

**Minutes of the Cumbria and Lakes Joint Local Access Forum meeting  
held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at Bampton Memorial Hall**

<b>Attendees:</b>					
Charles Ecroyd (Chair)	CE	Jonathan Brooks	JB	John Crosbie	JC
Geoff Davies (LDNPA)	GD	Mohammed Dhalech	MD	David Gibson (CCC)	DG
Mairi Lock (LDNPA)	ML	Chris Lyon	CL	Ron Lyon	RL
Kathy Miles	KM	Emma Moody (LDNPA)	EM	Dave Pickup (LDNPA)	DP
Steve Pighills	SP	Ken Taylor	KT	Cllr Helen Wall (CCC)	HW
Geoff Wilson	GW				
<b>Apologies:</b>					
Carole Barr (Vice Chair)	CB	Cllr Nick Cotton (CCC)	NC	Ben Mayfield	BM
Mike Murgatroyd	MM	Sylvia Woodhead	SW		

**1 Welcome**

Charles Ecroyd welcomed everyone and gave a special welcome to Emma Moody, Lead Strategy Adviser, Recreation and Sustainable Transport, to her first LAF meeting.

**2 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received as recorded above.

**3 Public Participation**

Representations had been received from three members of the public.

**3.1 Horse Access Campaign UK** – Since Hannah Gardner’s letter was received by the LAF in January, she had met with CB and Richard Fox. LAF members had all had sight of the letter and some commented on it. Newton Fell appeared to be where the main problems are. As CB had been unable to attend the LAF meeting, CE would send a holding letter to Ms Gardner / HAC UK, but would first contact CB and ask how that meeting had gone. **CE**

**3.2 Lakeland Gateway** – John Daffern was unable to attend the LAF meeting and had sent details of the project, including problem areas and a map, to Mike Murgatroyd who in turn had passed these on to Sylvia Woodhead in the south of the county.

LAF members heard from Emma Moody that this was not something that the Lake District National Park could prioritise at present. The advice for Mr Daffern was to consider connectivity of the trail with bus routes, and try to source some funding locally for furniture. The project had been noted and was on the list.

KT had a lot of experience of putting together routes and would contact Mr Daffern. **KT**

**3.3 Paddle Sport** – The LDNPA wished to work closely with Cumbria Canoeists. British Canoeing has a new access charter. DP wondered if it would be useful to have a representative from Cumbria Canoeists on the LAF. KT and JC were able to clarify that CC was part of the larger body. KT’s view was that there was no right of access on the water, but only on the land beneath. Both LAFs had in the past had working groups dealing with access to and access on water.

JC had some experience with access to water and access for people with disabilities. He had been in touch with CC lately and informed them that he sits on the LAF and could take some of their concerns to the LAF. JC had offered his help on the River Crake the previous year.

Any new members would have to have broader interest and/or knowledge than just their own particular interest.

#### **4 Disclosure of Interest**

As a member of the LDNPA ROW Committee, GD disclosed an interest in Tilberthwaite and in Seathwaite car parking.

There was no other disclosure of interest by any member in relation to agenda items other than as disclosed previously.

#### **5 Exclusion of Press and Public**

There was no requirement to exclude members of the public or the press.

#### **6 Membership**

No applications for membership had been received. Nothing further had been heard from Lake District mountain bikes.

#### **7 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019 meeting were agreed with amendments as follows:

Replace "SP" with "KT" in 8.4 Seathwaite Parking

Amend 9.3.3 to read:

SP had looked at three routes closed due to storm damage and the necessity for tree removal. There was to be a public inquiry relating to Mosedale to Carrhead Ford in April 2019. Trail-riders would not contest it.

GD reported that the ROW Committee had made a decision relating to the case at Rosgill: the routes would become bridleways.

#### **8 Matters Arising**

**8.1 8.1 Logo and Website** – DP will need to speak with CB.

**8.2 8.3 Grange railway crossing** – DG was waiting for detail from Network Rail to get the order officially made to close the railway crossing and make the underpass route.

**8.3 8.4 Seathwaite parking** – EM advised that parking at Seathwaite had been well managed on Remembrance Sunday and in general there had been messages put out to manage the parking there.

RL reminded that the top of Great Gable, together with 11 other summits in the Central Lakes, was purchased by the Fell and Rock Climbing Club and presented to the National Trust in 1923 as a memorial to members that fell in the Great War. A plaque was subsequently erected in the summit cairn and remained until recently when it was replaced by a new plaque which was dedicated on the club's annual Remembrance service on the summit.

RL understood that there had been no problems with parking at Seathwaite this year.

[further information at <https://www.frcc.co.uk/the-memorial-for-the-great-war-1914-to-1918-2/>]

- 8.4** 8.5 **Tilberthwaite** – DP reported that the two drop-in sessions had been well attended and provided a lot of useful feedback. People were complimentary about the work carried out.

GD confirmed that this would go to the Lake District ROW Committee in October.

- 8.5** 8.6 **Access to Water** – The LDNPA digital leaflet was not yet finalised. An answer was still awaited from Rydal Estates on access to their water, as there is a dispute about the boundary between Lowther and Rydal estates.

- 8.6** 8.7 **GDPR** – This was in hand and KM would need to complete a short online course before receiving permission to log on to the CCC system to do LAF work.

## **9 LDNPA Access and Recreation Priority Projects**

EM provided an update on access and recreation priority projects and went through the individual projects involved, describing progress on each, including some of the problems as well as a lot of positive responses from locals. Some projects are large-scale and take a lot of resource. Others need less resource and can be completed more quickly.

KT raised the matter of the surfacing on the Keswick to Threlkeld route. Tarmac is not suitable for horse-riding and walkers do not like it. JB mentioned correspondence in the Keswick press opposing the tarmac. Highways England are funding the route and their policy is to only fund sealed routes. DG suggested writing with a positive spin and suggesting a sealed surface rather than tarmac. LAF members agreed that CE would write a short letter to **CE** EM making the points raised.

EM highlighted the fact that this had never been a bridleway. It was a permitted footpath with rights for cyclists. It is part of the cycle network and a Sustrans route. There had been a consultation which specified a tarmac surface for the new path.

RL asked if there was an official (legal) definition of 'multi-user', to which DG replied that there is no such thing.

GW suggested that it be made more specific about which users a route would be suitable for.

GD thought that it was generally understood that this route was for walkers and cyclists.

## **10 LAF Work Programme**

### **10.1 Cumbria Access and Recreation Strategy (CARS)**

CARS had been in abeyance following David Robinson's departure. It was due for renewal in November 2019 and DG would be talking to both National Parks.

### **10.2 Fell Fencing Project – update**

GW's response to PINS on the Askham and Helton consultation had been circulated to members. He had taken the opportunity to introduce the LAF's most recent policy on woodland planting and will be interested to see whether this is taken on board.

DP had reminded NE that the LAF has to be consulted.

An Agricultural Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is now necessary on common land for over 2,000 metres of fencing.

### **10.3 Inspections and recommendations on Rights of Way consultations – Members’ reports**

10.3.1 SP reported on four consultations in the Lake District. Two were temporary path closures due to the West Cumbria Pipeline Project and were acceptable. Another temporary closure of part of the Muddocks Path, generally accepted as for the good, was agreed by the LAF as an acceptable action. A potential diversion of a bridleway and extinguishment of part of a footpath at Dunmallard car park, Pooley Bridge was agreed as a sensible proposal.

10.3.2 SW had reported that there had been no PROW diversion requests in South Cumbria since the last LAF meeting, and that several Orders had been made.

She had also passed on for LAF members to items of news. The first about the Dallam Estate criminal charges that “the one person who took the alleged criminal damage against Dallam all the way in protesting his innocence has at his recent trial had the CPS drop all the charges against him” and that there was concern remaining about police harassment over this alleged trespass. The second was about the concerns of the Cumbria Bridleway society over the announced plans to tarmac the Keswick to Threlkeld railway path.

10.3.3 MM had sent a report on four site visits on behalf of the LAF. The first concerned a bridleway diversion and upgrade in the Wetheral area necessitated by dangerous subsidence. Although not ideal because the diversion necessitated some road use, recommendation for approval was given as preferable to route closure on health and safety grounds.

Two retrospective footpath diversions were recommended for formal approval. An application to regularise a currently and historically used footpath running from the heart of Culgaith village, adjacent to the parish church to the railway station was also recommended for approval.

### **10.4 Table of consultations from the previous quarter**

In progress – to be carried over to the next meeting.

### **10.5 Recent, current or upcoming consultations**

#### **10.5.1 LDNPA car parking policy consultation**

The LDNPA Local Plan consultation, including vehicle parking for sustainable transport, would run until 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Public examination would take place in the autumn.

#### **10.5.2 Carlisle Southern Link Road**

DG reported that CCC had been successful in obtaining support for the Carlisle Southern Link Road (CSLR). He felt it may be useful to set up a meeting with Capita Symonds over which ROW can be extinguished or re-routed and suggested a LAF representative could be invited. The Garden Village and southern bypass were not linking up very well at present. The LAF would be updated at the July meeting.

### **10.6 Lake District National Park Partnership**

The LDNPA’s State of the Park report should soon be available.

### **10.7 North Pennines AONB Partnership Access and Recreation Working Group**

GW reported that this was a well-attended meeting with a wide-ranging agenda, not all relevant to Cumbria. The two main areas raised were multi-day routes linking to the South Tyne railway route.

## 10.8 Annual Review of documents owned by the LAF

GW volunteered to tidy up one of the documents, the LAF Work Priorities, together with CE before the next meeting.

**GW**  
**CE**

## 10.9 LAF annual report

This was awaiting the Chairman's foreword.

## 11 Members News

11.1 HW reported on a footpath between Furness Abbey and Barrow, which was also a cycleway. Locals had told her that the farmer was making difficulties for people going through his farm.

DG added that this was part of the Roose route and that where people are on the designated path they are free to walk, run and cycle. The broken gates would be addressed if the route through the farm is a PROW. DG to look into the matter and report back to Cllr Wall.

**DG**

11.2 RL and CL had attended the Morecambe Bay Partnership "More to Explore Project Open Day". There were a number of speakers on different aspects of the work of the Partnership including the official launch of their Trammer routes for the disabled with points around the bay where these off road mobility scooters can be hired. RL and CL had assisted in the development of disabled knowledge in the Morecambe Bay team and selection of routes.

11.3 SP reported on the BOAT between Sadgill and Kentmere; this had suffered a large boulder being dislodged onto the track by wet weather. TRF and GLASS funded repair costs, plus enough to do some pitching and improve the line at the Sagill gate. Ranger David Switzer is planning the work. In the meantime the route is passable.

11.4 JC's work with the Institute of Outdoor Learning continues to encourage responsible use of the outdoors by outdoor centres and other providers. This includes the support of the National Trust land-use licence agreements – which is deemed controversial by a number of providers.

11.5 GW reported on two villages one mile apart, with no safe pedestrian access between them, Lazonby-Kirkoswald. There was a negotiated permitted path between the villages but people were letting dogs run free in a field and as a result the farmer has withdrawn permission.

11.6 JB recorded his personal concerns about the level of Derwent Water which if too low prevents the launch from running.

## 12 News from National and Regional Access Bodies

12.1 National LAF Conference – nothing further to report

12.2 NW Regional LAF – The next meeting is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> May.

12.3 Highways England – A66 upgrade (Penrith to Scotch Corner)

CE had been shown the proposals for dualling, but these were currently embargoed. They would be on public display in May. In Cumbria these are where would be expected. There are a lot of contentious issues further east, for the North Yorkshire Access Forum to deal with. DG observed that the bridleway crossings near Scotch Corner are not at all suitable. He felt that the Cumbria topography allowed for underpasses to be put in. He thought there would be a lot to be gained from working with the landowners and farmers who would also need to be able to cross the upgraded A66. CE mentioned the Warcop stretch as well.

### **13 Coastal Access update**

DG reported that there was still no change on Stretch 3, still awaiting the Secretary of State's decision. CE asked why the SOS was taking so long to make a decision on Stretch 3. DG replied it was to do with habitat regulations.

In Stretch 2, a route alongside the railway, to the south of Sellafield had been agreed. There was also a dispute over boundaries as to who owns the land involved in one area. Signage was being looked at.

NE were hoping for the report on Stretch 5 to go forward very soon, but there were still four or five points of concern which needed to be resolved. The Morecambe Bay Partnership are now trying to sign the path as the Morecambe Bay path, but at present they do not meet the criteria to sign a path.

### **14 Authority Work Programme Updates**

#### **14.1 Cumbria County Council – Countryside Access Team**

Flood recovery – The Canal and River Trust had a reprieve until next October in respect of the Stainton Aqueduct, but there was still a shortfall in funding.

ROWIP – going on well. £100k had attracted £60k; and a further £90k from other sources. The target of £1m match-funding had not been met.

PROW management – now being pushed to lessen the number of parishes that needed to be rolled over to the next year.

National Trail Maintenance Programme – there had been a big push on bridges on the Hadrian's Wall Trail last year. They may now be working out of county generating funding for Cumbria, as a result of having done such a good job on the HW bridges.

Major bridges – The programme is fully committed and LDNPA major structures are being inspected.

Mapping Orders – Outstanding mapping orders backlog has been reduced by 60%.

#### **14.2 Lake District National Park Authority**

DP followed on from EM's presentation/update. The Haverthwaite/Backbarrow crossing points on the A590 could be interesting for the Forum to watch. From a ROW point of view, this would be a real gain, linking areas on either side.

Routes to Resilience had come to an end, though there was still a great deal more to be done. A huge amount had been achieved. He would update again in due course.

### **15 Ongoing Infrastructure Projects**

**15.1 Thirlmere water pipeline** – SP had already updated on path closures due to the West Cumbria Pipeline Project.

**15.2 Moorside** – No further action required. Agreed to take this item off future agendas.

**15.3 Northwest Coastal Connection** – as above.

## **16 Training Session Feedback**

- 16.1** Site visit – LAF members enjoyed a stroll along the recently extended path which runs from the Memorial Hall alongside the road for a couple of hundred metres. It is separated from the road by a hedge and now provides direct access to a riverside path and is much appreciated by locals who no longer have to walk along an unsafe stretch of road. This site visit was led by Rangers Val Edmondson and Suzy Hankin who had been closely involved in the project and who were able to inform the LAF about the issues that had needed to be addressed to achieve these improvements. CL and RL made some useful observations in relation to wheelchair use, supported by others present who advised of alternative surfacing material in one particular problem area.
- 16.2** World Heritage Site – LAF members heard an informal presentation from Mairi Lock, World Heritage Site Coordination Officer, on WHS considerations.

## **17 Dates of Future Meetings**

The date of the next meeting was noted: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

31<sup>st</sup> October was proposed for the following meeting – to be confirmed at the July meeting.