

Peak District Local Access Forum

Date: 22nd March 2012

Item: 8

Title: Advice on Green Lanes issues

Author: Mike Rhodes and John Thompson

Context

The Peak District Local Access Forum is a statutory body, appointed jointly by the Peak District National Park Authority (PDNPA) and Derbyshire County Council (DCC), as the advisory body on access and recreation matters in the Peak District. From time to time the Forum may establish Sub-groups to consider and report back on (or act on if delegated), matters referred to them by the Forum.

In 2008, a **Vehicles Sub-group** was established by the Local Access Forum. The main purpose being to provide the Local Access Forum, the PDNPA, DCC and other relevant Highways Authorities with specific and detailed advice on matters relating to the management of vehicles in the Peak District.

In particular, the sub-group has contributed to the route management plans for the 24 priority green lanes identified by the PDNPA in 2007. Informal delegation to the sub-group allowed for site visits, consideration of issues, and a consensus to be adopted and reported to the full Forum. Since then, the group have met periodically to recommend actions on, and reviewed and monitored the actions on the top 16 routes, and has recently started inspections on the final batch of 8 routes.

The sub-group's advice has been extremely valuable and officers wish to retain this input.

A **Green Lanes Forum** evolved from various public meetings and was established with four facilitated meetings from October 2011 to February, 2012 which Edwina Edwards attended on behalf of the Local Access Forum. The aim was to try to engage with representatives of interested parties on this specific issue in a more constructive way. The four meetings held (independently facilitated by Yvonne Hosker) were a success in this aim.

The focus of the group was the management of motor vehicle use on and off routes and the combating of illegal use. The group provided a forum where "working level" representatives of the bodies with statutory responsibilities in this area could get together with interest groups and jointly determine factual information, monitor the success of existing initiatives and propose modifications or additional solutions for policy makers.

This paper looks at how to develop the work of these two groups over the next two years.

Proposal

Edwina Edwards and John Thompson (as Chair and Vice Chair of the LAF), met on 24th February with Mike Rhodes and Sue Smith and considered how to best approach this work and advice in future. They considered the scope for providing more focussed aims and outputs, achieving economies of scale by merging these two groups and the relationship with the full LAF and its appointing authorities.

Further discussions have been held with LAF sub-group members and senior officers of the NPA and a number of options have been explored, for example;

1. Discontinue the Green Lanes Forum
2. Retain the separate Green Lanes Forum and LAF sub-group roles
3. Merge the LAF vehicles sub-group and Green Lanes Forum for all advice on this issue.

However, we feel that the best option would be to retain the valuable work of the LAF vehicles sub-group for advice on route-specific actions, and to furthermore broadening its remit by inviting additional organisations/individuals from the Green Lanes Forum to specific meetings to look at the wider strategic issues.

Recommended option

← Formatted: Bullets and Numbering

The LAF vehicles sub-group will continue its work advising the authorities on the route action plans and offering recommendations for specific actions on these priority routes.

A new merged group (the Green Lanes Sub-Group) will meet to discuss wider strategic green lane issues, and report back to the full LAF to ensure accountability and balance.

Purpose & Terms of Reference of the new Green Lanes Sub-Group

The actions of the proposed Green Lanes Sub-group are intended to inform the Local Access Forum, the PDNPA, DCC and other relevant Highway Authorities on:

- The strategy, policy and procedures for the management of vehicles
- Reviewing communications and information, and actions against illegal activity.
- Monitoring action plans
- Consultation on any other matters where there are implications and/or opportunities for public access on green lanes
- Site meetings to look at route management issues

Membership of the proposed group

Chair: Local Access Forum Chair (Edwina Edwards), or Vice Chair (John Thompson)

Existing members of the LAF vehicles sub-group representing a balance of:

- Landowners/managers
- Vehicle users and other recreation user groups
- Conservation
- Local communities

The LAF members to continue on the new group would be John Thompson (who acts as Chair), Richard Entwistle, Henry Folkard, Charlotte Gilbert, James Kellie, Dick Peart & Sue Weatherley.

Additionally, some members of the Green Lanes Forum would be invited onto this new group, representing interests in this specific issue, but not currently represented on the LAF. They can also attend LAF meetings and speak if they wish.

It is recommended that these are;

Patricia Stubbs (Green Lanes Alliance), Chris Woods (Rocking the BOAT), John King (Friends of the Peak District), Chair of Peak Park Parishes Forum, an additional member of PDVUG, and a National Park Authority member.

Derbyshire police would be invited as advisors, together with PDNPA Rights of Way Officers, and other PDNPA and DCC officers as required. Other Highway Authorities and police may need to be invited for discussion of and visits to specific routes.

Frequency of meetings

Twice yearly, to deal with matters referred by the Forum and to enable reports to be taken back to Forum meetings.

Recommended option

That a Green Lanes Sub Group of the Local Access Forum be established as proposed above with LAF Members as listed, and invited representatives from the Green Lanes Forum and Advisers as indicated.