

Peak District Local Access Forum

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Item: 6a

Title: Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan
Interim Progress Report for 2011/12

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Purpose of Report

To present Forum members with an update on progress towards delivery of Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) in 2011/12.

Progress to September 2011

Below is a summary of the main work in progress in relation to the five RoWIP aims:-

Aim 1 - Existing Network

- Aim 1a): work is continuing with the BVPI 178 surveys. May's sample survey resulted in a 72.1% pass rate, which falls just short of the 72.5% end of year target. All aspects affecting ease of use produced good pass rates (between 86.6% and 100%). Although there was a slight reduction in performance for waymarking, removal of obstructions, paths reinstated after ploughing/ cropping and the condition of stiles and gates, other areas of work, such as bridges, roadside signposting and surface condition improved on last year. The second half of the survey will be carried out in November 2011.
- Aim 1a): the Rights of Way Charter was formally approved by Cabinet in July and the PRow team has started to implement it.
- Aim 1a) ii: a contract has been issued to install 219 of the roadside signposts reported to be missing at the start of the financial year. Countryside area teams are dealing with a further 65 requests.
- Aim 1a): Surface improvements - work has been carried out to upgrade Footpath 19 in Matlock and to complete the resurfacing of the Stockley Trail near Bolsover.
- Aim 1e): £585,000 of Local Transport Plan (LTP) funds have been allocated to be spent directly on PRow or RoWIP projects.
- Aim 1e): External funding - a formal offer of £31,000 has been made by Natural England for a programme of surveys and design work required prior to the construction of sections of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail between Monks Road, near Charlesworth

and Glossop Road in Gamesley. A further £9,000 is being provided to help secure creation agreements with landowners on the Glossop section of the route.

Aim 2 - Definitive Map and Statement

- Aim 2: the four officers appointed on a temporary basis to assist with updating the Definitive Map and Statement and deal with the backlog of legal orders, have contributed effectively in both areas of work.
- Aim 2a) i: since April a further 281km of PRow have been accurately digitised. For the two remaining areas of the county, Derbyshire Dales is 60% complete and Chesterfield is 41% complete.
- Aim 2a) ii: 289 individual routes have been researched, surveyed and the Definitive Statement updated for each one.
- Aim 2b) i: public rights of way in the Borough of Amber Valley can now be viewed electronically on the County Council's website at <http://derbyshiremaps.derbyshire.gov.uk>
- Aim 2c) i & ii: in terms of dealing with the backlog of legal orders, 23 cases have been reported to committee, 15 progressed to order making stage, 15 orders confirmed and brought into effect and one referred to the Secretary of State for determination.

Aim 3 - Connected, safe and accessible network

- Aim 3a) iii: the contract to build a new section of the Pennine Bridleway through Gamesley Sidings and provide a link to the Trans Pennine Trail is out to tender and due to start on site in October.
- Aim 3a) v: Midshires Way – planning permission has been submitted for the Hopwell to Dale section and the contract is out to tender, with work due to start as soon as planning permission has been granted. Long Horse Bridge was lifted into place across the River Trent, near Shardlow in September with the linking Greenways due for completion by the end of the year.
- Aim 3 c) ii: Five “K” barriers have been purchased for Shipley Country Park to improve access for the tramper mobility scooters.
- Aim 3c) vi: improvements have been carried out to the Limestone Way south of Bonsall by Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire volunteers (links to Aim 5a).
- Aim 3d) iii: Footpath 37 linking Hayfield and Little Hayfield has been surfaced using LTP funds to provide an all weather route between the two settlements avoiding the busy A624 Glossop Road.
- Aim 3e): 9.35km of new Greenways have been added to the strategic cycle/Greenway network since April, including 9.1km on the Monsal Trail extension and a section of cycle route near the Casa Hotel in Chesterfield. Contractors are also on site building the new route of the Shallcross Incline at Whaley Bridge. A revised target of

15km has been set for 2011/12. It will not include Phase 2 of the Great Northern Greenway around Broomfield, near Derby as it has not been possible to secure the necessary finance this year.

- Aim 3e): Despite the failure of the Local Sustainable Transport Fund bids to develop walking and cycling schemes in the Chesterfield area and between Matlock and Buxton, work is progressing to implement a reduced scheme to link Matlock to Oker/Darley Bridge in 2011/12.
- Aim 3e) there has been no progress on the review of the East Derbyshire Greenway Strategy, or the dedication of Greenways as bridleways, due to the number of active projects that the Greenway Officer post is delivering this year.
- Aim 3f): Motor vehicles in the countryside – works are taking place on Chapel Gate between Rushup Edge and Edale. Some monies have also been given to the PDNPA to carry out smaller scale improvements with volunteers on other red routes within the National Park. DCC's review of its existing policy for the management of motor vehicles in the countryside is nearing completion and is due out for consultation this winter.

Aim 4 - Promotion and Publicity

- We are in the process of producing a “highlights” report for wider circulation. This will summarise the main achievements described in the 2010/11 end of year monitoring report which was circulated to both LAFs in June and reported to our Cabinet Member in August.
- Aim 4b): Easy access – an additional Trampler mobility scooter has been purchased. Trampers can now be hired at Tapton Lock, Middleton Top, Elvaston Castle and Shipley Country Park (where two scooters are available).
- Aim 4c) i: a new promotional banner has been produced to provide information about the county's countryside sites and Greenways.
- Aim 4c) vi: No progress has been made on implementing a path grading system for routes in the county although this information is being collected on the survey forms.
- Aim 4d) iii: the Cycle Derbyshire leaflet has been updated and both this and the Horse Ride leaflet have been reprinted. Both leaflets have continued to be very popular.
- Aim 4e) i: the Countryside Service has attended several large shows and events this year with the aim of reaching significant numbers of people to promote Derbyshire's countryside and the access network. These have included the Food and Drink Fair at Hardwick, Ashover Show, Chatsworth Country Fair and the Woodland Festival at Elvaston Castle.

- Aim 4e): the Erewash Valley Trail which provides a circular walking and cycling route on the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire border has been officially launched together with an associated leaflet. The County Council is a partner in this project.

Aim 5 - Community Involvement in local rights of way

- Aim 5a): we have continued to progress work directly with Parish Councils in association with the County Council's Ranger Service and with Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire and Groundwork Creswell. We are currently pursuing rights of way improvement schemes in the parishes of Bonsall, Chapel en le Frith, Chinley, Hayfield and Whaley Bridge.
- Aim 5b): as in previous years we are continuing to generate a considerable amount of volunteer input to public rights of way and access work across the county.

Recommendation

That Forum members note this interim progress report for delivering Derbyshire's RoWIP in 2011/12.