

## LEEDS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2004

**PRESENT:** Mr M Willison in the Chair  
Mr M Dyer, Ms S Goodall, Mr A Hepworth,  
Mr F Hirst, Mr P Maude and Mrs D Metcalf

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs J Smyth - Principal Rights of Way Officer,  
Department of Learning and Leisure  
Mr R Welbourn - Service Development Manager  
- Department of Learning and Leisure  
Mr R Brookes - Public Rights of Way,  
Senior Development Officer  
- Department of Learning and Leisure  
Mr P Bowers - Principal Legal Officer  
Legal and Democratic Services  
Mr J Grieve - Constitution & Corporate Governance  
Unit  
Legal and Democratic Services

### 13 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Harrington and Mrs Lawson

### 14 OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the November meeting of the Leeds Local Access Forum

### 15 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2004 were accepted as a true and correct record

### 16 NEWS LETTERS AND CONSULTATION PAPERS FROM DEFRA

The Forum received a copy of ACCESS, Newsletter No.5 published by DEFRA (Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs)  
In passing comment the Chair referred to the Access Management Grant Scheme and asked how the scheme was progressing. In responding the Principal Public Rights of Way Officer said that Leeds was not in a position to apply for the scheme as the Definitive Open Access Maps had not been published

The Forum also received copies of two consultation papers from DEFRA `Registers of definitive map modification order applications; and Highways Act applications and declarations` and `Consultation on joint orders and power to include modifications in other orders`.

**RESOLVED** - That the contents of the Newsletter and Consultation Papers from DEFRA be noted

## 17 UPDATE ON OPEN ACCESS MAPPING

The Forum received a verbal report by the Principal Public Rights of Way officer providing an update on Open Access Mapping. An extract from a publication by the Countryside Agency was circulated showing the Access Mapping in the Yorkshire and Humber Region.

It was noted that Leeds falls into Area 8 (East)

**RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be noted

## 18 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Principal Public Rights of Way officer submitted a series of reports setting out progress on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan

(i) The Public Rights of Way (PROW) Position Statement for the Rights of Way Improvement Plan

Forum Members received a report clarifying the current position regarding the Management of the Public Rights of Way network in Leeds. It was reported that there were 1,180 Public Rights of Way recorded on the Definitive Map (The Legal record of the existence of a public right of way).

A total of 765Km comprising of:

608.3 Km – Public Footpaths

152.5 Km – Public Bridleways

4.2 Km – Byways Open to all traffic (B.O.A.T)

In addition it was reported that there was a further 322 Km estimated within the Excluded Area (A predominately urban area of Central Leeds)

The report also provided details on:

- The number of staff within the PROW Section
- National Performance Indicators
- A summary of PROW Section's duties and powers

**RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be noted

(ii) Working Progress Including Timetable

Forum Members received a report identifying the following processes to be undertaken in preparing the Rights of Way Improvement Plan and the time scale:

- Use and Demand Survey
- Analysis
- Identifying missing links/ where network lacking/ obstacles
- Identify relevant policies/ strategies
- Identify current / future needs
- User difficulties
- Produce and publicise the draft plan
- Produce and publicise the final plan

(Publication of the finished plan 30<sup>th</sup> July 2006)

**RESOLVED** – That the contents of the report be noted

(iii) Past Developments 1989 - 2004

Forum Members received a report setting out the key improvements carried out to the Public Path Network in Leeds over the past 15 years

**RESOLVED** –

- (a) That the contents of the report be noted
- (b) To note the scale of past improvements, which should be used as a baseline assessment for the preparation of a Rights of Way Improvement Plan for the whole of the Leeds Metropolitan district

(iv) Draft Questionnaire

Forum Members received a copy of the Leeds Rights of Way Improvement Plan - User Survey Draft Questionnaire for comment and approval. As part of the process of refining the Draft Questionnaire, Forum Members were requested to complete and return along with any additional comments

**RESOLVED** –

- (a) That the draft questionnaire be approved in principle subject to a number of minor amendments and be released in order to undertake a pilot survey
- (b) That Forum Members return the completed Draft Questionnaire and any comments by 24<sup>th</sup> November 2004
- (c) That feedback following the pilot survey be the subject of a report to the next meeting of this Forum

## **19 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** – That the following items be prepared for the next meeting of the Forum:

- (a) Update on the preparation of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- (b) Feedback on the Questionnaire following the pilot survey
- (c) Annual Report – Budget Information
- (d) Draft Statement for the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan

The Chair requested, in view of the large number of papers circulated at this meeting, that in future it would be helpful to Forum Members if all papers could be circulated in advance with the agenda

## **20 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED** – That the next meeting be scheduled for Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2005 at 6.30pm in the Civic Hall, Leeds