

## Briefing Note

### Peak District National Park Local Access Forum

Date of meeting 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Subject: **RoWIP Oldham MBC – second update**

Prepared by Terence Cavanagh

For: Members

Date: April 2011

#### 1.0 Introduction

Following the publication of the Peak District Local Access Forum annual report 2010, I thought it an opportune time to update members under the heading of “The Year Ahead”, on the progress being made in Oldham on the delivery of the Councils Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2008-2017.

#### 2.0 RoWIP 4 year progress March 2008 to March 2011

(i) The total length of the rights of way network in Oldham is approximately 440 kms and includes sections of both the Pennine Way and Pennine Bridleway National Trails. The number of paths from this total that are located within the Peak Park Boundary is shown below for information:

Bridleways 3.1 kms  
Footpaths 38.4 kms

(ii) The layout and style of Oldham’s RoWIP is in the main consistent with that adopted by Derbyshire County Council and so should be easier to monitor

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## 2.1 Summary of key achievements during the 4 year period 2008 - 2011, in relation to each of the five RoWIP aims

### **Aim 1 – Existing Network**

- Approximately 130 new or replacement signs installed across the borough (classified roads **metal**, minor roads **timber**)
- BVPI pass rate increased from 37% to 65%. In 2008/09, this and other local government performance indicators were subsequently discontinued by the audit commission
- 2 replacement bridges installed
- Seasonal strimming – number of paths being cleared of surface vegetation increased from approximately 130 in 2008/09 to 190 in 2010/11. Including the preparation of digitized location maps and excel spreadsheets for the 4 geographical contract areas
- Schemes being drawn up and starting to be delivered on the ground for the £25000 of LTP 3 funds allocated to the RoWIP and public rights of way projects in 2011/12 – Please refer to **appendix 1** to see a copy of the recently approved LTP3 Public Rights of Way strategy for Greater Manchester districts

### **Aim 2 - Connected, safe and accessible network**

- Upgrading of parts of footpaths 178 and 179 Dobcross Saddleworth to Bridleways
- Pennine Bridleway phases 1,2 and 3 – Widening, surfacing and drainage improvements between Greenfield and Holly Grove Dobcross (total worked lengths 2200 metres)
- Junction protection markings at Rumbles Lane and the A62 in Delph
- Upgrading of two footpaths as shared cycle routes

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- Replacement of approximately 10 difficult to use stiles with kissing gates ( including sites on the Pennine Way and Oldham Way)
- 4 kit stiles purchased on behalf of landowners
- Joint work with Kirklees MBC on the Dark Peak Pennine Bridleway link route at Standedge
- 10 other numbered paths and ways had planned improvements carried out = 2.7kms
- Work by the Council's Regeneration Team on mountain biking and horse riding routes at Lees Brook, Crompton Moor
- Huddersfield and Rochdale canal corridors

### **Aim 3 – Definitive Map and Statement**

- Digital version of the Definitive Map completed as joint Unity project – an example of the new style for the Dovestone area is shown at **appendix 2** which is due to be uploaded onto the Council's web site later this year
- Changes as a result of confirmed orders now possible to be made within four working days
- Paper copies of the 15 map sheets now provided to representatives of local groups along with an electronic version of the 810 written statements
- On line registers of definitive map modification applications and highways act declarations have been improved to be more user friendly – [see link below](#)
- Form of template agreed with the Council's Legal Officer for the outstanding back log of Legal Event Modification Orders
- Table of outstanding legal events compiled

[http://www.oldham.gov.uk/transport\\_streets\\_1/roads\\_highways\\_pavements/rights\\_of\\_way.htm](http://www.oldham.gov.uk/transport_streets_1/roads_highways_pavements/rights_of_way.htm)

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#### **Aim 4 – Promotion and Publicity**

- Consultation on the publication of a mountain bike map
- Publication of an Oldham Cycle Route Map – Part of a Greater Manchester project
- Improvements to the Medlock Valley Way
- Publication of Health Walks leaflets
- Annual Countryside Events Programme
- Consultation with the PBW national trails officer on a circular ride – Greenfield to Castleshaw
- RSPB Dovestones Project
- South Pennines Walking Festival – local walks and rides

#### **Aim 5 – Community involvement**

- Saddleworth Parish Council – path surveys
- Voluntary Rangers – task days = 20 days per year
- Rights of Way Volunteers supervised task days = 200+ hours including the purchase of a set of hand tools
- Work by officers from Street Scene – former canal towpath

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## **Other partners**

Annual grants from the Local Transport Plan and Natural England  
Shaw and Crompton Parish Council  
Saddleworth Parish Council  
The Ramblers  
The West Pennine Bridleways Association  
Peak and Northern Footpath Society  
Peak District National Park Authority  
British Waterways  
Oldham MBC Economy Places and Skills – Transport, Countryside  
and Regeneration  
Oldham MBC People Community and Society - Neighbourhoods  
Pennine Edge Forest  
Forestry Commission  
Oldham Play Partnership

End:

If any member wishes to discuss the contents of this briefing paper  
then please contact me in any of the normal ways.

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