

Peak District Local Access Forum

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Item: 9a

Title: Derbyshire County Council - Rights of Way Improvement Plan Outline Work Programme for 2012/13

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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 2012/13.

Background

The annual work programmes identify how the Authority intends to progress delivery of the RoWIP in each year. The current Action Plan for the RoWIP 2007-12 runs out during 2012/13 and a new five year Action Plan will be produced in November. This new Plan will be subject to specific consultation with the LAFs and key organisations assisting in the delivery of the action points and through a general public consultation exercise. This work programme will therefore identify the ongoing actions for 2012/13 and will be reassessed upon completion of the new Action Plan for 2012-17.

The Outline RoWIP Work Programme for 2012/13

This report highlights the key areas of work which will form the focus for delivery in 2012/13. In addition projects have been identified and budgets set within the third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) programme and within the Environmental Services Department Service Plan for 2012/13 to help with this delivery.

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 BVPI 178 survey. Target of 72.5% paths easy to use in 2012/13
- Work to the new Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Charter
- Continue with roadside signposting
- Deliver a programme of £280,000 of capital surface repairs or improvements within the LTP programme including improvements to the High Peak and Five Pits Trails, along the Chesterfield and Cromford Canal towpaths and to a minimum of three PRoW
- Work with landowning organisations to address ploughing and cropping issues and other matters affecting land managers

- Target £535,000 from LTP funds to be spent directly on RoWIP projects in 2012/13 and continue to explore opportunities for external funding, particularly with Natural England

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

- Publish the remaining areas of Derbyshire Dales and Chesterfield on-line and keep county wide information up to date as further legal changes take place
- Finalise Definitive Statements for paths affected by legal changes
- Deliver a detailed work programme 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

- Build two sections of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail through Glossop: Monks Road to High Lane and High Lane to Green Lane. Carry out preparatory work on third section from Green Lane to Glossop Road (via Dinting Wood)
- Complete two sections of the Midshires Way: Hopwell - Dale, Erewash and arrange for official opening of Long Horse Bridge, near Shardlow
- Identify four new schemes to provide additional routes or improved access to schools and local services within the public rights of way network including a new bridleway link at Borrowash, improvements to Matlock Footpath 18 to provide a route to Arc Leisure Centre and safe routes to schools in Holymoorside (Hipper Valley 3 Greenway) and New Bolsover Primary
- Continue to improve path furniture across the network
- Deliver two projects to improve the route of the Archaeological Way through Bolsover District and access to it from local communities
- Complete the review of the East Derbyshire Greenway Strategy
- Target 10km of new Greenways or other routes on the strategic cycle network to include work on the Great Northern Greenway at Broomfield
- Continue to investigate options to provide a route from Matlock to Bakewell linking into the Peak Cycle Project (Monsal Trail)
- Complete the review of the Policy on the Management of Motorised Vehicles in the Countryside

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 and clarifying the status and usage of a path
- Continue to improve the quality of the 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. Achieved by supporting Walking for Health initiatives,

the Active Derbyshire Partnership, Walking Festivals and through attendance at major shows and festivals in the County and the organisation of an events programme

- Support the National Forest in the development of the National Forest long distance trail in the south of the county

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 and Groundwork Creswell
- Continue to work directly with user groups, volunteers (including BTCV) and local community groups to deliver added value to schemes

Monitoring and Review

- Review the existing RoWIP (in conjunction with the joint LAF sub group)
- Produce a revised Action Plan for 2012-17 (in conjunction with the LAFs and following a public consultation exercise)

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 2012/13, prior to the completion of the new Action Plan for 2012-17.