

Public Rights of Way and Access Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 26th January, 2021 at 10.00 am in Zoom Virtual Meeting - Zoom

Present:

Chair

County Councillor Jimmy Eaton BEM

Committee Members

County Councillor Ian Brown

County Councillor Stephen Clarke

Alison Boden, (Wyre Borough Council representative)

Adam Briggs, National Farmers Union (NFU)

Neil Herbert, Lancaster Ramblers Association

Mrs Rosemary Hogarth, (Long Distance Riders Group representative)

David Kelly, Ramblers Association

Ms Chris Peat, (British Horse Society representative)

Mike Prescott, Cycling UK

Roger Wright, (Highways Agency/Red Rose Land Rover Club representative)

Officers

Garth Harbison, Lancashire County Council

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from County Councillor Cosima Towneley, County Councillor Andrew Snowden, Jenny Allen and Mrs Shirley Northcott.

2. Minutes of the Meeting held on the 4 February 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on the 4 February 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

4. Highways Act Orders and Town and Country Planning Act Orders

The forum was informed that Legal Services had 82 live files. Since the last forum meeting Legal Services had received 19 new applications and 3 matters had been closed. 37 applications had not yet been to committee.

7 applications were awaiting Order making. 4 Orders were in the objection period and 3 Orders were awaiting confirmation authorisation.

5 Orders needed to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate as they had received objections. 2 Orders were awaiting confirmation as they required groundworks to be undertaken before they were confirmed. 24 Orders had been confirmed but were awaiting to be certified fit for use.

There was concern over the amount of live files and the forum queried if Legal Services had diverted its resources elsewhere.

Regarding Town and Country Planning Act Orders, Legal Services had 2 live files. 2 matters were waiting to be confirmed following further advice from the Public Rights of Way Team.

5. Definitive Map Modification Orders

Legal Services had 156 live files. Since the last forum meeting they had received 69 new applications and 6 matters had been closed.

88 matters were either in the consultation period or were being investigated before going to committee.

8 matters were awaiting Order making. 9 Orders had been made and were in their objection period. 46 matters had received objections and would need referral to the Planning Inspectorate.

No matters had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate for determination. 2 matters were awaiting confirmation. 3 Orders had been confirmed by the Planning Inspectorate and were in the high court application window.

There was concern over the rise to 156 live files. This query would be taken back to Legal Services to find out why this had happened and if Legal Services could cope with the increase.

6. Any Other Business

For the next meeting of the forum a report was requested on how many footbridges were in need of replacement and for how long. There was also a request for how many replacement footbridges were expected to be provided in the next financial year.

There was concern over the erection of illegal signs due to the Covid pandemic. It was pointed out there were no walking restrictions because of Covid. A business guide for farmers and landowners had been produced.

There was concern that not enough attention was being paid to rural cycle ways.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next meetings of the Forum would be:

Tuesday 20th July at 10:00am

Tuesday 18th January at 10:00am

L Sales
Director of Corporate Services

County Hall
Preston