

Report on Letters to Constituent Authority Chief Executives on Resources, Rights of Way and Green Lanes Issues - John Thompson

Recommendation

1. To note the correspondence with Chief Executives of Constituent Authorities covering the Peak District LAF's area, copied to Secretaries/Chairs of adjoining LAF's and consider any further action desirable based on responses to date and any updates at the meeting.

Background

2. At the last meeting, responses to letters sent to the Secretaries of State for the Department of Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and the Department for Communities and Local Government were considered and further action agreed.

3. After discussion between the Chair and myself and liaison with Sarah Fowler as Chief Executive of the Peak District National Park Authority and Mike Rhodes, I prepared and sent letters from Edwina and I to all Constituent Authorities Chief Executives on 18 January. They covered the problems and effects of government cuts in resources on access, rights of way and recreation in and around the National Park. The responses to letters sent to government ministers were included for information and comment.

4. The letter to Sarah Fowler is attached and it covered issues drawn to the Government's attention and specifically Rights of Way Improvement Plan Reviews (ROWIP's) and Green Lanes Issues for awareness of all authorities. Support was sought from Constituent Highway Authorities in respect of these areas of work which are so crucial to the work and advice given by this Forum. We requested meetings where appropriate.

6. Mike Rhodes kindly circulated the letter sent to Sarah Fowler to the Secretary's of all adjoining LAF's to share with their Chairs.

Responses to Date

7. At the time of writing this report, there have been responses to the letters from Derbyshire CC, East Cheshire Council, Oldham MBC and High Peak B.C, Staffordshire Moorlands D.C and Derbyshire Dales.

8. Responses to all these helpful letters are being sent following discussion between Edwina, Mike and myself and Sarah Fowler is being kept informed. In some cases meetings are being arranged on key issues with highway authorities, and the first one is likely to be with Derbyshire County Council officers.

9. Responses are still being sought from Staffordshire County Council, Barnsley MBC, Kirklees MBC and Sheffield City Council as well as North East Derbyshire D.C. No responses have yet been received from any of the adjoining LAF's.

