Local Access Forum(LAF)
Tuesday 6 May 2025
Meeting held at the Yoredale, Bainbridge, Leyburn DL8 3EL.

Members present: Hannah Gardener(HG) (in the Chair)
Jon Beavan (JB) (Vice Chair), Lizzie Bushby (LB), Ian Clemmett (LCl), Leo Crone (LC), Abby Day (AD), , Charles Ecroyd (CE), Alex Law (AL),Mark Sutcliffe (MS)

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) officers present: Elliott Lorimer, Alan Hulme (Head of Parks Services) Rachel Briggs, (RB) and Rebecca Eslick (RE) (Committees Officer).

Member of the Public: None

The meeting started at 1.15pm.

25/01 Election of a Chair

The Director of Parks Services requested nominations for Chair.

Hannah Gardener was nominated for the position of Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

Resolved: That Hannah Gardner be appointed Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

Hannah Gardener in the Chair

25/02 Election of Vice Chair

The Chair requested nominations for Vice Chair

Jon Beavan was nominated for the position of Vice Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

Resolved: That Jon Beavan be appointed Vice Chair of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

25/03 Welcome and Introductions

All members introduced themselves to the meeting.

25/04 Apologies

Apologies were received from Jon Bucknall, Barbara Gravenor, Neil Heseltine., Malcom Petyt and Graeme Cowling did not attend.

25/05 Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 3 December 2024, were corrected to state the previous approved minutes were from 14 May 2024 and then approved as a true record of the meeting.

Matters arising

The **YDAF had recommended that** the Authority considers allowing blue badge holders to be able to park for up to 4 hours for free at any Yorkshire Dales National Park car park.
EL responded and explained that a full review of all the car parks is being undertaken following a change to the way that Government is funding National Parks. The settlement of revenue funding has reduced but an additional amount of capital funding has been added. The review will be looking at all car parks, in terms of capacity and efficiency, number and type of spaces and the proportion given to EV's. If Blue badge holders were provided with free spaces, there would be an impact on income. An overall assessment overall was required before a full response could be given.
A proposal will be brought to the back to YDAF after the review has been completed.

Completed action :RG has spoken to mapping contractor about adding street view.

Completed Action: RB Terms of Reference circulated – Agenda Item 9

25/06 Public Question Time

No public questions or statements had been received.

25/07 Future Forum Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 9 December 2025, 1.15 pm on Teams.

Future Agenda Items

- Walking routes on roads e.g. 3 peaks walk near Hill Inn. Consider traffic measures, identify sections (approx. 6) and make recommendations to NYC Highways for a response. Examples of road crossing routes pedestrian e.g. A590
- A visit to the Coast to Coast route – LAF Members and YDNPA Members

- Training Knowledge Sharing/Presentation - Fencing on open access land.

25/06 Review of Nominated LAF Members on groups linked to the Forum.

Resolved: That
a) the following LAF Members be added to the advisory groups
Access on Foot Advisory Group - Abby Day
Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group – Alex law
Cave and Crag Advisory Group - Ian Clemmett
Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group

and b) that each advisory group should meet at least once a year except Air Sports Advisory Group and Water Sports Advisory Group

25/08 Terms of Reference

A working group consisting of Rachel Briggs, Jon Beavan, Hannah Gardner and Alex Law met to review the Terms of Reference.

RB highlighted the main changes.
Some sections have to remain to include Defra Guidance. Some sections were merged to reduce the overall size of the document and reworded.

The Terms of Reference will be updated following comments.and will be approved at the meeting in December.

25/09 Public Rights of Way Annual Report

AH presented the key highlights of the report.

External funding of £1-5 Million had been received into the Rights of Way network ,£180k towards staff costs.

During 2024 a Member/Officer working group reviewed the Authority's delegated statutory highway duties and reported back to the Audit and Review Committee (November 2024). The report made the following recommendations which will be addressed in 2025/26.

I. Conduct an internal exercise to further investigate the establishment of a new approach to management of Rights of Way, based on a hierarchy of routes.

II. Further investigate opportunities to raise additional external funds to support management and maintenance of Rights of Way through a donation scheme e.g. Donate-A-Gate.

III. Work with Communications team to develop information (both online and print) for landowners on their and the Authority's roles and responsibilities in management and maintenance of Rights of Way.

AH will report back and update the LAF at the December meeting.

25/10 Yorkshire Dales National Park Active Travel Plan

EL provided an update on the Active travel Plan.
The draft Active Travel Plan is on the Yorkshire Dales National Park Website

A link to the consultation will be sent out to LAF members. The final draft will be considered at the Full Authority meeting on 24 June 2025

Resolved: That the YDAF would respond as a group and Hannah Gardner would formulate a response from members.

25/11 Officer's Report
Welcomed the following new members to the Forum: and welcomed back Alex Law and Barbara Gravenor for a further three year term.

- Ian Clemmett representing land management.
- Mark Sutcliffe representing volunteering, nature conservation and walking.
- Charles Ecroyd representing open access and landowners.

Peter Baggaley had resigned from the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum. On behalf of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority RB thanked Peter for his commitment to the work of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum and Advisory groups and wished him well for the future.

Authority Meeting Dates and Venues for 2025:

Date	Venue	Time
24/06/2025	Yoredale, Bainbridge	10.30
30/09/2025	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00
16/12/2025	Yoredale, Bainbridge	13.00

Accessibility at Aysgarth

- purchase of a second Tramper to be used on the site.
- The resurfacing and reprofiling of the tarmac footpath from the national park centre to the road crossing.
- Surfacing and drainage.
- Fencing of the public right of way to allow the landowner to farm in a sensitive way. .

Accessibility at Malham
Improvements include a more accessible indoor space, a sensory corner, and a new changing place facility. The third Tramper for the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority has also been purchased.

25/12 Update on Members' Activities
Hannah Gardner reported that the Active Travel group are meeting regularly.
Abby Day shared an article from the Craven Herald about the new changing places facility.
Ian Clemmett provided an update on the work of the project 'Heart of the Dales' that the National Trust are leading on. and a workshop that is coming up shortly.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 3:43pm.