

Yorkshire Dales Access Forum – 24 November 2020

Report Back from Yorkshire Dales Advisory Groups

Advisory Group Meetings

At the May 2007 meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum, a paper was presented on the establishment of advisory groups to look at individual recreational activities. The remit of these groups is to:

- exchange information, and provide a formal mechanism for communication and raising issues of concern amongst users, the YDAF, and other interests;
- advise on the management of specific matters.

The following arrangements have been made for the meetings of the groups:

Access on Foot Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Access on Foot Advisory Group was 10 March 2018. The next meeting of the Access on Foot Advisory Group has yet to be confirmed.

Access for All Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Access for all Advisory Group was on 6 November 2020. The minutes can be seen in **Appendix 1**. The next meeting of the Access for All Advisory Group has yet to be confirmed.

Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory Group was on 26 June 2019. The next meeting of the Bridleways and Restricted Byways Advisory has yet to be confirmed.

Cave and Crag Access Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Cave and Crag Advisory Group was on 8 July 2019. The next meeting of the Cave and Crag Access Advisory has yet to be confirmed.

Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group

The last meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group was 22 November 2019. The next meeting of the Yorkshire Dales Green Lanes Advisory Group has yet to be confirmed.

Air Sports Advisory Group

The next meeting of the Air Sports Advisory Group will convene when a matter arises.

Water Sports Advisory Group

The next meeting of the Water Sports Advisory Group will convene when a matter arises.

Rachel Briggs
Access and Recreation Officer
November 2020

Appendix 1

Unapproved Minutes of the Access for All Advisory Group meeting Held on Friday 6 November 2020 Lifesize

Present:

Andrew North (AN)
Debbie North (DN)

J Smith (JS)
David Shaftoe
Geoff Pardoe
Rachel Briggs (RB)

Nigel Metcalfe (NM)

Dales Volunteer
The Outdoor Guide/Yorkshire Dales
Access Forum/Dales Volunteer
Where to Walk
Open Country
Bendrigg Trust
Yorkshire Dales National Park
Authority
Yorkshire Dales National Park
Authority

Apologies:

Nicola Brown (NB)
Mike Stephenson (MS)
Phil Woodyer (PW)
Roy Emmerson (RE)

1. Welcome and Apologies

DN welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Approval of the notes of the last meeting

The notes of the last meeting were approved.

3. Membership of the Group

DN asked that members consider membership of the group and how it can be extended. Members of the group thought that the following could be represented on the group:

- Accessible accommodation provider e.g. the Beamsley Project, Cottage in the Dales, YHA.
- People with hidden disabilities such as visual or hearing impairments.
- People who are involved with getting groups out into the national park.

Members felt that membership should not exceed 8.

RB to invite others to sit on the Access for All Advisory Group.

4. Updates

Debbie North – DN has been completing the audits of the Miles Without Stiles routes in the national park.

DN and RB have had an interesting meeting with Countryside Mobility which covers the south west of England. They provide a network of Trampers for businesses to lease. Whilst this model wouldn't necessarily work for the Yorkshire Dales, it has raised the issue once more of how to get more wheelchairs for hire in the national park. JS said that it requires funding and someone to run it. He has a list of potential funders from his tourism network and he will circulate it to the group.

JS to circulate a list of potential funders to RB to circulate to the group.

Open Country – DS has been working on the Breakfree packs of manual wheelchair accessible routes in Yorkshire.

5. Miles Without Stiles

RB has produced more miles without stiles (MWS) routes which are to be advertised on the website. These have been produced with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund funded Stories in Stone project. Members felt that this needed shouting about as this is a good resource with some fantastic routes. It was suggested that an event take place during Summer 2021 to celebrate accessibility of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

6. Changing Places

DN told members that she had written a proposal to get a changing place in the Yorkshire Dales National Park as there isn't one currently. The nearest ones are in Skipton, Northallerton and Ripon. She has also approached Kirkby Stephen as they are looking at refurbishing their toilets. All agreed that this was a fantastic idea and suggested looking at Richmondshire District Council or North Yorkshire County Councils' locality fund for match funding to the YDNPA's budget.

7. Member roundup

DN mentioned the Welcome to Yorkshire 'Accessible Yorkshire' initiative. She was disappointed that members were not aware of this and that the 2 National Parks in Yorkshire had not been asked to contribute.

DN asked that when events are being organised in the National Park, that accessibility is considered from the beginning and not as an add on. This would include the popular Dark Skies festival and the Cheese festival.

During period of lockdown the Bendrigg Trust has been closed to visits and hasn't had any groups in since November 2019. This has had an obvious affect on the viability of their business and they are now looking for community support in the way of funding. It was agreed to spread this message where possible.

NM has been working on the resurfacing of the MWS route at Cotter Force.

Thanks were given to the group for attending the meeting. A further meeting will be arranged within the next six months.