Walking Hub Sub-committee report, Group Committee 28 May 2015

Inaugural meeting, 25 April 2015.

Present: H Whitehouse (chairman), M Whitehouse.

1 The chairman reported that every member of the group had been invited to join the sub-committee, and all those who had volunteered were present.

2 It was agreed unanimously that informal notice of future meetings from the chairman to the other member would be sufficient, that a quorum should be one member, of whom one should be the chairman, and that the chairman should have a casting vote.

3 The chairman reported that before the formal formation of the sub-committee, he had dealt with an urgent matter in respect of the Minerals and Waste Joint Plan consultation, administered by NYCC on behalf of that council, York City Council, and the NYMNPA, concerning the proposed inclusion of a candidate quarrying site at Seamer Carr.

He submitted: '*The public bridleway that passes through the centre of this site is one of only two north-south continuous rights of way from Scarborough.*

With the planned enhancement of public footpaths in the Eastfield area, and the unrealised opportunities for developing more leisure paths in The Mere/Musham Bank community woodland (which the borough council has indicated an ambition to exploit) this bridleway is an essential link in a linear network that offers a continuous off-road route from the projected Weaponness Leisure Village.

Minimal expense would attract more exploitation of this attractive, convenient pedestrian route from the heart of urban Scarborough to the open countryside of the Yorkshire Wolds and its national trail, leading from the leisure village, via Queen Margaret's Estate, The Mere, Musham Bank, Musham Bank field, Morrison's link, Burton Riggs nature reserve, Long Lane, Meads Lane, A64 track, Metes Lane, Woodhouse Farm and Flixton.

It is essential that this right of way (for preference, ultimately adhering to its present, historic route) is protected, and I submit that any proposal to develop the site should detail the means by which passage can be preserved (if necessary by implementing a series of temporary diversions) while work progresses.'

The chairman stated that in recent years, planning permission had been granted for a new building by the owners of Star Carr Farm, which it was acknowledged would disturb important archaeological remains related to the Star Carr megalithic site. This suggested that the proximity of the proposed land allotment for quarrying would not necessarily be an over-riding impediment to its eventual exploitation.

The sub-committee endorsed the chairman's action.

4 The chairman is to write to Scarborough Borough Council and its consultants concerning the proposal for a Walking Hub at Weaponness Leisure Village, as detailed in a report to the group committee on 19 April 2015.

5 The chairman is to write to Yorkshire Water, concerning the provision of walking routes beside the Hertford River, as detailed in a report to the group committee on 19 April 2015.

6 The chairman is to investigate the possibility of re-opening the application for a DMMO for a right of way from Derwentvale Farm, as detailed in a report to the group committee on 19 April 2015. As a "footpath" was still being represented on OS 7th Series 1:63360 maps (1950, revised 1955)

from Derwentdale Farm to Seamer Carr Farm (passing the track from Robin's Bottom Plantation/Staxton and continuing east to the A64), there could be an unexplored case for arguing that this was wrongly excluded from the Definitive Map in Seamer parish.

Summary of further activity

1 The chairman emailed North Yorkshire County Council on 26.4.15 to seek clarification of the status of the well-used surfaced track linking Metes Lane (Seamer bridleway 30.20/8/1) to Seamer bridleway 30.20/4/1. This does not appear on the List of Streets or the Definitive Map. No reply has yet been received.

2 The chairman reported that Coventry University and Scarborough University Technical College were each proposing to build at the northern end of the Weaponness Leisure Village site. He felt that this did not appear to have any deleterious impact on the preservation of the existing pedestrian routes, and no representations were therefore necessary.

3 The chairman noted that the county council had breached its written undertaking to place online the List of Streets for the Scarborough urban area, on the grounds that conflicts existed between the written record and the physical position. The chairman emailed NYCC on 28.4.15 to point out that this argument could apply in many other areas whose List of Streets were nonetheless available online, and he sought clarification about the availability for inspection of the List of Streets, as prescribed by Section 36(6) of the Highways Act 1980. No reply has yet been received.

Harry Whitehouse