

## **Peak District Local Access Forum - Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

### **Cycling Strategy Update**

The Peak District National Park Authority would like to thank the Peak District Local Access Forum for submitting a response to the Wider Peak District Cycle Strategy Consultation.

The public consultation on the cycle strategy ran for 5 weeks in February and March 2014. We had a good response to the consultation, receiving 155 responses – 117 on the survey monkey questionnaire and 38 as letters or emails. We had a lot of responses from individuals, with the percentage breakdown of responders being as follows – individuals 53%, parish / town councils 15%, local authorities 13%, cycling / outdoor bodies 10%, businesses 6% and other bodies 4%. There was a lot of support for the cycle strategy, with 69% of respondents who answered that question feeling that they could support the strategy. There was a lot of support for the four themes, with 69-74% of responders who answered questions related to the themes feeling able to support each of them. There was also a lot of support for the actions that assist in delivering the four themes, with 68-80% of respondents who answered questions related to the actions agreeing that they were the right actions to deliver the theme. There was a lot of support with assisting the deliver the actions of the strategy, with 65% of responders answering that question stating that they could help to deliver them.

There was support for the strategy ambition, with 55% of respondents who answered that question agreeing that it was about the right level, 31% feeling it was not ambitious enough 31%, 10% feeling it was too ambitious 10% and 4% having no opinion. We discussed the ambition at the last steering group, to see if we should make any changes as a result of the consultation responses, and it was agreed that the ambition is at the right level, as it is aspirational as well as achievable. It was felt that achievable actions within the strategy are the most important thing, and if these are achieved, you set new ones. It was also agreed that as the partners represented on the steering group are the delivery bodies for the strategy, the steering group needed to be able to sign up to the ambition. In light of this discussion, we only propose one word change for the ambition, to replace the word 'great' with 'premier', so the revised ambition reads as follows.

**'To be one of *the* premier places to cycle...using the iconic landscapes of the Peak District as the inspiration for a diverse cycling experience for everyone, encouraging sustainable travel and delivering lasting health, economic and community benefits'.**

In terms of the open questions and emails we received, the content covered a number of common topic areas, with them being user management / conflict between user, safety, 'sanitisation' of routes, economic benefit / evidence base, mountain bike issues, connectivity, maintenance, Pedal Peak II scheme specific comments – concerns in Rowsley, Matlock and regarding the Hope valley Link, connections from trails to villages and public transport. A high level breakdown of the responses to the consultation can be found in Appendix A accompanying this report.

Since the consultation closed, we have spent time analysing the results and taking those that we can into account within the strategy and action plan. As there was a lot of support for the strategy, the changes we have made as a result of the consultation do not change the essence of the strategy, but add clarity and detail to the strategy. We have updated the front cover and design of the strategy using some new commissioned photos and the new corporate design.

The next steps for the strategy development are to take account of all comments made at this meeting, before a further revised version is taken to the officer level internal working group on 9 July, the steering group on 11 July and Strategy Advisory Group on 18 July. We will further revise the strategy to take account of comments made at all these meetings, and will then have a period in August and September where partners can gain internal approval for the strategy. Finally, we will seek internal approval for the strategy at the October Authority meeting.