

## **Peak District Local Access Forum**

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**Item:** 10b

**Title:** Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Derbyshire  
Outline Work Programme for 2011/12

**Author:** Gill Millward/ Claire O'Reilly, Countryside Access  
Improvement Officer, Derbyshire County Council

### **Purpose of Report**

To present Forum members with an outline of the annual work programme for delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) during 2011/12.

### **Background**

Both Local Access Forums continue to play a crucial role in providing advice and guidance to the County Council on the implementation of the RoWIP. The annual work programmes which support the RoWIP's Statement of Action demonstrate how the Authority intends to implement the action points identified for countywide delivery through the RoWIP. They are subject to regular monitoring and an end of year progress report showing what has been achieved in relation to the targets and specific actions.

### **The Outline RoWIP Work Programme for 2011/12**

This report highlights the key areas of work which will form the focus for Year 5 of RoWIP delivery. The programme is very similar to last year's because no new initiatives were identified in the RoWIP for the final full year, as it was envisaged that time would be spent tying up loose ends for actions that had been running during the life of the Plan.

This report is also being prepared before the effects of impending budget reductions are known. These could affect both revenue and capital funding and possibly staffing levels. Once budgets have been agreed, a more comprehensive document, based on the format already agreed by the LAFs, will be produced and will describe all the proposed actions due to be delivered during 2011/12.

All the actions listed below are taken from the Statement of Action within the full RoWIP and provide a summary of the key work areas.

### **Aim 1: Ensure that the existing and future public rights of way network is open and available for use**

- Continue to carry out sample path condition surveys and provide information in line with the former national performance indicator BVPI 178
- Continue with roadside signposting
- Deliver a programme of paths needing surface repairs or improvements within the Local Transport Plan (LTP) capital maintenance programme if successful with the LTP bids
- Work with landowning organisations to address ploughing and cropping issues and other matters affecting land managers
- Continue to explore opportunities for LTP and external funding

### **Aim 2: Provide an up to date and widely available Definitive Map and Statement**

- Continue to work on the Derbyshire Dales District, publishing each parish on line as it is completed
- Deliver a detailed work programme for producing an up to date Definitive Map and Statement and for dealing with the backlog of legal orders, utilising the additional allocated staffing resources

### **Aim 3: Provide a more connected, safe and accessible network suitable for all users**

- Continue to develop the Pennine Bridleway National Trail through Glossop
- Continue to develop the Hopwell to Dale and Long Horse Bridge sections of the Midshires Way
- Deliver new schemes to provide additional routes and missing links or improved access to services and places of interest within the public rights of way network
- Target three new easy access links across the network
- Continue to improve path furniture
- Complete ten year review of East Derbyshire Greenway Strategy
- Depending on the availability of capital funding, continue to develop the Greenway network using funding through the LTP and via external funding opportunities, particularly to extend the Great Northern Greenway through Broomfield in Erewash
- Continue to investigate options to provide a route from Matlock to Bakewell linking into the Peak Cycle Project
- Develop Phase 2 of a new route for the Archaeological Way and investigate links to local communities and places of interest in the Bolsover area in conjunction with the Heritage Lottery funded Limestone Journeys project
- Progress sustainable management plans for a further 8 priority “red” routes within the Peak District National Park
- Develop two open access projects in conjunction with the LAFs (around the Buxton/Glossop area and to the north of Matlock)

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

- Continue to improve signage on the network, providing destination and distance information if requested
- Provide signs that clarify the status and usage of a path
- Improve the quality of information provided on DCC's web site and provide links to other relevant web sites
- Produce improved information to promote the County's Greenway network and easy access routes in general
- Focus more on the Health and Physical Activity agenda, to promote and encourage use of the PRoW network to increase participation in physical activity. Partners include Walking for Health initiatives, Jog Derbyshire and the Active Derbyshire Partnership

#### **Aim 5: Encourage greater community involvement in managing local rights of way**

- Continue to implement work with local councils through a Service Level Agreement with Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire to deliver work with parishes in the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales areas (including improvements to the Limestone Way) and also with Groundwork Creswell in the north east of the county
- Continue to work directly with user groups, volunteers (including BTCV) and Parish Councils to deliver added value to schemes

#### **Monitoring and Review**

- Review the content and layout of the existing RoWIP
- Carry out an issues and options consultation for Derbyshire's Second Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP2)
- Produce an outline for RoWIP2

#### **Recommendations**

That members note the key areas of work which will form the basis for delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan in 2011/12.