

**Minutes of the Cumbria and Lakes Joint Local Access Forum meeting
held on Wednesday 18th July 2018 at Carlisle Civic Centre**

Attendees:					
Carole Barr (Vice Chair)	CB	Cllr Nick Cotton (CCC)	NC	David Gibson (CCC)	DG
Chris Lyon	CL	Ron Lyon	RL	Kathy Miles	KM
Ben Mayfield	BM	Mike Murgatroyd	MM	Malcolm Petyt	MP
Dave Pickup (LDNPA)	DP	Steve Pighills	SP	Geoff Wilson	GW
Sylvia Woodhead	SW				
Apologies:					
Charles Ecroyd (Chair)	CE	Jonathan Brooks	JB	Douglas Chalmers	DC
Oliver Coles	OC	John Crosbie	JC	Geoff Davies (LDNPA)	GD
Mohammed Dhalech	MD	Ken Taylor	KT	Cllr Helen Wall (CCC)	HW

1 Welcome

Carole Barr welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. She explained that Charles Ecroyd was unable to attend and she would therefore chair the meeting.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received.

3 Public Participation

No representations or questions had been received from members of the public.

4 Disclosure of Interest

There was no disclosure of interest by any member in relation to agenda items other than as disclosed previously.

5 Exclusion of Press and Public

There was no requirement to exclude members of the public or the press.

6 Membership

There were now three vacancies so new members would be recruited soon. Areas of representation particularly needed were cycling and land ownership/management.

7 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

3.1 MP asked that for clarity 'was' be replaced by 'had been' in the second paragraph as he was no longer chair of the advisory group on green lanes within the Yorkshire Dales.

The minutes of the 19th April 2018 meeting of the Cumbria & Lakes LAF were then agreed.

8 Matters Arising

- 8.1 8.3 Logo and Website** – DP was still looking into funding for this from the LDNPA and confirmed that there was some money but he did not know how much and what it could be used for. CB and DP would liaise on this.

**DP
CB**

8.2 8.4 Warcop – The minutes of the recent Warcop Training Area Public Access Working Group meeting had been circulated to LAF members. RL had enquired about a site visit to look at footpaths to ascertain if they would be suitable for wheelchair use, with a view to planning a ramble 12 months in advance.

Bridleway – DG had been on a site visit with Major Ingledew to look at two possible areas for re-alignment of PROW, to move them outside the impact area. The work is on hold at the moment until the Commons issue is settled but it was hoped it would be in place prior to any planning for the A66 improvements.

SP commented that the group seemed fairly stable; and also that CE had been very supportive during the meeting which had felt much better than previously.

8.3 8.5 Grange railway crossing – GW reported that officers had been roughly 50/50 as to whether the crossing should remain closed, but had advised against this. There was some concern that not all responses had been given to councillors, but the report tried to summarise all responses, including that of the LAF. The recommendation to councillors was not to close the crossing. However, they went against this and recommended that the crossing be closed. A number of members of the public present made strong representations for closure. Councillors had visited the site the week before.

NC, as a member of the Development Control and Regulation (DC&R) committee, confirmed that the papers received by Members of this committee were the largest he had ever seen. They included a very detailed report from Nick Thorne.

SW was very disappointed at the outcome and wondered if the LAF could take any action and felt that reversing vehicles in the car park through which people now had to walk was more dangerous than the railway crossing.

MM reiterated that at the LAF's meeting with Network Rail (NR) alternative measures had been discussed. One point made was the possible opening of the mine on the west coast which would result in an upgrading of the signalling.

GW advised that at this point it would not be helpful – a view supported by NC. The feeling was not that this had been a temporary closure, but more a question of whether the crossing should be re-opened. GW's understanding was that it would have to come back to Committee again to approve costs for re-opening. DG added that it had been deferred until costs were supplied by NR. In addition he explained that the ramp up from the subway was not DDA compliant.

CB concluded that the LAF would wait for the order to be made and then object.

8.4 8.6 Seathwaite parking – There was nothing further on this at present.

8.5 8.7 Tilberthwaite – Routes were still being monitored. There was ongoing work with CCC looking at maintenance work on the road; and also other work on the effects on other routes.

8.6 Access to Water – There had been a couple of enquiries from members of the public about access to water. The National Park has a document which is up-to-date, but park rangers are to speak to landowners and check that nothing has changed. The document is to be circulated to LAF members.

**DP
KM**

Mark Eccles (head of Park Management) had looked at the document and suggested that lake swimming should be included.

The members of the public had asked whether the document was up to date, and it is. But it is their approaches which are prompting another look at the leaflet to ensure it is still current. DP would reply to those members of the public and say that the document was under review. **DP**

He asked if the LAF wished to retain 'ownership' of this leaflet. DG asked however if the LAF wished to get involved with something that was outside its remit. However, members agreed that they wished to take some ownership of the leaflet. DG suggested that it should be available through the LAF website.

GW raised the question of documents 'owned' by the LAF and suggested that a list of such documents should be reviewed annually at the January meeting.

9 LAF Work Programme

9.1 Cumbria Access and Recreation Strategy (CARS)

Following the departure of David Robinson this was on hold pending the appointment of another officer to the role.

9.2 Fell Fencing Project – update

9.2.1 Fell Fencing Project – update

GW spoke to the report which had been circulated to LAF members the previous evening.

At a meeting of the Lake District Partnership Board on 11 June 2018, attended by Ken Taylor and Geoff Wilson in support of Carole Barr (the C&LJLAF member of the Partnership), and following a presentation by David Pickup (LDNPA), it was agreed by the Partnership to:

- a. Note what has already been achieved
- b. In principle share digital data between relevant partners on the location and renewal dates of new fell fencing
- c. Note and assess the challenge for the Partnership with regard to the future management of fell fencing and our WHS Status

As previously advised to C&LJLAF members an article titled *Fencing of New Woodlands and Scrub on Open Access Land and its Effect on Access* written by Geoff Wilson and Ken Taylor as members of the LAF was published in the Summer 2018 edition of the Outdoor Recreation Network Journal. The edition focused on Recreation and Access on Common and Shared Land. The article can be found at <https://www.outdoorrecreation.org.uk/stories/volume/29>.

The fell-fencing issues have also been introduced / explained to the specialist Commons and RoW staff at Natural England in London who are working on the Agriculture Bill and National Common Land Stakeholder Group; but that progress on the bill following the Health and Harmony consultation (Feb to May 2018) has stalled until September.

9.2.2 Report from site visits with Natural England Staff on 14 June 2018

On 14th June, Geoff Wilson and Ken Taylor undertook a number of site visits to consider the factors that contribute to success or failure in new native woodland/scrub plantings on Open Access Land (OAL). Below is a short summary of the findings and conclusions arising from this series of visits to:

- Bowscale and Southerfell, Glenderamakin valley
- Mirehouse Estate, Latrigg
- Dash falls - LDNPA site

A key concern arising from the site visits is that the 15 years provided by most SoS consents on common land is unrealistic; 30 years is more likely or – even more likely – in perpetuity (FC already assume this for their woodland planting schemes). In due course the LAF will need to decide whether the current approach of pretending fences are temporary (seen as necessary to get SoS consent) will be pursued, or accept that they will be permanent and then judge the applications for SoS approvals on this basis. It can be expected that some partners will strongly oppose any moves for fences on otherwise open-access land being accepted as permanent, as may the LAF in principle.

If fences are, in reality, going to be permanent, then this means getting the initial design right from an access perspective is critical and so it is important that the LAF is consulted on all schemes involving fencing on OAL.

9.3 Inspections and recommendations on Rights of Way consultations – Members’ reports

9.3.1 SP reported that there had been a number of consultations, mostly in relation to timber- felling. There was little that the LAF could do even though there were times when access was badly affected.

9.4 Table of consultations from the previous quarter

9.4.1 So far it had not been possible for any one person to produce this summary. CB suggested that if those LAF members dealing with consultations were to input the basic details into a template, these could then be transferred into a master table on a quarterly basis.

MM
SP
SW

9.5 Recent, current or upcoming consultations

9.5.1 Members’ reports

In May SP had looked at a woodland planting scheme in the Winster valley. He and KT were concerned that conifers were being planted and may spoil viewpoints. ROWs were however not affected.

9.5.2 GW made the same observation with regard to one received recently for Eskdale.

9.5.3 MM had gone to look at two areas regarding diversions necessary due to new- house building. One in Dacre was very straight forward. The other in Whitehaven, where there had been blatant obstruction for some time, was simply to regularise this.

9.6 Lake District National Park Partnership

CB informed LAF members that the new chair had met with all of the partners and that he was challenging the partners where appropriate.

9.7 North Pennines AONB Partnership Access and Recreation Working Group

GW had provided minutes/notes of the NP AONB Partnership meeting. He felt the most interesting thing to come out of the meeting was the FellFoot Forward project which goes all the way along the west flank of the Pennines. He asked if the LAF would wish him to flag up that the LAF would like to be involved. Most of the project would not be about access issues but may impinge on them. LAF members agreed that they would like to continue to be informed.

GW

10 Members News

10.1 RL and CL had worked with Coniston Copper Mines on disabled access routes. This was well received.

11 News from National and Regional Access Bodies

11.1 National LAF Conference – nothing further to report

11.2 NW Regional LAF – nothing further to report

11.3 Highways England – A66 upgrade (Penrith to Scotch Corner)

There had been a meeting a few weeks earlier in Darlington which neither CE nor CB had been able to go to.

12 Coastal Access update

DG reported that Stretch 5 had still not gone to the Secretary of State (SOS) and would not be sent until the present judicial review is addressed. There was still no decision from PINS on Stretch 3.

Funding for establishment works on Stretch 2 had changed. Information had been received from the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) on criteria which had now gone to the local team.

13 Authority Work Programme Updates

13.1 Cumbria County Council – Countryside Access Team

DG reported that flood recovery was still on target for delivery but there was some concern over the delivery of the Papcastle river banks works.

The ROWIP is fully committed this year.

Sport England funding is being applied for by the Lancaster Canal Regeneration Project between Crooklands and the Hincaster tunnel. The CA team are currently costing this section for improvement. Another section from Kendal to Natland has secured funding and works should start later this year. CB mentioned her disappointment that this was not multi-user.

MP asked about surveying parishes. DG confirmed that 7 parishes had been surveyed. In the remainder of the 27 identified parishes some survey work had been done or was ongoing and work should be completed before March.

DG confirmed for GW that the 'Ease of Use' surveys were no longer done because there was no funding.

13.2 Lake District National Park Authority

DP reported that Routes 2 Resilience is restoring Public Rights of Way (PRoW) in the National Park after Storm Desmond compromised 562km of path, 257 bridges and 108 items of access furniture. R2R is a £3m project, 100% funded by the European Agricultural Development Fund through the Rural Payments Agency. 160 R2R jobs have been completed so far. Work has been completed to 74 bridges, 56 footpaths and bridleways and 30 items of access furniture.

DG added that an extension had been granted by RPA.

MM asked if there was an update on the Keswick-Threlkeld path. DP would obtain the latest update and circulate it through KM. CB asked if the route was to be tarmacked; this would be disappointing for horse riders. DP confirmed that the project was on track and on target. **DP**
KM

SP asked about Breast High

CB asked if Routes to Resilience had been used to improve the ROW network to which DP responded that to some extent it had.

14 Ongoing Infrastructure Projects

14.1 Thirlmere water pipeline – CB had contacted United Utilities who were keen to meet with LAF representatives, but no suitable date had been found so far.

14.2 Moorside – GW observed that Moorside was still under serious review and that this affects the coastal connection project. DG was able to report that the CA team had had a catch up meeting with NuGen but no funding was yet available.

14.3 Northwest Coastal Connection – dependent on progress with Moorside

15 Feedback from Training Session

19th April site visit to the Ullswater Way – the site visit took place in the afternoon following the LAF meeting.

Afternoon site visit on flood recovery works in Carlisle – DG informed members that they would be visiting a number of sites along the bank of the Eden where flood works have been carried out. One of the sites had been visited when it was damaged so should be of interest to see the works completed. There would also be a contractor finishing some surfacing work which should give the LAF an insight into the process.

Another bonus was that the river levels were very low revealing the foundations of the old Roman crossing. All of this was walkable. SW asked if DG had a map, which he had.

16 Dates of Future Meetings

Dates for future meetings as follows:

Thursday 18th October 2018 was noted for the next meeting

Thursday 24th January 2019 was agreed for the following meeting