP's contribution to healthy lifestyles and the County Council's new health role will be high on the agenda for the forthcoming year. The appointment of a Volunteer Project Officer is a welcome addition to DCC's Countryside Service. Steve Cresswell is hoping to give a presentation at the meeting in March to talk about his work with volunteers as well as asking for the LAF's advice on a draft Volunteer Policy.

The public consultation for the new RoWIP Statement of Action closed at the end of October and the responses are currently being analysed. There have been around 200 returns with the majority of people (94%) supporting the RoWIP. There was also general agreement for the way the aims and identified needs have been prioritised. Another meeting of the Joint LAF Sub Group will be arranged for January to go through the results in more detail. **ACTION: GM**

7. Recreational Motor Vehicles

a) Priority routes in PDNP outside Derbyshire

Richard Pett reported that 16 new red routes had been identified outside Derbyshire. There are just seven left to look at and the Green Lanes Sub Group will be visiting these in the New Year. **ACTION: RP/LAF SUB GROUP**

b) Update report

Sue Smith circulated a report including details of proposed Traffic Regulation Orders and LAF responses to the consultations. The Peak District Green Lanes Forum has been working on a code of conduct and possible solutions to identified problems. Sue will provide a copy of its 2012 Annual Report at the next LAF meeting. **ACTION: SS**

The outcome of the Chapel Gate High Court Hearing was that the Experimental Order has been quashed and means that the route is open to all users. Clare Griffin stressed that the Trail Riders Fellowship was disappointed that this ended up in the High Court and wants to maintain a positive working relationship with the Authority. A full report will be taken to the Audit, Resources & Performance Committee on 25 January. In the meantime the LAF's Green Lanes Sub Group will be meeting on 9 January to consider its thoughts and recommendations for Chapel Gate. A written response will be circulated to LAF members in due course. **ACTION: JNT**

Henry asked for an update on the repairs to Long Causeway. He understood that substantial work was needed on the revetment and that the temporary closure had been extended until the end of May 2013. He also enquired how many Section 56 notices had been served on the County Council. **ACTION: GM**

8. Feedback from Members

Edwina reported that the **LAF National Conference** is being held at the Sheffield Arena on 24 February 2013. Agenda items and workshop topics are still being finalised, but she will pass on more information when it is available. Terry mentioned that the Sheffield LAF did not know about the event and Edwina offered to raise this with Fiona Groves. **ACTION: EE**

Edwina had attended a DCC event where there was information about the **changing places** toilet facilities which exist at several locations, such as Shipley Country Park and at County Hall in Matlock. These allow people with disabilities to enjoy days out in the same way as everyone else. There is also going to be a mobile unit for use at events and venues across the county which groups and organisations will be able to book. There would be a press release issued shortly, but wider publicity was needed and Edwina encouraged LAF members to spread the word. **ACTION: ALL**
Clare pointed out that this was something which kidney patients would benefit from. Gill will report back on this with details of who to contact etc. **ACTION: GM**

Clare gave an update on **Huddle** where there is lots of information about public transport at the moment and how LAFs can help with access to the countryside for those people without a car. She also circulated a page about the social determinants of health and the importance of access to green space and infrastructure. There are more places available on Huddle – every LAF member can now have access. It is a really useful way of keeping in contact and finding information about a range of topics. If anyone would like to register on Huddle please let Clare know. **ACTION: ALL**

On the issue of **public health commissioning**, Edwina suggested there was an opportunity to influence and that someone linked with the new local authority boards should be invited to talk to the LAF. It was important to make early contact to find out about funding and views on access to the countryside. **ACTION: GM/MR**

Henry asked for a written update on **Local Nature Partnerships** and if there was a mechanism for keeping in touch with what is happening - are any access related issues being discussed? **ACTION: MR**

Public speaking at Authority meetings – Mike Rhodes circulated information about a report which is going to the PDNPA meeting on 7 December to amend the public participation scheme. There was concern that this approach was unfair and there would be less scope for the LAF and members of the public to be heard and make their views known. It gives the impression the PDNPA is not going to listen to what people have to say. Nicola Turner said that there needed to be a balance - the Authority must listen to people, but it is not always possible to hear everyone because of the length of time this would take. What is important is that it hears a balanced range of views. Edwina has already spoken to several NPA members and agreed to reiterate the concerns raised at today's meeting. **ACTION: EE**

Terry pointed out that it is often too late by the time issues reach committee and that the LAF needs to exert influence by speaking to officers at a much earlier stage. The NPA planning team has already agreed to bring any significant items to the LAF's attention through Mike Rhodes.

9. Transport

a) Sustainable Transport Action Plan

Tim Nicholson (PDNPA Transport Policy Manager) spoke about the Sustainable Transport Action Plan (STAP) which was formally adopted by the Authority in May 2012. This is a strategic document which sits beneath the National Park Management Plan. It outlines the PDNPA's and its partners' aspirations for transport in the Peak District over the five year period from 2012 to 2017. Copies of the Plan and a summary sheet were available at the meeting.

The ambition of the STAP is that the National Park is known as a place which can be easily accessed without a car. The choice of travel options makes using public transport, walking and cycling more attractive and part of the National Park experience. It sets out a series of short, medium and long term actions which will be delivered through partnership working.

There are five short term actions to be delivered over the next 2 years which include piloting a community transport service, promoting sustainable travel options and developing a plan for a Peak District cycle network. The three medium term actions to be achieved over the 5 year life of the plan include identifying/ prioritising gaps in the footpath network and increasing integration between modes of travel. The long term actions are more aspirational eg reviewing existing traffic management schemes such as that for the Goyt Valley and will be explored when opportunities arise.

Work has already started on some of the short term actions through the Peak Connections Travel Survey and the production of a map showing the cycle network across the National Park and surrounding areas. Neighbouring authorities like DCC have helped with this by providing GIS data.

There was an opportunity for questions when Adge suggested that the action to identify gaps in the footpath network should be expanded to include bridleways.

Terry pointed out that Rights of Way Improvements Plans should already be addressing this area of work and that the Lost Ways project was also relevant.

b) Peak Connections Travel Survey

Carol Lavell and Lucy Atkins gave a presentation on the headline results of the Peak District Travel Survey which was discussed at the last LAF meeting. The survey was targeted at visitors and local residents to find out how people prefer to receive information so the way sustainable travel is promoted can be reviewed. The final survey results report can be downloaded from the Peak Connections web page: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/publictransport

The 226 responses provided some really useful information – in summary most people (83%) wanted better, integrated travel information ie bus & train times, walking & cycling routes on a single website. Two-thirds wanted to receive public transport information online. One-quarter still preferred printed information – leaflets and timetables, but only 27% would be prepared to pay for it. There was support for integrated ticketing but mixed views about mobile phone apps.

The most popular changes that would encourage people to use public transport in the Peak District more were:- more frequent bus services; more direct bus routes; 'Hail & Ride'; Travelcards; better online travel information and better information about linking journeys.

The next steps are to develop a single, integrated sustainable travel website which brings together all the information about different modes of travel to help people plan their journeys in and around the Peak District and which is linked with tourism and recreation. Peak Connections will act as the hub for this one-stop approach. Additional funding will be required and Carol asked LAF members to let her know about any possible grant sources.

ACTION: ALL

Adge said it would be useful to look at the age profile of respondents – need to appeal to all age ranges and target young people who would be interested in social media and mobile phone apps. Edwina suggested talking to Matt Taylor about the social media aspect and will pass on his contact details.

ACTION: EE

Jon Clennell referred to the transport direct website which already exists for door to door journey planning. Terry pointed out that bus passes have a positive impact on the local economy and can benefit the places which these people travel to and visit. Henry wondered if the Trans Peak buses could explore the possibility of pulling a trailer so people could bring their bikes with them into the Peak District. This is also an issue on the trains and whether there is room for bikes at busy times.

10. Cycling

a) Cycling development

Carol Parsons (PDNPA Recreation Strategy Officer) provided an update on cycling developments. The Plan for a strategic cycle network within the Peak District – an action in the Sustainable Transport Action Plan for 2012-2017, is being developed and will help with funding bids.

A Peak District Cycle Summit is being held at the end of February to which LAF members are invited. It will include presentations by Matt Easter from Sustrans and Adrian Lord - a transport planner. Carol will confirm the date and venue nearer the time.

ACTION: CP

Last week the Government announced that £20million would be available for cycling. Further details are expected in the New Year. Sustrans will be lobbying for the funding to be provided on an on-going basis.

The first Peak District Cycling Festival will be taking place from 7–15 September 2013, catering for all types of cycling. It will involve L'Eroica (a vintage cycling event), local food, communities etc. Pedal Peak District's social media marketing continues with a growing number of followers on Twitter, Facebook and Pinterest. There are details of cafes for cyclists and short video clips to inspire people.

Bob Berzins asked about links with the Cyclists' Touring Club (CTC). Carol replied that local groups may be able to help organise cycle rides during the Festival and that the Regional Director would be invited to the Cycle Summit.

John Thompson said it was good to see resources being committed to cycling and that there was a need to look at how this can also benefit horse riding.

Henry Folkard thought it was important for the Strategy to embrace all forms of cycling, both on and off road. Edwina asked about the timescale for developing the Plan for a strategic cycle network and said the LAF would like the opportunity to input at all stages.

ACTION: CP

b) Sustrans Presentation

Matt Easter gave a presentation about Sustrans which is a national sustainable transport charity concerned with building routes, encouraging people to travel sustainably, especially by bike and persuading national government and local authorities to spend more money on cycling.

Recent projects to help extend the National Cycle Network have included Connect2 which has provided lottery funding for 82 routes across the UK – although none of these are in the Peak District, there are lessons to be learnt from this work. The "Bike It" project (nearest one is Derby) involves going into schools to encourage more children, parents and staff to cycle. Sustrans is also working with Parish Councils to reduce speeding through rural villages. Sustrans volunteers organise rides, pick up litter, carry out physical improvements, including signage of routes and act as champions for the Active Travel programme which is a new initiative.

In the Peak District context, Sustrans volunteers in Sheffield are currently looking at a route over to Manchester across the National Park. The organisation will be lobbying the PDNPA to deliver its Sustainable Transport Action Plan and can access funding to provide routes on the ground. The plan for a strategic cycle network within the Peak District will certainly help with funding bids. Sustrans is keen to support the Cycling Festival planned for 2013 and wants to persuade people to keep walking and cycling for health reasons as well as the environmental benefits.

Matt handed out some leaflets and will email his presentation to MR.

ACTION: ME

Terry Howard expressed walkers' concerns about the upgrading of footpaths to bridleways in order to allow cycling. This needs to be properly managed to avoid conflict situations. Matt highlighted Sustrans efforts to encourage users to respect each other eg between drivers and cyclists.

Ally Turner said it was a pity that everything seems to be happening in isolation when it should all be integrated to bring walkers, cyclists and horse riders together. Matt stressed that Sustrans wanted to see routes developed to accommodate everyone where ever possible, not just cyclists.

11. Matters Arising

Water recreation – Nicola Turner is the PDNPA's new lead member for recreation. Judy Gould is arranging to meet with her when water recreation will be on the agenda.

ACTION: JG

PDNPA Trails Management Plan – Charlotte circulated an update from Abi Ball on the Trails Management Plan which she thought was an excellent document. A public consultation report is available at: www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/trailsplan It has taken on board a wide range of views. The process was very open and proved to be a really worthwhile exercise.

Paths for Communities – There is information about the grants scheme available on Huddle. No LAFs have applied for funding so far. There is potential on the Eastern Moors estate and through SPEED, the action group set up in the villages of Charlesworth and Chisworth.

12. Any Other Business

Institute for Outdoor Learning (Peak Region) – Jon Clennell reported that there is a small pot of money available which is being put towards the Bridge 75 improvements.

Stanage – is currently being reviewed and Henry asked if Stanage Forum was involved. Mike Rhodes offered to check.

ACTION: MR

Peak Horsepower – Charlotte mentioned that another horse riding loop is being developed and that she would be happy to give a presentation to a future LAF meeting.

Volunteers – Clare is the Ambassador for a volunteer group which has been carrying out improvements on Black Harry Lane through work parties and partnership weekends.

Training for new LAF members – Gill gave a reminder about the DADLAF training which is taking place at the Hollingwood Hub in Chesterfield on 7 December. All members of this LAF are welcome to attend - it should be a good networking opportunity.

13. Date of next Meeting

Thursday 21st March 2013 at Aldern House, Bakewell.

The Chair wished everyone a Happy Christmas and thanked all for attending and their input.

The meeting closed at 1.15 pm.