

**Minutes of the Cumbria and Lakes Joint Local Access Forum meeting
held on
Thursday 31st October 2019 at Murley Moss, Kendal**

Attendees					
Charles Ecroyd (Chair)	CE	Jonathan Brooks	JB	Carole Barr (Vice Chair)	CB
Mohammed Dhalech	MD	Ben Mayfield	BM	David Gibson (CCC)	DG
Mike Murgatroyd	MM	Chris Lyon	CL	Ron Lyon	RL
Kathy Miles	KM	Emma Moody (LDNPA)	EM	Dave Pickup (LDNPA)	DP
Sylvia Woodhead	SW	Geoff Wilson	GW		
Apologies:					
Steve Pighills	SP	Geoff Davies	GD	Vicky Hughes	VH
John Crosbie	JC	Helen Wall	HW		

1 Welcome

CE opened the meeting and welcomed members

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received as recorded above. The meeting noted Vicky Hughes had been appointed Deputy Chair of the LDNPA Rights of Way Committee.

3 Public Participation

No representations had been received from the public.

4 Disclosure of Interest

There were no disclosures 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

DG informed the meeting of a recent application to the LAF someone with mountain biking interests.

It was agreed that they would be invited to an informal interview.

Discussion took place about how best to interview potential members going forward and it was agreed to work up how recruitment would be formalised once the SWOT analysis from the morning session was finalised but a more informal approach was better.

**DG
CE
CB**

7 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 16th of July 2019 were approved.

8 Matters Arising

- 8.1 Logo and Website – to be finalised by end of November.

*DP/
CB*

Letter template – comments by end of November.

- 8.2 Grange railway crossing – Order now made and objections received. CCC now considering the next steps and this should be decided early November.

- 8.3 Tilberthwaite – GW updated the meeting on the outcome of the Rights of Way Committee meeting of the LDNPA on the 8th of October when the recommendations from the Officer were accepted. Principally these were to maintain the route in its current repaired state and to form a management group to look at future management of the routes

Representation from stakeholders would be invited for the proposed management group and it was agreed that CB would represent the LAF.

- 8.4 Access to Water – no update.

DP

- 8.9 Paddle Sport – Mike Sunderland to be invited to give a presentation to a future LAF meeting possibly April.

- 8.5 GDPR still not in place. To be completed with appointment of a secretary to the group.

*DP/
DG*

- 8.6 LDNPA Access and Recreation Priority Projects

Keswick to Threlkeld – GW explained that Highways England were involved with the project because they wanted to remove cycle users from the A66 trunk road. A similar project was taking place in Bassenthwaite. EM said the surfacing would not be changed.

JB drew attention to other alternative surfaces he felt were as equally good. DG explained tarmac where use was light required little maintenance. CB suggested a future site visit looking at surfaces might be useful.

9. LAF Work Programme

9.1 Cumbria Access Strategy (CAS)

DG reported the generic wording in the document had been agreed between all authorities and CE. Once the individual authorities had submitted their individual content it could be circulated to the LAF for wider comment.

9.2 Fell Fencing Project

GW had circulated his reports prior to the meeting. There had been 5 applications to deal with and one had been missed due to GW being away. An application at Lowther was still ongoing but the 3 West Cumbria Rivers Trust applications had been responded to and the meeting approved those submissions.

DP said that an NE officer in Dorset was very interested in the Fell Fencing issue and that several current fencing schemes would be drawing to a close over the next 3 to 4 years and people were waking up to the issue of fence removal.

9.3 Inspections and recommendations on Rights of Way consultations

SW asked when the Gooseholme bridge would be replaced - DG thought it would be June next year although there could be issues with the Open Space Society.

MM commented on the increase in path creations coming forward for consultation. DG said a new priority system had been introduced which was moving cases up the waiting list quicker.

SW asked about closures at Ennerdale as she felt they could cause difficulty to visitors arriving in the area on the C to C. DG said they had been extended for 6 months but forestry work would not be happening on a daily basis.

9.4 Table of consultations from the previous quarter

CB reported that she had tabled consultations dealt with by MM and SP with SW still to do.

9.5 Recent, current or upcoming consultations

9.5.1 Carlisle Southern Link Road - CE reported this was ongoing.

Waverley Viaduct – The LAF had received a letter about access over the viaduct. DG talked the meeting through the letter and explained the history with access issues that had arisen over time with petty crime and illegal use on adjacent land.

Carlisle City Council were currently in discussions over access with those wanting to open up the route.

SW said she had previously reported access over the viaduct to the LAF.

CE

CE to formulate a response to the letter.

9.6 Lake District National Park Partnership

CB will be part of a sub group of the Partnership set up to move forward the 2040 Vision of Sustainable Transport in the National Park. The Sustainable Transport Group had met up earlier in the week for their first meeting. This group will feed into the upcoming review of the Partnership Plan.

9.7 North Pennines AONB Partnership Access and Recreation Working Group

There had been a sharing of expertise with Richard Fox, Fix the Fells, attending the September meeting. Cycle UK have written to NE suggesting their ideas for a northern extension to the Pennine Way and have produced unhelpful literature.

9.8 LAF Work Priorities

Pending completion of SWOT analysis of morning session.

9.9 LAF annual report

CE and DG to arrange a meeting next week to finalise this.

9.10 Potential Funding and PHD Project

BM talked about the Lancaster Environment Centre funding opportunity for a PHD student to look at the work of LAF's in more detail. The meeting felt it was a good idea and that the SWOT analysis would be helpful in shaping the work. Once this was available a sub group would be set up to work with BM on moving the idea forward.

**CE/
DG
BM**

10 Glover Report

SW disappointed that LAF's were not mentioned once. GW thought there was a lot of good content and that LAF should be able to contribute. DP agreed and DG felt it would align how authorities worked. EM asked if we should highlight areas the LAF would want to contribute to? CE said that was for another meeting when the work programme was finalised.

11 Members News

MD told the group about some projects he had been involved in teaching mountain skills to black and minority ethnic communities to help them access national park areas. He has also recently returned from overseas where he was looking at engaging the BME population in outdoor access. He was funded by the Winston Churchill Fellowship. CE invited him to give a presentation at the next meeting about the project.

SW mentioned Fix the Fells work and in particular Scarth Gap. CB reported a very good site visit along with a pony in Ullswater, FTF's and other volunteers. The pony had ably demonstrated what was good and what wasn't for horse riders on paths. SW also told the meeting about Bridget Pickthalls lottery grant for an oral history project on the Hincaster railway and a forthcoming lecture on the 6th of November. She brought a very good sign produced by another LAF in conjunction with Northern Farmer about keeping dogs on leads around livestock.

JB was pleased to see a recent consultation about Salmons Wood, Ullswater where he said the proposed footpath would be a fabulous addition to the Ullswater Way.

CB had circulated the information about the FLD Transport Conference in November and DG agreed the fee could be claimed as expenses by LAF members.

12 News from National and Regional Access Bodies

Possible meeting of NW LAF's on the 21st of November.

13 Coastal Access

DG updated meeting with the current situation which was due to be circulated the following day.

14 Authority Work Programme Updates

14.1 Cumbria County Council – Countryside Access Team

Paper had been circulated prior to meeting. DG added new Assistant Countryside Officer had been appointed. They had previously been on the apprenticeship scheme and proved very capable. The Countryside Access Team would be part of Highways Services again from tomorrow rather than Regulatory Services.

He added the work at Stainton, Kendal would be starting shortly.

Pottidge Gill path – DG to add.

13.2 Lake District National Park Authority

Paper submitted prior to meeting and nothing to add.

14 Ongoing Infrastructure Projects

14.1 Thirlmere water pipeline – ongoing

14.2 Highways England Upgrade to A66 Penrith to Scotch Corner - ongoing. September meeting **CE hadn't taken place. There was now a list of ROW that would be affected by the proposals.**

15 Feedback from 16th July site visit to Stainton, Kendal

CE thanked DG for a very interesting visit and KM said the report was now on the website.

CE also thanked everyone for their contribution to the discussions that morning.

16 Dates of Future Meetings

The date of the next meeting was noted: Thursday 23rd of January 2020.

The April meeting would be Thursday 23rd.