

## Local Access Forum (LAF) Annual Review Form: April 2012 to March 2013

Name of LAF: Yorkshire Dales Access Forum

Name of LAF Chair: Phil Woodyer

Name of LAF Secretary: Rachel Briggs

Number of LAF members: 18

### 1 - Involvement and Representation

**What interests does your current membership cover?** Land management, recreational users, local business, outdoor learning, volunteering, parish councils, access for people with limited mobility, members of the National Park Authority.

**What skills, sectors, interest groups, experience are missing?** None

**Describe any difficulties you had recruiting members from particular sectors:** We struggle to get members with a land management background.

### 2 - Operation of LAF

**What procedures (e.g. expense claims, new applications etc) do you follow that help you work effectively? Are these effective?** We have three meetings per year which are always held in the same place at the same time to ensure we have maximum attendance at meetings.

Recruitment is carried out annually and is by application. A third of the members are required to reapply if they wish to continue so that we have a rolling process. The interview process adopted is a round the table discussion in an attempt to have 'mini' LAF meeting.

We pay members of the LAF the same amount as we pay officers and Authority members. This seems to be fair.

We have 7 advisory groups to which members can join to discuss specific issues in more detail. Minutes are seen and discussed by the LAF. The work of the advisory groups assists in allowing LAF meetings to be managed within a reasonable timescale. The Advisory Groups have been useful in the past to recruit new members on to the Forum. Advisory groups are as follows:

- Access on Foot
- Access to Bridleways and Restricted Byways
- Cave and Crag
- Watersports
- Airports
- Access for All
- Green Lanes

**How do you ensure that your members are able to work as a team?** The Advisory Groups help to give members more involvement in the work of the appointing authority and work well with officers.

**In what ways do you reach consensus?** Good chairmanship helps members to reach consensus where it is needed. If a consensus is not reached then the differing opinions are reflected in the minutes. If consensus cannot be reached and a decision is necessary a vote is taken.

**How do you ensure proper conduct and/or resolve any conflicts?** Good Chairmanship

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Give up to 3 examples of where you have encountered operational difficulties (e.g. lack of resources); explain what mechanisms could be put in place to alleviate such issues:

- 1 - Lack of consultation from the appointing authority in planning matters. This has been alleviated by the Chair meeting with the Chief Executive to discuss how officers and members can work together.
- 2 - Lack of consultation from Section 94(4) bodies. Suggest Natural England remind these bodies what LAFs are and their responsibilities.
- 3 - Reduction in budgets has meant that meetings have gone down from 4 to 3 per year. This means that much of the work needs to be carried out via email.

### 3 - Partnership and Progress

Do you work well with the access authority? If not, why not? Yes

Do you work well with your planning authorities? If not, why not? see question 2.

Have you established a clear role for the LAF in the local area? Yes

Were you successful in meeting the achievements set out in your work programme (please provide supporting information)? No work programme is set but members suggest agenda items and these are addressed.

Have you achieved something else? Lots of the work of the YDAF is carried out via the Advisory Groups. This works very well.

Main or notable achievements? The change in perception of the YDAF by the Yorkshire Dales NPA in term of planning applications (see question 2)

### 4 - Profile and Direction

Has anything changed over the last year? No

What changes / barriers can you see ahead? Time and money constraints

What are your priorities for the year ahead (list up to 3)?

- 1 - The management of the definitive map by North Yorkshire and Cumbria County Councils.
- 2 - LAF guidance on fencing on common land and woodland creation.
- 3 - The Tour de France 2014

What support or training do you need to deliver your priorities? Delivery of papers from the relevant people.

### 5 - Section 94 Bodies

Give up to 3 examples of advice given by your LAF to section 94 bodies:

- 1 - Held a special meeting to discuss the North Yorkshire County Council consultation on the management of Unclassified Unsurfaced Roads.
- 2 - Responded to the Defra consultation on improvements to the policy and legal framework for public rights of way.

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3 - Responded to the planning application submitted to the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority on the extraction of timber at Cam Woodland.

### 6 - Open Access Work

How many Restriction Cases have you been consulted on? 0

How many cases have you responded to? 0

Detail any informal involvement with Open Access Restriction cases: 0

### 7 - Number of consultations, meetings and initiatives your LAF has been involved with over the year (please add numbers into the boxes below)?

Public meetings	4	Working groups	9
Training days	0	Definitive map modification orders	3
Highway orders	0	Green Infrastructure strategies	0
Gating orders	0	Local transport plans and traffic management schemes	0
Cycle projects	4	Disabled access	2
Dog exclusion/on leads/fouling orders	0	Housing development schemes	0
Planning applications	2	PROW network and projects	7
ROWIP planning and objectives	2	Local development frameworks and planning strategies	0
Local Nature Partnerships	0	Recording of paths and promoting use	0
Expiring permissive agreements under Higher Level Stewardship schemes - assessing the value and future of and liaison with landowners to improve access	0	Flood defence works - Environment Agency consultations and planning applications regarding	0
Slipways and landing stages - public access to	0	Improvement of access through the Paths for Communities (P4C) scheme	1
Disposal and development of land owned by the Council	0	Parish Council or local improvement grant schemes	0

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Shoreline management plans	0	Rail freight interchange strategic development	0
Network rail and rail crossing closures	0	Access and nature conservation	1
Horse routes and equestrian provision	2	Multi user routes	2
National Parks	13	Coastal access	0
Motorised vehicle access	1	Access to MOD land	0
New town & village green registration government consultation	0	Natural England consultations	2
Defra consultations	1	Commons grazing proposals	1
Highways Agency consultations	1	Department for Transport consultations	0
<p><b>Other (please specify):</b> Other recreational activities such as air sports, climbing etc, review of the open access information, Ratione tenure routes</p>			

**8 - Final comments from Appointing Authority:** Another good year with some great work and advice from the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum.

**9 - Final comments from LAF Chair:** It has been another busy year with lots of good work from the working groups of the forum. Some members were dissatisfied with the communications between the forum and the National Park Authority, feeling that we were working in a vacuum with a lack of consultation and feedback from the Authority. After meeting with the chair and other representatives of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority I believe we have resolved the main issues and can now co-operate and work together more fruitfully.