

Bradford Local Access Forum

1st November 2022 6:30 pm

On line via Teams

Minutes

Present

Members:	Pam Allen (PA)	Chair	Horse Rider and Walker
	Didy Metcalf (DM)		Horse Rider, Land Owner, Local History and Equalities
	David Sturge (DS)		Cyclist, Walker, Local History and Wildlife
	Cllr Alex Ross-Shaw (AR)		Portfolio Holder
	Goodith White (GW)		Menston Parish Councillor
	Chris Moore (CM)		Walker, occasional cyclist
	Nick Dybeck (ND)		Walker

CBMDC	Tim Brooks (TB)		Forum Secretary
Officers:	Danny Jackson (DJ)		CRoW Manager
	Emma Young (EY)		Active Travel Champion

Apologies

	Owen Wells		Friends of Ilkley Moor and Ilkley Parish Cllr.
	Jane Callaghan (JC)		Wilsden Parish Councillor
	Tim Sellors (TS)		Cyclist, Walker & MTB Trail Development

1. Matters Arising

Pam Allen thanked the Countryside Team for the removal of the bench on Baildon Moor. DJ reported that a new one had been recently installed but would be swiftly removed. Both benches will be stored and available for retrieval by the owner.

GW pointed out that the changes to the footbridge at Menston that Network Rail propose are not good for easy access.

The minutes of the last forum (March 2020) were agreed as a correct record.

2. Accessible network, Council motion – any progress?

PA This had been discussed at the Regional Access Forum. She had also consulted an individual user about specific paths, where there was a need to cater for necessity and where practicable.

DM mentioned Active Travel Bids from the Combined Authority may be useful.

DJ Gates, Gaps and Stiles – getting improvements is a case of taking the opportunity as it arises. CRoW are getting a steady flow of requests for barriers to try and stop illegal use (both motorbikes/vehicles and fly tipping). Equalities impacts needs to be considered in each case. Have also been working with Bradford University who have been filming walks for informed decision making on where people can go.

ND asked which routes are prioritised. DJ replied it was as the opportunity arose but improvements would be directed to heavily used paths were possible.

CM pointed out that the responsibility for maintenance of gates, gaps and stiles remains with the landowner under s.147 of the 1980 Highway Act.

DS reiterated the mental health benefits of accessing green space and cautioned against over engineering routes.

3. Active travel. How should LAF become involved here to ensure network access for all users.

Emma Young, Cycling and Active Travel Champion for CBMDC was introduced.

PA Road safety improvements need to take equestrians into account and the LAF are keen to work cooperatively with Emma, how can we support Active Travel?

EY said her key aims was getting everyday journeys onto active modes, but they can also be used for leisure purposes.

PA asked are we looking for particular routes and opportunities? EY asked the LAF to let her know any particular routes which could be improved/upgraded.

ND Pointed out the obvious overall with the Accessible Network item and that arterial routes e.g. the Canal Road Greenway are ideal.

PA agreed in that equestrians would like to avoid the main roads and there are benefits for all users. The key is identifying the gaps.

GW development contributions have funded walking information maps.

EY WYCA (West Yorkshire Combined Authority) put a bid in to central government including three Active Travel Neighbourhoods in Bradford, – Darley Street, City Centre for Active Travel Funding. The bid did include 2 bridleways but this element was not taken forward. Active Travel England do recognise the benefits of shared use paths and they will be reconsidered in the future. Trance 4 funding will be available from April 2023 with 3 year funding available allowing more scope.

DM the LAF would appreciate being kept informed.

ARS Leeds have had £250m for funding arterial route development – Bradford would love this much investment, whether alongside arterial route or greenways. Greenways do have added value e.g. biodiversity. Plans are underway for main road improvements along Thornton Road. A greenway would be better (TB - one is indicated on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan along Deep Lane) but timescales for land acquisitions can't fit into three-year project timescales.

On road improvements are not widely appreciated, there is a need to encourage neighbourhoods to feel safe to access them so they are used. Kings Road could be a good option for development as it is very wide. Active travel options, including buses, are now included from the outset. Options need to be flagged and the LAF can help in advising this.

There has been good feedback from Saltaire where roads have been closed to rat running. There are plans to get a more permanent solution to Wakefield Road, road sweepers need to be able to fit on segregated cycleways. Blue-green infrastructure is now included in highway improvement schemes.

PA would like to link access to the City of Culture activities.

4. Recent CROW Work and Projects

DJ had sent out an activity report before the meeting. DM asked if the White Rose Forest are identifying areas in Bradford for tree planting? DJ said there is ongoing work through Bob Thorpe in woodlands. PA in other areas, woodland fencing has obstructed RoW as has overgrowing trees. The LAF would like to be informed of locations of any new woodlands. DM mentioned that other districts have suffered from Access Land being fenced off for trees.

5. Date of next Forum.

28th February 2022.

It was agreed that an outdoor meeting should be arranged for the summer.