

**YORKSHIRE DALES NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
ACCESS COMMITTEE**

11th May 2006

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PARK MANAGEMENT

1. ACTIVITIES

- Attendance at the Local Government Association Access Advisory Group
- Attendance at the Pennine Bridleway Steering Group
- Attendance at the Dales Volunteers Spring Meeting
- Attendance at the North Yorkshire LTP Transport and tourism group meeting
- Attendance at the Sustainable Travel Partnership meeting
- Attendance at a meeting of the Craven Integrated Rural Development project
- Launch of the draft sub-regional cycle tourism strategy
- Attendance at the ANPA Recreation Management Workshop

2. ISSUES FOR MEMBERS' CONSIDERATION

Training Events

At the Access Committee meeting on the 3rd November 2005 members agreed a programme of member training/awareness raising sessions to follow on from each Committee meeting. After the last meeting a session on 'Access for All' was provided and 3 members attended the briefing and 2 the site visit. Recognising both the difficulty for members in making time for these sessions and the officer time spent in setting them up it is suggested that, in future, members of the Yorkshire Dales Access Forum are invited to attend. This would have a number of benefits. It will help to ensure that there are adequate numbers to make the sessions worthwhile, it will save officer time in providing similar separate training for access forum members and it will provide useful contact between the two bodies. There may, of course, be some subjects that will be more appropriately addressed by the Committee on it's own, however it is considered that the majority of subjects are suitable for joint sessions.

Recommendation

It is recommended that members of the Yorkshire Dales Local Access Forum be invited to Access Committee training sessions except for those sessions that are identified as being of a confidential nature by the Head of Park Management and the Chairman of the Committee.

Cumbria Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP)

The draft ROWIP for Cumbria is being published in two separate parts. The original timetable for production of the draft ROWIP (part 1) for Cumbria anticipated that it would be ready for consideration by the May Access Committee. Unfortunately, the timetable has

slipped and the first part of the draft ROWIP is now expected at the beginning of June. It is anticipated that the publication of the second part will fall within the Access Committee cycle, and Cumbria County Council have said that there will be opportunity to incorporate the Authority's formal comments on the full ROWIP (part 1 and 2) at that stage.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the chair and deputy chair respond to the Cumbria ROWIP consultation on behalf of the Access Committee if this falls outside of the committee cycle.

3. ISSUES FOR MEMBERS TO NOTE

Defra - LAF Workshop

On 8 February Defra and the Countryside Agency hosted a workshop which brought together 17 local access forum members from across England. This was attended by the YDNPA's Access Development Officer, as Association of National Park Authorities representative. Geoff Wilson also attended (invitations were sent out to all members of ydaf). The workshop looked at how written guidance, issued by Defra and the Agency, could be improved and developed in a way which best meets the needs of forum members as far as possible. Many constructive ideas and suggestions emerged during the day, which will be taken into account in revising the Secretary of State's Guidance and producing a new LAF Members Information Pack/Handbook.

A report of the workshop has been sent to all access authorities and to all forum secretaries and will be forwarded to Access Committee members on request.

**JON AVISON
HEAD OF PARK MANAGEMENT**