

## LEEDS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE 2005

**PRESENT:** Mr M Willison in the Chair  
Mr M Dyer, Councillor C Fox, Ms S Goodhall,  
Mr P Maude and Mrs D Metcalf

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Joanne Smyth - Public Rights of Way,  
Countryside & Access Manager  
- Department of Learning and Leisure  
Mr M Sellens - Area Planning Manager  
Development Department  
Mr J Grieve - Constitution & Corporate Governance  
Unit  
Legal and Democratic Services

(One member of the public was also in attendance)

### 1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Harington, Mr F Hirst, Mrs D Lawson, Richard Welbourne, Roger Brookes and Mr P Bowers

It was further reported that a letter of resignation had been received from Mr Alan Hepworth

**RESOLVED** – That the Countryside & Access Manger be authorised to advertise this vacancy as soon as possible covering the same areas of interest in order to retain the balance of those interests represented on the Leeds Access Forum.

### 2 ELECTION OF CHAIR/ VICE CHAIR

**RESOLVED** – That Mr Mike Willison be elected Chair of the Leeds Local Access Forum for a one year period concluding 21<sup>st</sup> June 2006 and that Stephanie Goodhall be elected Vice Chair covering the same period.

### 3 MEMBERSHIP OF THE FORUM

**RESOLVED** – That the following representatives were reminded of their length of service appointed to the Leeds Local Access Forum as follows:

Maurice Dyer - (Users of local rights of way) - 2 years

Stephanie Goodall - (Users of local rights of way, representing Horse riding interests) - 3 years

Phillip Maude - (Users of local rights of way, representing cycling interests) - 3 years

Didy Metcalf - (Users of local rights of way, representing Horse Riding interests) - 3 years,

Mike Willison (Users of local rights of way representing walking interests) – 3years

Fred Hirst - (Owners and Occupiers) - 2 years

Doreen Lawson - (Owners and Occupiers) - 3 years

Vacancy - (Owners and Occupiers) - 2 / 3 years

Councillor C Fox - (Leeds City Council)

Councillor R Harington - (Leeds City Council)

#### **4 KIRKSTALL FORGE DEVELOPMENT – PRESENTATION BY OFFICERS FROM THE DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT**

The Forum received a presentation from Mr Martin Sellens, West Area Planning Manager, Development Department on the future development of the Kirkstall Forge Site.

Mr Sellens circulated a copy of the Master Plan for the site and reported that an Outline Planning Application had been submitted in February 2005 which would establish the principles for development of the site and would include the means of access and the level of development.

Proposals for the site include 1,385 new houses, 16,518m<sup>2</sup> of B1 office space, support facilities including bars, restaurants, small-scale retail, health and fitness, a hotel and multi storey car parking.

In terms of access for the site it is proposed:

- To improve the existing vehicular junctions, allowing access into and out of the development site from Abbey Road (A65)
- To create internal access roads, catering for new bus services running through the site
- A network of pedestrian and cycle routes, enabling connections to the national Cycle Network and Canal Towpath, and including new footpaths alongside the former Abbey Mills Race
- New pedestrian and vehicular bridge crossing over the River Aire
- Riverside improvement works

Commenting on the access proposals Mr Sellens said there was much to be gained in terms of public access. He further reported that negotiations were ongoing with the developer to achieve a Railway Station

Phil Maude stressed the importance of establishing public access rights through the site at this stage.

It was the opinion of Forum Members that they were generally supportive of the principles of the development and wished to be kept informed as the development progresses

**RESOLVED –**

- (i) That the Chair be authorised to write to the Chief Planning and Development Services Officer expressing the Forum's support for the proposed path network within the development and the links it would provide to existing rights of way
- (ii) That a further progress report be brought back to the next meeting of the Forum

**5 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED –** That subject to the inclusion of two minor amendments the minutes of the previous meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2005 were accepted as a true and correct record

**6 UPDATE ON THE LEEDS RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

- (a) Questionnaire Survey - Joanne Smyth provided a progress report on the Questionnaire Survey. Following the previous meeting a number of minor amendments had been made to the questionnaire. Officers from the Public Rights of Way Section would shortly be meeting with the Head of Marketing to discuss the best approach for the distribution of the questionnaire. Further information was required on how many questionnaires need to be sent out in order for the survey to be valid.

A further report will be prepared for the next meeting of the Forum

- (b) West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan – It was reported that the suggested amendments made by the Forum were relayed to the West Yorkshire Steering Group. Comments were now awaited from other Local Access Forums. No adverse comments received as yet

**7 OPEN ACCESS**

Forum Members received the latest copy of Bulletin (Issue No 4) the Countryside Agency's Newsletter providing information on the Access Management Grant Scheme

Joanne Smyth informed the Forum that it was now possible to apply for Open Access Grants and explained the process for applying for such grants. Joanne Smyth was pleased to report that the first stage of applying for grants had been successful and that a Temporary Open Access Ranger would be appointed as soon as possible to begin the

process of managing the interpretation / signs on open access land. The second phase will hopefully cover funding to extend this post for at least a two or three year period. The main focus would also be on underrepresented communities to encourage these groups to visit the wider countryside.

**RESOLVED** – That further updates be provided

## **8 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

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

- (i) Kirkstall Valley Development – Progress
- (ii) Update on the preparation of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- (iii) Open Access
- (iv) West Leeds Country Park – Presentation by Officers from the Public Rights of Way Section
- (v) Local Access Forum Event – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2005 – Feedback

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

**RESOLVED** – That the next meeting be scheduled for Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2005 at 6.30pm in the Civic Hall, Leeds



AGENDA  
ITEM NO.: 4

Originator: Mrs J Smyth  
Chief Recreation  
Services Officer

Tel: 232 9422

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**REPORT OF THE CHIEF RECREATION SERVICES OFFICER**

**MEETING: LEEDS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

**DATE : 20<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2005**

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**SUBJECT : ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LEEDS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM  
APRIL 2005**

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**Electoral Wards Affected :**

**Specific Implications For :**

Ethnic Minorities

Women

Disabled People

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**1. Background**

The Leeds Local Access Forum first met on 27 April 2004 in response to the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CROW 2000).

**2. Dates of Meetings**

27 April 2004  
20 July 2004  
9 November 2004  
9 March 2005

Members of the Forum and attendance at the various meetings of the Leeds Local Access Forum can be seen in section 5.

### 3. Business of the Forum

The following is a record of the main items of business dealt with by the Forum; further detail can be obtained by referring to the minutes of the meetings.

Particular reference is made to items which gave rise to discussion and to items where the Forum agreed that specific advice be made to the Countryside Agency and the Government.

**Training.** Forum members were given an introduction to the CROW Act 2000, the future role of the Forum and also the mapping of access to open countryside and common land. An introduction to rights of way law and practice was also covered.

**Terms of Reference.** Were agreed at the first meeting of the LAF and it was also agreed that the main focus of attention would be to concentrate on the establishment of the Rights of Way Improvement, due to the fact that Leeds did not have much open country and that the Definitive Open Country Maps would not be published within the first year of the business of the Forum.

A list of all the rights of way and countryside access improvements undertaken between 1989 – 2004 was circulated.

**Rights of way improvement plan questionnaire.** Was agreed ready to be circulated.

**Open Country.** It was agreed to submit an Access Management Grant Scheme for the 352 ha of Open Country within Leeds.

**Kirkstall Valley Development.** A detailed presentation was given by Officers within the Development Department outlining the potential for public access and recreation in around the development site. The Forum members welcomed this presentation and asked to be kept informed during the development phases.

**Reports.** The following reports were tabled at the Local Access Forum meetings:

- Rights of Way Improvement Plans and the Role of the Local Access Forum.
- The PROW position statement for the Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- Draft statement for the West Yorkshire Local Transport Plan
- Budget summary on how the budget was allocated during the financial year 2004/05

**Responses to Consultations on Draft regulations and Circulars.** At their meetings of 20 July, 9 November and 9 March the Forum considered a series of draft regulations and agreed a collective response to DEFRA. It was also accepted that individuals and organisations may wish to make a separate response. Items that were circulated are listed below:

**DEFRA Circular.** The Functions of access authorities under the CROW Act 2000.  
**DEFRA ACCESS NEWS LETTER No 5.**

**DEFRA Registers of definitive map modification orders applications; and Highways Act applications and declarations.**

**DEFRA Consultation on joint orders and power to include modifications in other orders.**

**DEFRA UPDATE** Right of access under the CROW Act 2000

**4. Relevant Documents.** Copies of the following documents can be obtained by contacting the Leeds Countryside and Access Unit on 0113 232 9422. These documents will also soon be available on Leeds City Council Website.

- Leeds Local Access Forum Terms of Reference
- Key Improvements to Rights of Way and other Countryside Access in Leeds 1989 – 2004
- Approved minutes of all the Leeds Local Access Forum meetings

## 5. LEEDS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM – ATTENDANCE OF MEETINGS

Name	Representing	27/4/04	20/7/04	9/11/04	9/3/05
Ms S. Goodhall <b>(Chair)</b>	Horse Riding interest	✓	✓	✓	A
Mr M. Willison <b>(Vice Chair)</b>	Walking interest	✓	A	✓	✓
Mr P. Maude	Cycling interest	✓	A	✓	✓
Mrs D. Metcalf	Horse Riding interest	✓	✓	✓	A
Mr F. Hirst	Farming interest	✓	A	✓	✓
Mr A. Hepworth	Farming interest	✓	✓	✓	A
Mr M. Dyer	Walking interest	✓	A	✓	A
Mrs D. Lawson	Land Owning interest	✓	✓	A	✓
Cllr M. Coulson	Lead Member for City Services	✓	✓	-	A
Cllr R. Harrington	Lead Member for Learning & Leisure	A	A	A	✓
Cllr C. Fox		-	-	✓	✓
<b>In attendance</b>					
Mrs J. Smyth	Leeds City Council (Countryside and Access Manager)	✓	✓	✓	A
Mr J Grieve	Leeds City Council (Secretary of the Leeds LAF)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mr R Welbourn	Leeds City Council (Support Services Manager)	A	✓	✓	✓
Mr R. Brookes	Leeds City Council (Development Officer)	-	✓	✓	✓
Mr P Bowers	Leeds City Council Legal Services	-	-	✓	A

### Key

- ✓ Attended the Meeting
- A Apologies
- Did not attend