

**Minutes of the Cumbria and Lakes Joint Local Access  
Forum Meeting held on**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2020 at Warcop Village Hall**

<b>Attendees</b>		
Charles Ecroyd (Chair) CE	Jonathan Brooks JB	Carole Barr (Vice Chair) CB
Mohammed Dhalech MD	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	Nick Cotton NC	Helen Wall HW
Steve Pighills SP	Geoff Davies   (LDNPA) GD	John Crosbie JC
Andrew Nelson AN	Judith Ruddick (Sec) JR	
<b>Apologies</b>		
Ben Mayfield BM		

**1. Welcome**

CE opened the meeting and welcomed members, introducing Judith Ruddick as the new secretary and Andrew Nelson a new member.

**2. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received as recorded above.

**3. Public Participation**

No representations had been received from the public.

**4. Disclosure of Interest**

GD declared as a member of LDNPA with interests in Keswick, Tilberthwaite and Portinscale Bridge.

**5. Exclusion of Press and Public**

There were no requirement to exclude members of the public or press. A member of the public, Oliver Coles was present.

**6. Membership**

No new applications received.

## 7. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Corrections on apologies were asked for and an update in members news. These have been done so the minutes of the 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019 were approved.

## 8. Matters Arising

- 8.1 Logo, website and letter template – CB will be taking the website forward with work starting in early February. The Lancaster Canal Regeneration Project website was noted as one to look at as it is along similar lines to what the LAF require. A discussion was then held regarding what member's information would be on the website. GW stated that as members are on the LAF to represent the public, then information should be on the website for the public to get in touch with the right person. Some felt a generic email would be the best way forward and that members should at least have each other's emails rather than using blind copy. CE stated that the forum needed to be transparent and that members of the public should be able to contact them.

EM then suggested that it be minuted that if people were happy to have their emails on the website they should give permission

RL suggested that next to each members name should be what they are on the committee for i.e. disability access. CE suggested at the next meeting members would make a decision on what would be the best way forward.

Logo and letter template has already been agreed and used.

- 8.2 Grange railway crossing – DG deferred to NC who was at the meeting for the Development Control Regulation Committee the previous day where it was decided that the matter would go to public inquiry and that CCC would support the closure of the level crossing. SW stated that the LAF feels strongly that this is a Right of Way that should not be extinguished. GW felt the LAF couldn't take this point further as they are here to advise not give formal objections.
- 8.3 Tilberthwaite – EM stated that as the matter was subject to judicial review this couldn't really be discussed however she did inform the members of a statement from the LDNPA's solicitor which can be found on their website.
- 8.4 Access to Water and paddle sports – DP spoke about the ongoing discussions regarding houseboats on Grasmere, an enquiry had been directed to the LAF regarding whether the access was valid or right. DP can send round the response if required.

GW stated that NE are reviewing the open access mapping which is long overdue. He felt that LAF's should be involved in reviewing mapping at the early stages.

LDNPA to circulate their response to members to make it clearer **DP**

CB suggested writing to NE regarding the review and GW agreed to do a draft letter. **GW**

DP then went on to mention that on paddle sports he had been in contact with British Canoeing and they have offered to send their central officer for the Peak District to talk to members at a future meeting. JC informed the members that Mike Sunderland is the local officer not Mike Southern as stated in the previous minutes and this would need correcting.

CE agreed to extend an invitation to the officer for either the July or October meeting.  
**CE**

**8.5** GDPR – this will be picked up again when discussing the new website

## **9. Swot Analysis**

CB had put together the SWOT analysis and informed the group of the key elements to come out of it including the appointment of JR as secretary. The second area was around engagement with other bodies and the public and the suggestion was that once a year the LAF have an AGM type meeting where other people are invited to come and tell the members what they are doing. CB also felt the need to re-visit contacts and update them once a year. It was also felt that more focused training was needed and to think about the remit of the LAF. Sub –groups came up as a suggestion going forward.

CE thanked members who go out and report on issues. He then asked CB if she wanted to get a small working group together. SWOT highlighted things that needed doing so had been very useful.

NC suggested that giving certain bodies i.e. NE, UU to give a short presentation at meetings regarding work they are doing in Cumbria might be useful so that members could then question them and gain feedback.

CE and CB to sit down and work out priorities for invitees but suggestions would be welcomed.

**CE/CB**

## **10 LAF Work Programme**

**10.1** Cumbria Access and Recreation Strategy – DG waiting for input from LDNPA then the document would be distributed.

**10.2** Upland Fencing – Fell Fencing Project – CE thanked GW for his paper which was circulated prior to the meeting. GW then wanted to highlight a couple of points - the proposed monopole at Mardale had been withdrawn following advice. The second point was the Lowther Estate for planting at Shap fell summit. The LAF had been approached and had given their concerns and GW wanted members reassurance they were happy for him to continue with this stance. However, he pointed out that the Friends of the Lake District had contacted the Secretary of State and would like the fencing only for 10 years not 15 or 20 to bring it in line with the period of grant aid. He wanted LAF members to agree that he could make the same point to the Secretary of State. This was agreed.

**10.3** Inspections and recommendations on Rights of Way consultations – CE thanked SW, MM and SP for their papers. Gooseholme Bridge - SW passed round a newspaper article that said the bridge would be replaced in early 2020. DG informed that it was set to go in in June this year. However there were some issues from the Open Space Society regarding the bridge going over the common.

SW also wanted to speak about Garsgill Farm and Laurel Gardens, Kendal where applications had been received to turn farmland into housing estates. She realized that as this was a planning issue the matter couldn't be discussed however, she wanted to raise the point that the footpaths across the fields were well walked. The LAF was called upon to agree that the diversion occurs for the housing development. The diversion will only be needed if the developer gets their planning now on their third application. SW didn't feel happy in agreeing to a planning issue that she didn't personally approve of.

DG advised that the Council have a guidance document that goes out to say what they expect of developers prior to any development taking place.

MM then went through his report which was circulated prior to the meeting.

SW then gave a quick update from the DCR committee that both items that MM had reported on, Lacy's Caves and Ashgill had been approved.

SP went through his report which was circulated prior to the meeting.

**10.4** Table of consultations from the previous quarter – still under work in progress.

**10.5** Recent, current or upcoming consultations

Carlisle Southern Link Road – DG informed members that this continues apace.

Waverley Viaduct –DG informed that there would be a meeting next week with the Waverley Viaduct Trust and the City Council regarding costs which the WVT felt were high, the reason being that the WVT had given no information regarding permissions, method statements or planning instructions and so a lot of assumptions had been made and therefore the costs had escalated.

Portinscale Bridge – DG advised that highways had been asked by the local parish council to look at the use of the bridge by cyclists. So cycle dismount signs had been installed but ignored. So they are now proposing a traffic regulation order so that cyclists must dismount and walk across.

JB informed the members that he had looked into this and as far as he could tell the proposal was to stop cyclists, mounted or walking from crossing the bridge. He then passed around pictures of the bridge for members to look at. He had written to Highways who had replied assuring JB that there would be a new notice installed saying that if people cycled across the bridge, people could then report them to the police who could take action.

JC then went on to emphasise that the bridge was a route on the C2C and used to have a cyclists give way to pedestrians sign rather than cyclists dismount. He would not wish to see a ban on cyclists especially if there are no pedestrians on the route.

CE then wanted clarification that the TRO was to stop people cycling over the bridge as opposed to banning cyclists from walking over with their cycles. This was clarified as the former.

GD informed that Keswick town council supports the TRO.

CE asked if the LAF needed to make a submission, did all members feel that the TRO was unnecessary, won't be adhered to, who would police it and would it stop conflict. This was agreed.

AN to email contact to CE

**AN**

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

Sustainable Transport Group – EM reported that the LAF is one of 25 organisations on the LDNPP and at their last meeting it had been highlighted that there was a need to make visitor and residents travel around the Lake District more sustainable and reduce carbon. The STG were in the process of putting together a paper picking out issues and making recommendations.

CB is the LAF member on the STG and informed that horse travel should also be included in sustainable transport as well as cycling and walking.

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

CE informed that the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> December had been circulated in addition to which there is the paper regarding accessibility.

#### **10.8** LAF Work Priorities

CE already covered this in part with the SWOT analysis. CE and CB to get together to go forward with this and the April meeting.

#### **10.9** LAF annual reports

Already covered

#### **10.10** Potential Research Possibilities

KM read out a statement from BM who said that he needed to be poised and ready when the next call for funding was advertised for the collaboration phds. He would only have a narrow window to put the bid in but with the support of LAFs that could be the main evidence for the bid. Basically the sooner we get a letter of support to BM the better. It was decided that CE needed to contact BM for more clarity on what he needs, then a formal letter of support would be emailed.

**CE**

## **11. Glover Report**

CE nothing to happen until a new Secretary of State appointed.

## **12. Members News**

JC told the group that he sits on the Mountain Liaison Group which have had a number of achievements including setting up a guide for ice climbing when there is no ice (dry tooling ) and a guide for gill use. The group had noted that electric mountain bikes were becoming a concern however the local mountain bike group had said there was no issue. British Cycling had taken a different opinion and the MLG had requested a meeting with them which had been really useful and had a number of positive outcomes – one being that British Cycling had funding for cycle trails to improve networks. The minutes of his meeting had been sent to CE who agreed they should be circulated to the rest of the LAF.

HW told the group that she would be opening the England Coast Path section around Walney Island in February.

MM had been to the conference by the FLD called Re-Routing Expectations which he found very interesting. They had a skype with a lady in Austria who had set up a scheme in a mountain village with an inducement for visitors not to use their own cars but to use sustainable transport.

CB felt that every time the NP wanted to do something a judicial review was held and there was another now by the FoLD.

MD told about a group of volunteers he is joining that are trying to create maps giving off road routes between towns and cities in Great Britain. CE expressed interest in the feedback from this.

GD wanted to clarify his future in that he would cease to be chair of the Rights of Way committee. Vicky Hughes was elected deputy chair and likely that she will then become chair and that she will be intending to come to the April meeting of the LAF.

JB wanted to make a comment and statement about the state of our rivers which he read out regarding Newlands Beck.

NC was recently at a meeting for LCWIP which is the local cycling walking improvement plan for Kendal where members from the local authorities looked at ways of improving walking and cycling routes around Kendal. There had also recently been a study commissioned by Sustrans for the Kendal to Milnthorpe cycle route and it had also been agreed that Levens Hall were willing to let a piece of land be used to get cyclists off the A6 on the Morecambe Bay cycle route.

## **13 News from National and Regional Access Bodies**

CE informed that the NWLAF met in November but the urban fringe LAFs continued to struggle. A member from Cheshire East came and seemed

extremely positive. Any help from NE towards access forums is now moribund. We continue to meet twice a year for the moment anyway.

KM Andy Mackintosh from NE gave an update on the FSI review.

CE other regional LAFs seem to be doing quite well.

#### **14. Coastal Access**

DG – funding had come through for stretch 4 round Walney Island, consultation had gone out from NE on stretch 5 and the report went to the Secretary for State pointing out the intended route. We've [CCC] been asked by NE for a meeting regarding stretch 3 and the variation reports for stretch 2 came through this morning. So everything is moving in the right direction and hopefully by the end of the summer stretch 2 will be in place and working towards stretch 3 and looking at stretch 5 objections.

DG had a meeting with Copeland local area committee their feedback on the report into stretch 5 was that they didn't think the railway bridges and line should be used for a ferry especially on the Duddon. They should be putting another bridge in near the Duddon bridge. They were concerned about local safety using the bridge currently and coastal access would remedy that by putting another crossing in there.

The outcome from the Copeland committee was that they were going to put it to the cabinet and their feeling should be fed back as part of a county council response.

CE asked if everyone had had details of the proposed meeting at Murley Moss on the 5<sup>th</sup> February. CE asked for responses to DG asap

#### **15. Authority Work Programme Updates**

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

DG sent out a copy of the work programme prior to the meeting also added an area of work with the Copeland BC Community Fund who had identified funds for a challenge event to run down the length of Copeland. This would also involve PROW improvements including drainage works and surface improvements near to St. Bees.

##### **15.2 Lake District National Park Authority**

EM will circulate copies of report. Any comments they can contact EM

#### **16. Ongoing Infrastructure Projects**

##### **16.1 Thirlmere water pipeline - this continues apace. Monitor the situation.**

##### **16.2 Highways England – A66 upgrade (Penrith to Scotch Corner)**

Nothing to report.

**17. Feedback from the training session 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2019**

CE stated that was the SWOT analysis and thanked CB for the time and effort put into that. He also thanked everyone for their contributions.

**18. Dates of Future Meetings**

The date of the next meeting was noted: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

Dates for July and October would be sent round in the next week CE

CE then gave thanks to KM for the secretarial work she has done on behalf of the LAF