

**Minutes of the Cumbria and Lakes Joint Local Access Forum meeting  
held on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at Mungrisdale village hall**

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

**1 Welcome**

Charles Ecroyd welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

**2 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received as recorded above.

**3 Public Participation**

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

**4 Disclosure of Interest**

As a member of the LDNPA ROW Committee, GD disclosed an interest in Tilberthwaite and Seathwaite car parking.

There was no other 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**

Max Cousins, a mountain biker, would be interviewed soon. Douglas Chalmers' membership had terminated. CE may suggest to him that if there were another FoLD member with a particular interest in access to the countryside they could apply for LAF membership. A LAF member questioned appointing someone with a single interest.

**7 Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

CE thanked CB for chairing the previous meeting. The minutes were agreed but with the following amendments:

7.3.1 For further clarity, "within the Yorkshire Dales" is to be added at the end of: "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." Another LAF member added for information that the Green Lanes group was at present in abeyance as there was no-one to lead on it.

8.6 (second para) Amend Mark Eccles' title to "Head of Park Management".

10.1 RL to be changed to "RL and CL"

## 8 Matters Arising

8.1 8.1 **Logo and Website** – DP had ascertained that there was still about £500 left in the budget. This could go towards the website, provided this amount was sufficient to set up a good website.

DG reported that CCC would be changing its website arrangements in the new financial year. This could mean that CCC would no longer be able to allow the current LAF website to continue.

CB felt it would be best to just get on with it and would get some prices together. The logo had been left for now until the question of the website was settled. **CB**

In the meantime DG would extend the domain name for one further year. **DG**

8.2 8.2 **Warcop** – DG reported that the Warcop inquiry had been delayed while the inspector came on a site visit.

8.3 8.3 **Grange railway crossing** – DG thought that at present the situation was waiting for the order to be made. SW commented that the crossing was still locked and Grange was divided.

8.4 8.4 **Seathwaite parking** – KT knew little more on this. GD however was aware that this may come to a planning application. He added that the new local plan would have a slightly different view and support sustainable traffic management. The draft actually mentions supporting solutions to car parking problems at Seathwaite.

SW mentioned tension between geologist groups and children learning to climb. In addition this adds to the car parking problem.

A LAF member raised the matter of the Remembrance Service on Armistice Day at the monument on top of Gable. DP and GD were aware that National Park staff were dealing with this.

MM felt this pointed to the necessity to have a big review of all car-parking in the Lake District. CB asked if the LAF should have an official stance on this.

KT had previously said that the LAF was interested and that suitable parking should be available but reiterated that it should be dealt with within the constraints of statute.

DP felt it worth bearing in mind that this was under review in the new local plan. GD advised that policy 23 on car parking sets out a rather different approach than the old one. It had been out for public consultation and would be revised for the version that will go to SOS. A consultation will take place in April/May next year and then go straight to SOS. It may be worthwhile for members of the LAF who are interested in this to have a look at the summary document on the LDNPA website.

CE advised the LAF keep this as an ongoing agenda item until resolved.

CB suggested that LAF members look at policy 23 and that it goes on the January agenda.

- 8.5 8.7 Tilberthwaite** – LAF members were advised that change.org now had over 220,000 signatures in favour of a road closure.

SP reported that Diane Mallinson had one and a half years previously given a presentation with a view to closing green lanes. In the meantime the National Trust had been getting many objections to close green lanes to all traffic. SP had provided LAF members with a short paper on this which included a proposal that the LAF issue further advice to the LDNPA. He provided a draft and members suggested some amendments. SP would amend the draft accordingly and forward to the Chair. **SP**

DP gave an update, stating that repair work was almost finished and the route currently closed for work. Monitoring of use would continue afterwards. He would send a link to LAF members for a question and answer section on this. **DP**

CE reminded that the LAF had previously agreed support for the NPA to continue monitoring and allow the process to continue its course. The LAF agreed they wished this to continue.

The LAF should write to the Partnership, Mark Eccles (LDNPA), Stephen Hall (CCC) and Jeremy Barlow National Trust; along the lines of endorsing the actions currently being taken. DP suggested KT contact Mark Eccles to check who is responsible for what. CB felt that this was not necessary.

At GD's request it was to be minuted that he had abstained from this discussion.

- 8.6 Access to Water** – DP reported that Ronnie Muggeridge, Ranger for water, had spoken to all landowners affected and was reporting to Mark Eccles. Once the leaflet was finalised it would have the LAF's logo on it.
- 8.7 Planting Guide** – It was agreed to retrospectively minute that the revised ex -LDNPA-LAF planting guidelines were approved at the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018 LAF meeting. In addition it was agreed that this should become a C&LJLAF document.

## **9 LAF Work Programme**

### **9.1 Cumbria Access and Recreation Strategy (CARS)**

This was still in abeyance following the departure of David Robinson pending the appointment of another officer to the role.

### **9.2 Fell Fencing Project – update**

KT and GW had provided a paper. They had been invited to submit their comments to NE (Natural England). They received comments back after some time and a suggestion that they might wish to input to the Agriculture Bill. They submitted a lengthy question to be submitted to Parliament. Tim Farron MP did say that if KT and GW had any amendments for it they should provide these to him.

DP reported that there had been further work on fell fencing, but it was not progressing as much as they would have liked. However, the good news was that this was now to be included in the National Park State of the Park Report 2018, and temporary fencing on common land will now be monitored by the report in every review. The idea was that LD partners would provide information on what fences had gone in and the NP would add these to their database. DP felt it was a step forward that all these partners were now sharing information in this way.

Thanks to KT and GW were recorded for all the work they had done.

In answer to a question from a LAF member, SP replied that the only fencing that had been removed was that put up for re-hefting after 'foot and mouth'.

### **9.3 Inspections and recommendations on Rights of Way consultations – Members' reports**

**9.3.1** MM had looked at one that was uncontroversial and worthy of full LAF support. A bridleway on Halsenna Moor – an SSSI classified as a NNR with wet peat bogs and never subject to peat digs – was to be relocated to the west, providing a more attractive, user friendly and convenient alternative of benefit to all users. The area is well covered by paths and bridleways. On speaking to locals the main comment was "what about car parking?"

**9.3.2** SP reported on a bridleway through Troutbeck, thought to be a good thing. A footpath diversion, following storm damage at the confluence of Bulfell Beck and the River Glenderamackin, was approved of by those who had already seen the work being undertaken there. A footpath diversion at Greenhead Gill, Grasmere was also strongly supported.

**9.3.3** SW reported that a modification order for a path at Kirkbarrow Kendal had just come through; it was already on the Definitive Statement but had been omitted from the Map.

She had been alerted to a meeting of walkers with Tim Farron MP in Milnthorpe. This related to claimed trespass on PROW on the Dallam Estate and criminal damage (removing path obstructions). Local people cannot understand the attitude of the current owners. SW urged the LAF to get every path possible dedicated before they are lost.

CE declared that he knows the owners.

DG commented that from the point of view of the County Council, Dallam were model landowners and were happy for people to use paths in the Storth area.

### **9.4 Table of consultations from the previous quarter**

This was still work in progress.

### **9.5 Recent, current or upcoming consultations**

#### Glover Review

There was a similar review in Wales about three years ago of national parks and AONBs. Socioeconomic issues were included.

DP observed that there would be a call for evidence, at which point the LAF would be able to have some input. DG commented that it had been questioned why national trails had been omitted. The answer had simply confirmed that they been omitted. CE requested KT monitor **KT** this to ensure that any consultation was not missed between LAF meetings if it was a 6-12 week consultation. It was agreed that the LAF would respond.

### **9.6 Lake District National Park Partnership**

CB reported that there was nothing further in terms of access. With a new chair things would be done a little differently.

She suggested that the "State of the Park" may make a good presentation for a future LAF meeting.

## 9.7 North Pennines AONB Partnership Access and Recreation Working Group

DG had been unable to attend the meeting. The main concern for the group was that NE core funding was to be reduced by 5% on Pennine Way funding in 2019. The group had volunteered DG to ensure funds were not reduced for maintenance in the northern area.

## 10 Members News

- 10.1 HW reported that the round Walney path had a white line down it to show where people can walk. Locals did not like this and had asked CCC to remove it.
- 10.2 GD reported that Routes to Resilience was now almost complete with just a few more projects to finish. It would be formally closed in February.
- 10.3 OC observed that this was his last meeting and thanked everyone. CE thanked OC for his contributions over the years.
- 10.4 JC had been on the Mountain Liaison Group. He reported that unfortunately there had been no appetite to provide a secretariat and the group was in abeyance.

## 11 News from National and Regional Access Bodies

- 11.1 National LAF Conference – nothing further to report
- 11.2 NW Regional LAF – The chair of Lancashire LAF was intending to stand down as chair once a new chair was found. Consequently there would be a change in chair for the NW Regional LAF in due course.

The NW Regional LAF has a recurring theme of little contact between LAFs due to the lack of support from NE.

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

There had been a meeting recently which they had failed to update CE on. He had asked for the presentation to be sent to him. He would forward this to KM for circulation.

**CE**  
**KM**

A consultation was to follow next year on the proposed bypasses and elsewhere dualling.

With regard to the extension of Penrith beyond the Beacon, Highways England had not had this on their horizon. However, Lowther Estates had now withdrawn their application for the development on the Beacon. RL added that he and his wife had been working with Lowther estates on accessible tracks on the Beacon but everything had gone quiet.

Non-motorised user groups were very conscious of the mistakes made when up-grading the A1 and did not wish to see these repeated. There was now a wish for the old roads (when the A66 upgrade is complete) to be for non-motorised users.

## 12 Coastal Access update

CE was astonished that there was still no Inspector's report on Stage 3.

DG reported that the RPA would now fund the establishment works previously funded by Natural England. He had put in for the next claim and additional claims would go in as and when needed and funding would run until 2020.

There was nothing further on Stretch 5 until the judicial review was complete. Countryside Access and NE were keen for the Stretch 3 decision to be made because much of it was new routes which will require planning and environmental permissions to enable installation.

### **13 Authority Work Programme Updates**

#### **13.1 Cumbria County Council – Countryside Access Team**

Flood recovery – One major scheme at Papcastle has been cancelled owing to high river levels and the materials to be used being contaminated with a controlled weed. These funds will now be spent on flood works at Cockermouth.

ROWIP – The Lancaster Canal improvements were ongoing.

PROW cyclic survey programme – This has reached 12 parishes and the CA Team are on target with completing all by end of year.

National Trail Maintenance Programme – Pennine Way works had been completed with new gates and surfacing going in at Dufton (part-funded by the Friends of the North Pennines and the PW Partnership).

Major bridges – CCC have made a contribution to a private bridge previously washed out near Staveley on the River Kent.

Mapping Orders – The backlog is being addressed and is on target.

#### **13.2 Lake District National Park Authority**

There have been observations by some mountain bikers expressing concern with recent works carried out as part of the Routes to Resilience and Fix the Fells project work. The Park Management Team are exploring those concerns with local representatives from the mountain bike community.

Miles Without Stiles – There is a booklet on the website showing access. Work is also ongoing asking for feedback as part of reassessing the MWS routes. RL asked about if help was required. DP would put him in touch with Dave Switzer at the LDNPA. RL confirmed that **DP** he and CL and/or Disabled Ramblers would gladly provide input.

As part of the Access and Recreation Priority Projects work all existing and potential projects are being assessed, including producing business cases and costings. The hope is that when funding becomes available, we are in a position to deliver these works.

Health & Wellbeing – There is growing awareness of this and the benefits, and that there is a financial value to Rights of Way.

DP reported that the major organiser of the 3 Peaks Challenge had stepped down. CB observed that the LAF had been involved with the advisory group for many years.

### **14 Ongoing Infrastructure Projects**

#### **14.1 Thirlmere water pipeline** – DG had nothing further to report other than that CCC were monitoring this.

#### **14.2 Moorside** – Westside are still interested. The coastal connection cost could be so prohibitive that the more obvious place to put a new reactor could be Heysham.

14.3 Northwest Coastal Connection – as above.

## 15 Housekeeping

15.1 GDPR – In theory it was important not to use the ‘reply all’ button, and to use BCC instead. Some other LAFs were doing this. CB advised that a privacy policy was needed for the LAF. JC commented that historically Lake District LAF members had had a LAF email address. RL added that Disabled Ramblers were asked to agree that members don’t mind their photos being published.

15.2 Meeting Arrangements – Due to availability of meeting venues it had become necessary to reverse the normal meeting arrangements of having a training session/site visit in the morning with the formal LAF meeting following in the afternoon. LAF members’ thoughts on this were sought.

Some felt that it was beneficial to have the formal meeting in the morning when attendees were more alert than after lunch. Others felt that walking in the morning was a useful start to the day and also gave more opportunity for members to talk. Another observed that a wet morning site visit could mean sitting in damp clothes for the afternoon meeting.

## 16 Training Session Feedback

18<sup>th</sup> July site visit on flood recovery works in Carlisle – This site visit had been very informative and a report had been produced for the LAF website.

Afternoon site visit on flood recovery works at Bulfell Beck – The afternoon would begin with a presentation, by way of a brief introduction, on the LDNPA’s ‘Routes to Resilience’ scheme. Members would then walk to Bulfell Beck, where a stretch of the bank together with the path had been washed away, to hear further details of the work and planning involved.

## 17 Dates of Future Meetings

The date and location of the next meeting were noted as: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2019 in Penrith.

The date of the following meeting was agreed as Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2019 [but to be changed at the January 2018 meeting due to a clash with another meeting]