

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 10 March 2016

Item: 9

Title: Access Update

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Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on issues related to the management of access in the Peak District.

Access Fund

The Authority's Access Fund (www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/accessfund) was set up in September 2014 as a means to provide funding for access improvements such as new paths and areas of access, opening up paths to other users, and improvements to surfacing, access points and signage. The first annual report was presented to the September 2015 meeting of the Forum.

At the December LAF meeting it was reported that donations/pledges have been made by Sheffield Campaign for Access to Moorlands, South Yorkshire and North East Derbyshire area of the Ramblers and the Clarion Ramblers. The Clarion Ramblers have also proposed that the proceeds of the sale of their handbooks be donated to the Access Fund. More recently a substantive donation has been made by Derbyshire Area Ramblers. Other initiatives and promotion of the Fund is also taking place.

A summary of the Access Fund is attached in Appendix 1.

Guidance

The Authority has prepared draft guidance on the creation of or alteration to tracks or their maintenance and the requirement to notify the NPA as the planning authority prior to works in order to determine whether planning permission is required. The Forum was invited to comment on the guidance and expressed their support for it.

Recommendation

- 1. That the report be noted.**

Appendix 1

Peak District National Park's Access Fund



The Peak District National Park's Access Fund provides the opportunity for individuals or groups to donate money to enable physical improvements to public access in the National Park to be carried out.

The fund allows improvements to the infrastructure of the Peak District National Park from the extensive network of public rights of way to the wilder areas of open access land and the routes linking these together. By focusing on improvements to access we are able to add value to the Authority's existing role to help protect and care for the National Park for the inspiration and enjoyment of all.

Access improvements include:

- new and upgraded access points on access land
- repairing paths on access land
- works associated with the dedication of new areas of access land and public rights of way
- new concession paths to improve links to existing access land
- replacement of stiles with gates on public rights of way
- upgrading and enhancements to path accessibility
- signage and leaflets.

The National Park Authority manages and administers the fund and is supported in its role by the Peak District Local Access Forum which is an independent body appointed to give advice and guidance.

Donations may be made by post, by phoning 01629 816379 and via the website at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/shop/donate. All donations of any amounts are very welcome and will be put towards access improvements throughout the National Park.

Annual reports drawing together the projects, donations and expenditure over the previous year will be published in September of each year. The reports are available at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/accessfund. Updates are also provided to the Local Access Forum meetings and in the Access Newsletters.

Further information is available at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/accessfund and includes a promotional video. Newsletters are available at www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/access.

Please contact access@peakdistrict.gov.uk if you'd like to discuss.