

Peak District Local Access Forum

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Item: 8

Title: DCC Rights of Way Improvement Plan
Monitoring Report for 2009/10

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Purpose of Report

To present Forum members with the third annual monitoring report for delivering Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP) in 2009/10.

Monitoring Report

The third monitoring report, a full copy of which is attached, describes progress against all the proposed actions identified for countywide delivery through the RoWIP in 2009/10. Progress is also indicated visually through a "traffic light" system of colour coding.

The report sets out in detail the work that Derbyshire County Council and its partners have undertaken in relation to each of the specific actions. This includes ongoing work to improve the access network and make existing rights of way more accessible and how the RoWIP has spent the additional monies allocated through the Local Transport Plan and from other sources of funding.

Report Highlights

These are some of the highlights in relation to each of the RoWIP aims:

Aim 1: Ensure that the existing and future public rights of way network is open and available for use

- 73.4% of PRowS surveyed passed the ease of use test (BVPI 178) exceeding the target set for the year
- PRow Inspectors carried out a successful stile and gate campaign during September and October 2009
- 549 new roadside signposts were installed across the network and metal bridleway signs redesigned to incorporate user symbols
- £1.5 million in capital funding has been secured for access projects this year. The Countryside Service secured £581,000 of

external funding towards access projects, and £946,000 was allocated to access work from the County Council's Local Transport Plan and general capital programmes

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

- Work continued to provide a more up to date and accessible Definitive Map with 932km of public rights of way being accurately digitised in Amber Valley, Derbyshire Dales and Chesterfield
- Digital maps are available on the website for 5 districts and boroughs within the county - with paths in the three remaining areas being added as they are completed
- The availability of a new on line register providing information about temporary closures affecting PRowWs in the county has helped people plan their routes and visits
- Additional staffing resources have been secured to deal with the update of the Definitive Map and Statement and backlog of legal orders

Aim 3: Provide a more connected, safe and accessible network suitable for all users

- 14 new routes have been added to the Definitive Map that provide routes for horse riders and cyclists totalling 11.5km. 5 Bridleways have also been improved, totalling 4.7km
- The funding has been secured with Natural England for a further two years to develop the Pennine Bridleway National Trail through Glossop
- 3 schemes were completed to improve the quality of off road links between villages (linking the village of Winster to Elton and South Normanton to Hilcote) or to improve access to local schools, shops or public transport interchanges (in Doveridge)
- The PRow and access network has been made more accessible through the introduction of 4 tramper mobility scooters for hire and a new adult Changing facility built at Shipley Country Park under the Changing Places scheme
- 10.55km of new Greenways have been completed during the year, bringing the total length of Greenways in the county to 299km. A further 5 km of existing Greenways were upgraded to meet modern day standards

Aim 4: Improve the promotion, understanding and use of the Network

- A new leaflet has been produced to promote Horse Riding in Derbyshire
- Over 625 miles of DCC promoted routes have been inspected and minor works carried out to ensure that they are in good condition
- Increasing emphasis is being placed on work to ensure that the wider access network is promoted and used to benefit healthy walking and active lifestyles (including Cycling and Jogging)
- We have been encouraging projects involving new technology as a means of promoting the countryside such as downloading information onto MP3 players or mobile phones (Shaw Wood, Alfreton)
- An event on the Pennine Bridleway National Trail was held in association with Amber Valley Youth Service whereby 11 young people from Amber Valley, with little experience of horses, spent a day learning how to ride. They then rode along the Tissington Trail section of the Pennine Bridleway and cycled on the High Peak Trail section

Aim 5: Encourage greater community involvement in managing local rights of way

- The Countryside Service, either directly or through its partners, has been working actively with 13 parish or town councils to improve local path networks. A further 71 local councils have been utilising funding allocated under the Minor Maintenance Scheme for vegetation clearance, surface repairs and way marking of paths
- Volunteers worked for 981 days on projects to help improve access to local rights of way through agreements with BTCV, Peak Park Conservation Volunteers, Amber Valley Conservation Volunteers and individuals carrying out path surveys

Recommendation

That Forum members note the third monitoring report for delivering the annual work programme for Derbyshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan in 2009/10.