23 April Local Liaison Group at NYMNP Headquarters Helmsley

chaired by Head Ranger Ian Burgess attended by Robert Clutson (Scarborough Group)

New database. Results of user acceptance training. Ben will provide report.

ROW Data will be available to **all** enquirers, was expected mid-May

Matters arising

3.9 cropping obstructions. Will action continue? following reorganisation , reduced resources effect. 18% manning reduction is bound to affect action.

Enforcement requires action by a member of staff. (consequences of reduced manning and effect of reorganisation)

5.4 new charges on diversions. Costs should be fully charged to the landowner. Proposals to go to cabinet for approval before implementation Originally full cost could not be recovered, but in future full cost will be charged. Change is imminent

3.9 UURs No progress on the plan. Nothing to report.

Agenda items

6. Service Reorganisation

Reorganisation. £130K budget fixed.

New access and ROW manager post to be advertised.

Mapping Principal Map Officer - Penny, will be appointed. 1 &2 map officers (Russ & Bett?) diversions officer remains.

Bett 3 days week, Ian has combined with a diversions officer post, Susan will work from home & Boroughbridge. No real changes to total Definitive map team. Confirmed only yesterday. Susan remains

Above new structure delayed by minimum 6 months. All local authority staff on 3 months' notice, therefore there will be a minimum of 6 months before any new appointees can be in post. Definitive map team now settled, but

maintenance depends on approval of proposals by cabinet – then advertising posts and hearing appeals.

Principal officer ROW post unfilled, 4 ROW officers and 2 field staff plus technical officer in map team will join this team , maintenance : 6 members of staff fewer.

Wef 1 October above (manager and principal posts yet to be filled). At present working as before – but no money (the budget has still not been notified to NYMNP team). Ian and 5 rangers to do the work).

(History: Ian arrived 2006, 28 jobs then , now 12.6 posts).

Question – Who is progressing this reorganisation – answer: nobody. This should be driven by the people yet to be recruited and as explained above cannot start until September.

Example: policy was to not fall out with the landowner, ie over signs . This was the directed policy of the NYMNP.

NYMNP in future will not do anything more than the statutory minimum. But all of this depends on the elected representatives approving the changes (in relation to depending on volunteers doing the work). **Note that the members of the governing body are mainly landowners**.

Statutory duty is no longer the over-riding deciding factor. i.e the risk of a fine which might be less than the cost of fulfilling the statutory duty would affect the decision on whether the progress a FP problem. (Paul AONB manager NYCC)

However the public by lobbying elected members can affect decisions (libraries is a good example). **So – lobby and make a fuss)** i.e. county councillor, MPs, local papers.

2. definitive Map Update.

One post (12-months temporary contract to be advertised. Working copy of definitive map so out of date it is becoming worthless (Karl)

Expectation for including changes is a month – Karl has noted 40% increase in load. Running 30 orders a year, these are not getting included in the working copy definitve map.

(typically diversion orders, MMOs) Action Ben who will get Penny

3.Network maintenance Update

Backlog remains. Data is unreliable, hence cleansing. i.e where a bridge is requested, but there has never been one, this an improvement, thus will be shifted from maintenance to improvements. Will affect the totals.

i.e heather moorland – if path undefined then will not be cleared, but if defined will require action.

Safety issues will continue to attract action. Responsibility for safety in all works cannot be avoided by NYCC & NYMNP – however cost of training volunteers to meet safety requirements is prohibitive.

Typically finger posts erection (which because requires working on/beside a highway requires safety training) will be done less, and in future may be replaced by waymarks. (i.e Working by a roadside is governed by legislation covering working on carriageways, thus safety training is mandatory. Thus the cost of providing training is not cost effective hence need for a ranger to supervise and there is a shortage now of professional staff).

NYMNP is currently setting up a charitable group to raise money for improvements.

Diversion report

Selby requests list of bridges.

There are couple of bridges which were put in in 1980s not on the line of the path and landowners now object to replacing bridge on its current alignment. Cost of a longer bridge vs cost of path diversion/realignment.

Russ busy with inquiries. Objections to diversions causing delays.

Tadcaster , a 9-day Public Inquiry urged to act more promptly to avoid loss (death) of witnesses.

Massive backlog in diversion orders. Ie. There are 300 buildings on ROWs. Karl has seen an increase in requests for diversions, but no increase seen by head ranger, in fact, the opposite. There will be a significant increase in the cost of obtaining a diversion to the applicant. Prior to mid-90s landowner did not require planning permission to erect an agricultural building which resulted in buildings on the line of ROWs.

Countryside Access Officer

Programme of replacing stiles with kissing gates. Problem with narrow gates noted. **Yorkshire** Wolds Way Last stile will shortly be replaced. Signposts also to be replaced .

Seasonal clearance:
Support to Natural England of Coastal path.

Selby: work caused by carbon capture and gas pipeline results in much work.

Trans Pennine trail progress.

Ramblers countryside access booklet: work on supporting ramblers. (legal team involvement)

Eastfield development: work also caused much work (developer sought to put in a cheap unsufaced path.

NYMNP ringfenced Karl: NYMNP 40%cut. Still nothing from DEFRA (grant comes from DEFRA), on budget for the current FY . NYMNP will in future charge for all planning matters, i.e letters.

Cannot support level of ROW work as in past. Promoted routes will get most support i.e landowners will receive material only for promoted ROWs.

New software at £6 to manage volunteer working program. i.e. training, skills

Donations: £4K , also from Scarborough Ramblers on signs but consistency on design necessary.

Surveys: reduction in numbers of routes meeting pass standard. Hoping to include groups in addition to Scarborough.

Staff cuts. Only one redundant staff member has found a new job.

BVPI & Ramblers surveys: a pragmatic approach to surveys. Karl hopes for two volunteers to do the data input.

LLG Maintenance Report . supported by photographs

Members Forum. Two meetings imminent

Seggimire Lane Objective is to maintain the expensive newly improved standard.

Now national concern that unclassified roads are being trashed, however there is a political appetite (present government for a change in the law governing classification which could sweep away existing restrictions). (See above on lobbying)

DONM 22 October.