

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT 2004

BACKGROUND

Approval for setting up the North Lincolnshire Local Access Forum was granted by Cabinet on 30 October 2001. The Terms of Reference and Membership were established 12 June 2003. Creation of the Forum was a statutory responsibility and members needed to be appointed by 8 August 2003.

MEMBERSHIP

The forum should have no fewer than ten members and no more than twenty two and should consist of users of new access land and local rights of way, owners and occupiers of access land or land crossed by local rights of way, or any other interests especially relevant to an appointing authority's area for example tourism, sport and active recreation, nature conservation, coastal issues, education, heritage, health, transport operators and local business interests, whether agricultural or non-agricultural.

It was agreed that the size of the North Lincolnshire Access Forum be 17 members; comprising 3 members of the council - 2 members of the Conservative group and 1 member of the Labour group and that an appropriate advertisement be placed for membership of the forum.

Subsequent to the advertisement the following individuals were appointed to the Forum membership:

Councillor John England	Councillor David Wells
Councillor Bernard Regan	Mary Jenkinson
Steve Ball	Katherine Hammond
Hazel Armstrong	Frances Ross
Richard Clark	Richard Alderson
James Orton	Andrew Towns
Edward Anderson	Jenny Haynes
David Dukes	Guy Hoey
Martin Broadbridge	

The lead officer from the council would be Colin Wilkinson, Senior Rights of Way Officer, and a secretary would be appointed from Legal and Democratic Services.

MEETINGS

The Forum has met on:

17 December 2003

7 April 2004

22 September 2004

AGENDA ITEMS

Topics discussed at Forum Meetings have included:

Draft Maps of Open Country and Registered Common Land
Use of Signs on Access Land.
Nuisance Alleyways.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 – Provisional Maps
Definitive Map anomalies and applications for Modification Orders
Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Proposals for Inclusion
Greenways and Quiet Lanes Project
Access Points to Open Countryside
Appeals by Landowners – Access Points.
Access Management Grant Scheme.

DEFRA Circulars and Consultation Papers

- (i) Use of Public Rights of Way by Mechanised Vehicles.
- (ii) The Countryside and Rights of Way Act – Regulations on Public Places
- (iii) Commencement Order No.4
- (iv) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Part 2 – Public Rights of Way and Road Traffic.

Local Issues include:-

Alkborough Flats: improved access is being negotiated with the Environment Agency in lieu of the loss of part of Public Footpath 1 to and along the Humber Bank as a result of the planned managed retreat of the Humber Estuary. Principally, this includes a path along the base of the escarpment between Alkborough and Whitton. It is not yet known, however, whether this will be a footpath or a bridleway.

Risby Warren: included as an area of open country to which the public will enjoy access on foot come November 2005 under Part 1 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, concern has been expressed about the suitability of public access to some of the site on account of safety issues arising from the disused iron-ore workings beneath.

Head of Legal and Democratic Services
and Secretary to the Forum