

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: Thursday 23 June 2016

Item: 7

Title: Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan –
Outline Work Programme for 2016/17

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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 2016/17.

Background

The annual work programmes identify how the Authority intends to progress delivery of the RoWIP in each year.

The Economy, Transport and Environment Department Service Plan and associated capital and revenue spend for 2016/17 was approved by Full Council on 13 April 2016. This helps considerably with RoWIP delivery and further details can be viewed here - see agenda item 17:

http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/meetings_decisions/meetings/full_council/1342016_council.asp

Outline RoWIP Work Programme for 2016/17

The report highlights the key areas of work which will form the focus for delivery under each of the five RoWIP aims. This year will see work commencing on the ten year review of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan due to be completed by November 2017. Efforts will concentrate on making a new assessment of the needs of different users and the extent to which the existing local rights of way network meets those needs.

It is our intention to work closely with both Local Access Forums, mainly through the joint RoWIP sub group, so we can draw on members' invaluable knowledge and expertise which will be used to inform any wider public/ stakeholder consultation. We will also be exploring links with other new and emerging plans and strategies, such as those associated with the Derbyshire Cycling Plan and the Government's Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy.

Aim 1: Ensure that the Public Rights of Way network is open and available for use

- Publish a revised Rights of Way Charter to guide the work of the PRow Service going forward. This will incorporate the new targets approved by Cabinet and take on board views expressed in the public consultation wherever possible
- Existing network: continue to carry out path condition surveys to report on the ease of use of the network. Target of 72.5% in 2016/17
- Signposting: let a contract to install at least 250 roadside signposts with details of destinations and distances where appropriate
- Path furniture: £20,000 is available to improve the quality of path furniture on the network, including more gates to replace stiles
- Surface improvements: £366,000 has been secured through the Local Transport Capital Programme (LTP) to deliver surfacing and drainage works on nine footpaths, three bridleways and routes identified in the Green Lane Action Plan which have been prioritised as being in most need of repair or which benefit most users

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

- Legal status: continue to work with Legal Services to process the backlog of legal orders and report progress on a quarterly basis
- Definitive Map and Statement: keep digital mapping up to date as further legal changes take place and finalise on-line statements for each path

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

- Bridleway routes: progress the dedication of two completed Greenway routes as public bridleways
- Pennine Bridleway National Trail: continue to develop the route between Monks Road, near Charlesworth and Glossop Road in Gamesley, subject to the continued availability of funding
- Connected routes: work with partners, including user groups and both Local Access Forums to create new bridleway links eg onto the Monsal and High Peak Trails
- Planning process: actively seek and monitor developer contributions available for PRow and Greenways, including ensuring that all current and future projects are recognised in the revised Derbyshire Infrastructure Plan
- Open access land: work with both Local Access Forums to improve access provision and signage on open access land around the Buxton and Matlock areas
- Greenway strategies: continue to work on piloting the Supplementary Planning Document which will identify opportunities for shared use routes

in South Derbyshire and contribute to the emerging cycling strategy for North East Derbyshire

- Greenway development: targeted 8km of new Greenways to be delivered in 2016/17, including further sections of the White Peak Loop and the Archaeological Way in Bolsover; Phase 3 of the Hipper Valley Greenway between Somersall Lane and Holymoorside; the Hilton Greenway Spur in South Derbyshire and Five Pits Trail Link to Corbriggs car park at Grassmoor, NE Derbyshire
- Other Greenway/Cycle projects include completing the Broomfield section of the Great Northern Greenway and continuing to work on the Jacksdale Bridge project, Leabrooks Railway, Clowne and Little Eaton Branch Lines
- Easy access routes: improvements costing £200,000 are to be carried out on sections of the Sett Valley Trail, High Peak Trail, Trans Pennine Trail, Denby Greenway and Ironville Greenway alongside Codnor Park Reservoir
- Investment: £1,533,000 has been directly allocated to Rights of Way and Access Projects within the 2016/17 LTP Capital Programme. We will continue to bid for further funding from the LTP, as well as exploring other external funding sources

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

- Healthy Lifestyles: continue to be represented on the Active Derbyshire Partnership and assist with delivery of the Active Derbyshire Plan, including promotion of the access network for healthy/active living, as well as liaising with Public Health and Walking for Health Officers
- Work with other partners such as Peak District National Park Authority, National Trust, Moors for the Future, National Forest, Sheffield Moors and Eastern Moors Partnerships to promote wider access opportunities which benefit tourism and the local economy
- Attend events such as Eroica Britannia (17-19 June) and the Woodland Festival (24-25 September) to promote the work of the Countryside Service/ Local Access Forums and highlight the access and outdoor recreation opportunities which Derbyshire has to offer
- Derbyshire Cycling Plan – Infrastructure and Connectivity: play an active role in the development of a Key Cycle Network across the county and the adoption of a Cycle Infrastructure Delivery Plan
- Cycle Derbyshire: update web based mapping and information, with a view to a possible future reprint of the leaflet
- Volunteering opportunities: keep the new webpage which provides an information portal for all aspects of volunteering with the Countryside Service for groups and individuals up to date and under review
www.derbyshire.gov.uk/leisure/countryside/volunteering/default.asp
- Easy access: follow up on suggestions from the DADLAF Accessibility Event for improving the provision of information eg use of video footage, better interactive mapping, links to other websites

- Responsible use: adopt the Peak District Trails “Share with care” good cycling code in any signage and promotion for the wider Derbyshire Greenway network

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

- Finalise the new Countryside Service Volunteer Policy for Working with Community Groups, including committee approvals and a wider public consultation
- Continue to increase the independence of existing groups and support new groups, including those representing cyclists and horse riders, as well as developing the potential for “Friends of Groups” as and when opportunities arise
- Following the success of the Green Tonic Project, establish a new Service Level Agreement with Groundwork Creswell to deliver access improvements/ habitat work along the Pennine Bridleway National Trail and Clowne Branch Line, as well as public rights of way in South Derbyshire and the High Peak, which also contribute to people’s health and wellbeing
- Monitor the outcomes of the existing Service Level Agreement with the Peak District National Park Authority which delivers a variety of repairs and improvements across the public rights of way network, including the work with different user groups to carry out surveying and routine minor maintenance of routes
- Develop a revised Minor Maintenance Scheme which provides Parish and Town Councils with greater flexibility to work on the rights of way network, based on the responses to a recent consultation
- Funding: £20,000 has been secured through the Local Transport Plan to enable local councils, community groups and volunteers to carry out improvements to local rights of way
- Volunteer contribution: coordinate and collate the number of volunteer days spent on countryside and access related projects – target of 3,000 volunteer days in 2016/17
- Work with landowners/managers/Local Access Forums to raise awareness of shared PRow responsibilities eg with regard to livestock, ploughing and cropping through press releases and guidance notes

Recommendation

That Forum Members note the key areas of work which will form the basis for delivering Derbyshire’s Rights of Way Improvement Plan in 2016/17.