Local Access Forum(LAF)
Tuesday 3 December 2024
Meeting held at the Dales Countryside Museum, Hawes

Members present: Jon Beavan (JB) (in the Chair)
Hannah Gardner (HG) (Vice Chair), Peter Baggaley (PB) Leo Crone (LC), Neil Heseltine (NH), Alex Law (AL).

Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority (YDNPA) officers present: Rebecca Greenfield (RG), Rob Ashford (RA), Angela Hobson (AH), Rachel Briggs, (RB) and Rebecca Eslick (RE) (taking the minutes).

Member of the Public: Ruth Annison

The meeting started at 1.15pm.

24/26. Welcome and introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and all Members and Officers gave a brief introduction of themselves.

24/27. Apologies

Apologies were received from Jon Bucknall, Abby Day, Rachel Forsyth, Barbara Gravenor, Malcolm Petyt, Lizzie Bushby and Graeme Cowling.

24/28. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 14 May 2024, were approved as a true record of the meeting.

There were no matters arising that were not already covered by items on the agenda.

24/29. Public Question Time

No public questions or statements had been received.

24/30. Future Forum Meetings

The next meeting will be held on

Tuesday 6 May 2025, 1.15 pm @ Yoredale, Bainbridge
Tuesday 9 December 2025, 1.15 pm @ Teams meeting

24/31. Future Agenda Items

None

24/32. Report back from Advisory Groups

An update report had been circulated prior to the meeting with minutes from both the Bridleways and Restricted Byways (BRBAG) and The Green Lanes advisory groups were included.
Members noted that several groups had not met for some time and those that had met the attendance was low. Some groups only meet when a matter arises.

AL suggested that there may be a new landowner who might be interested in joining HG agreed to contact them to join the BRBAG
AL mentioned that a few issues had occurred in the Arkengarthdale area and a date for the next meeting would be in the diary shortly.

NH noted that the Access for All group hadn't met for 4 years RB responded that a date had been pencilled in but was now being rearranged RB to find a new LAF member to lead the group.

24/33. Coast to Coast – Presentation by Angela Hobson

AH gave an updated presentation on the Coast to Coast. 3 Officers are involved alongside the Recreation and Access team, Rangers, Volunteers and the Legal staff.

16 Legal Orders will be made to tidy up the route in the form of Diversion Orders and Creation Agreements.

Completion of practical works for path surfacing, bridges and furniture infrastructures will be required. Working with wider partner organisations, for example,Natural England, the British Horse Society, cycling UK and landowners has been essential to implementation of the project..

The route is expected to be be mapped and available on the National Trails website. All current National trails can be downloaded as GPX file from this website.

The first sign has been installed on 1st October 2024, and it is expected that all signage/ way markers will be installed by Spring/Summer 2025, (except those on routes affected by legal works)

Sourcing the reclaimed flagstones has been a significant challenge, a new product that AH has sourced is from reclaimed large millstones that can be cut to order – known as 'reflamed'. This is manufactured from the large reclaimed stone blocks from mills, cut into flags then the surface is treated to give a 'natural' weather finished. All materials to complete works are now secured and deliver will commence in January 2025, with the airlift resuming Jan/Feb2025 prior to bird season.

Tapping boards will be fitted to newly installed boardwalks to facilitate accessimprove accessibility . The path will be 900mm wide along the whole section, passing places added where appropriate and extra materials allow
All the works have been completed by YDNPA Rangers. There have been separate contracts with the helicopter contractor etc..

Each Trail in England and Wales has a 'Trail Partnership', the partnership is made up of the local authorities that the national trail passes through. . Usually there is a

dedicated National Trail Officer or Manager with responsibility for keeping the Trail up to the high standards set for National Trails

It is envisaged that a National Trail Partnership will be set up to manage the Coast to Coast Path post the completion of the capital works, this partnership is expected to receive funding from Natural England,. A local match contribution is required, equivalent to at least £1 for every £3 provided by Natural England.
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Several Local Access Forum Members raised the issue of public conveniences along the route. AH responded that at the moment there isn't any funding for signposting the nearest toilets but recognised this was an issue and it has been raised with Natural England at the technical group meetings.

The official opening of the route will be April 2026. The presentation can be viewed here

24/34. Miles without Stiles survey – presented by Rachel Briggs

RB introduced this item and presented a summary of key results for each route and information about where respondents were interviewed for each route.

During the interview respondents were asked if they had any comments they would like to make about the route they were on.

They were also asked if they would like to share information about their experience after they had used the route, for example what they had enjoyed on the route and whether they had encountered any challenges. Respondents who wanted to do this were provided with a QR Code and a website link to give feedback online once they had used the route. A total of 32 respondents gave feedback online.
The presentation is available to view here

The LAF were asked for ideas for increasing use of these routes. After a discussion by the Members, Jon Beavan proposed and it was seconded by Hannah Gardner to make a recommendation to the Full Authority as follows:

Resolved: To recommend 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.

The recommendation was approved by all Members present**.**

Action: All Members with any new 'Miles without Stiles' suggested routes to Rachel Briggs.

Action: Rebecca Greenfield to feedback the Recommendation to Alan Hulme (Head of Parks Services/Elliott Lorimer Director of Park Services

HG suggested the possibility of adding a 'street view' of the routes to the maps similar to 'The Disabled Rambler' RG agreed to discuss with the contractor.

Action: Rebecca Greenfield to raise with the mapping contractor adding street view to the MWS routes.

24/35. Officer's Report

Members were asked to look at the large scale events guidance which is under review
Large-scale events - Yorkshire Dales National Park : Yorkshire Dales National Park

Action: All Members were asked to send comments to Rebecca Greenfield by 14 January 2025 on the Large Scale Events Guidance

After the meeting of the YDAF on 14 May 2024, the Terms of Reference for the forum were circulated for comments. Thank you to those members that submitted comments. In order to establish a useful document, it was suggested that a small group of members meet to work through the document outside the full forum setting.

Members nominated themselves to the group and include Jon Beavan, Hannah Gardner and Alex Law.

Action: Rachel Briggs to recirculate the LAF Terms of Reference

RB agreed to update Members in the Officers Report about the Hawes to Garsdale route.

24/36. **Update on Members' Activities**

HG advised LAF Members that there was a consultation out from Active Travel England and the deadline was 16 December 2024.

AL had attended a Site Visit with Rangers and other cycling, walking and horse-riding representatives at bridleway 9 in Arkengarthdale.It was a very positive meeting and all agreed on actions. Concerns were raised about making it accessible and a group of volunteers will be involved in widening and adding passing places.

LC had a ride out with Richmond Police Force looking at specific issues on Green Lanes in particular 4 x 4 vehicles damaging gates. He advised the group to ring him if they see a problem and take a photo of the registration plate if possible and he will pass on to the police.

AH Discussions were taking place with Maske Parish Council about specific issues with the Coast to Coast route possibly moving it off road at the point where it leaves the village.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 3:20pm.