

Local Access Forum (LAF) Annual Review Form: April 2013 to March 2014

Name of LAF: Yorkshire Dales Acces Forum

Name of LAF Chair: Phil Woodyear / Alistair Thompson

Name of LAF Secretary: Rachel Briggs / Mohammed Dhalech

Number of LAF members: 18 / 17

Number of LAF vacancies: 1

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? Access for all, Horse riding (equine)

Describe any difficulties you had recruiting members from particular sectors: We struggle to get members with a land management, Access for All and Equine backgrounds.

2 - Operation of LAF

What procedures (e.g. expense claims, new applications, monitoring of Huddle 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

Airsports

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.

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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

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 Section 94(4) bodies. Suggest Natural England remind these bodies what LAFs are and their responsibilities.

2 - 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 and through Advisory groups.

3 - Lack of consultation on planning issues that have a potential impact on access. This has since been alleviated through better communication.

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? Yes

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

Main or notable achievements? No work programme is set but members suggest agenda items and these are addressed, Lots of the work of the YDAF is carried out via the Advisory Groups, this works very well.

4 - Profile and Direction

Has anything changed over the last year? No

What changes / barriers can you see ahead? (Capacity) Time and resources constraints

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

1 - The Tour de France 2014 and legacy

2 - Landowners Survey

3 - Status of routes (Deregulation Bill)

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 - NYCC Turbary road

2 - YDNP Greenfield and Cam Forest timber extraction

3 -

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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 and only count specific consultations once even if advice has been given on them a number of times. If a consultation covers more than one subject area, please count them separately as appropriate.

Public meetings (e.g. LAF meetings)	3	Working groups	10
Training days		Definitive map modification orders	1
Highway orders		Green Infrastructure strategies	
Gating orders		Local transport plans and traffic management schemes	
Cycle projects	2	Disabled access	2
Dog exclusion/on leads/fouling orders		Housing development schemes	
Planning applications		PROW network and projects	
ROWIP planning and objectives		Local development frameworks and planning strategies	
Local Nature Partnerships		Recording of paths and promoting use	
Expiring permissive agreements under Higher Level Stewardship schemes - assessing the value and future of and liaison with landowners to improve access		Flood defence works - Environment Agency consultations and planning applications regarding	
Slipways and landing stages - public access to		Improvement of access through the Paths for Communities (P4C) scheme	
Disposal and development of land owned by the Council	1	Parish Council or local improvement grant schemes	

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Shoreline management plans		Rail freight interchange strategic development	
Network rail and rail crossing closures		Access and nature conservation	
Horse routes and equestrian provision	1	Multi user routes	
National Parks	1	Coastal access	
Motorised vehicle access		Access to MOD land	
New town & village green registration government consultation		Natural England consultations	
Defra consultations		Commons grazing proposals	
Highways Agency consultations		Department for Transport consultations	
<p>Other (please specify): 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. We have a good relationship and commitment from the Authority, senior officers attend the LAF meetings and various officers attend the Advisory Group meetings.