

# Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

<b>Report title:</b>	<b>Countryside Access arrangements update</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>18 April 2018</b>
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	<b>Steve Miller, Assistant Director, Culture and Heritage</b>
<b>Strategic impact</b> To address the concerns raised by the Local Access Forum with regards to Public Rights of Way Management and delivering the service in an economic and cost effective way.	

## Executive summary

At the July 2017 Local Access Forum (NLAF), it was agreed that at each future meeting, a summary of the work the Countryside Access Officers and Environment teams would be provided. At the October 2017 NLAF it was agreed that this report should be presented to the PROW sub-group prior to being brought to NLAF.

This paper highlights this work in terms of the volumes of customer queries received and responded to. The paper also highlights other key areas of work.

### Recommendations:

**That the Local Access Forum note the progress made to date since the Countryside Access Officer posts were introduced.**

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. Since 1 April 2017, there is a single point of contact within each Highways Area office being responsible for their local rights of way issues. By having the officer within the Area office they are more “on the ground” and better placed to deal with the operational reactive issues that occur when managing rights of way. They are supported by the wider Highways Area team staff. In addition, the Norfolk Trails team sits within the Environment Service at County Hall and carries out strategic and developmental aspects of developing the countryside access network.

## 2. Performance

- 2.1. The information below summarises the performance information available for the complete months between April 2017 and 23 March 2018.

The new CRM defect reporting system went live 22 Thursday March. Additional notes are being made visible to the public in the automatic update emails sent when third party defects have been inspected and more status options are available on tablets under the ‘No Defect’ category:

- Duplicate (after the upgrade duplicate is available under No Defect category rather than using the Cancelled function within Mayrise).
- Resolved on site
- Letter sent to landowner
- Notice served on landowner

This is in addition to the statuses already available on tablets:

- Found – No action (defect doesn’t meet intervention criteria)
- Found and forwarded (to relevant authority)

- Confirmed (we'll take action)

	Actual defect showing on systems as of 25/03/18 @ 14:30	
Area	Mayrise defects Active	CRM's
<b>North (SP)</b>	93	14
<b>South (JT)</b>	105	5
<b>West (DM)</b>	14	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>24</b>

The total number of enquiries we have had reported since April 2017 is 2427.

- North - 1006
- South - 976
- West – 346
- Trails - 99

By 26 March 2018, 54% of the 2427 queries had been resolved.

The majority of enquiries received were regarding damaged signs, non-reinstatement, obstructions, overgrown surface, overgrown hedges/ trees and surface condition.

2.2. In addition to the numbers above, there have been a number of enforcement notices sent out to landowners. The following have been issued:

- 136 number Section 131A, 134-137 Non-reinstatement Notices sent
- 15 number Section 143 Removal Obstruction Notices sent
- 20 Section 130's received and issued (enforcement against NCC)

To date 130 Non-reinstatements (S.131a, 134 & 137), all removal of obstructions (S.143) and 13 of the S.130's have been resolved. The remaining are ongoing and being actively monitored and pursued with landowners.

2.3. In terms of other progress, key highlights include:

- Cutting contract has been updated and is being sent out to the contractors for the start of April (2018-19 financial year). Instruction to start first cut will be reviewed nearer to the time but expect to begin cutting again in May/ June.
- Still awaiting data from The Rural Payments Agency (RPA). RPA have advised they currently have a back log but should be able to share the information shortly. They are happy with our submitted data agreement and request we have put forward. This will map based data, only accessible by the Countryside Access Officers. This will show all landowners which claim for having a Right of Way over their land. This data is hoped to strength the enforcement process and will be updated annually.
- £119K of the £200k for PRoW capital improvement work for the next three years has been allocate to the attached list of jobs. Discussions continue on the remaining budget of £81k.

Area	Project Code	Highway Engineer	District	Parish	PROW number	Location	Description (from-to)	Type of works Summary	Type of works Detail	Context reasoning for priority	fee cost	works cost	Total Cost	Priority	Funded	Source	Year
North	PFA013	N2	Broadland	S. Walsingham	FP1	Rural	From jet Fleet Lane to edge of Fleet Dyke 60m2	Surface (Boardwalk)	Surface/Resurface to match path alongside dyke	Well used path by tourists and locals. Parish council interest	3,000	6,000	9,000	Medium	Yes	NCC E20m	2018-19
West	PFA014	W1	KL&WN	Hunstanton	FP10	Rural	Narrow riverside footpath linking Old Hunstanton to Holme		Repair improvement to riverbank to prevent loss of FP	Popular path close to beach. Ongoing issue. H&S issue arising. 'Old' route of National Trail.	3,000	30,000	33,000	High	Yes	NCC E20m	2018-19
North	PFA015	N1	N Norfolk	Cromer	FP6	Urban	Surrey Street to Red Lion Hotel (approx.)	Surface	Improve existing asphalt surface	Heavily used urban link path. Path surface breaking up and needs replacing to avoid slips, trips and falls.	3,000	5,000	8,000	High	Yes	NCC E20m	2018-19
North	PFA016	N2	N Norfolk	Horning	FP7	Urban	From Lower Street to River	Surface (Unbound)	Raised stone path.	There is a capital drainage scheme in the 2018-19 programme to replace a section of drainage along this FP. PRow investment toward raised stone path as part of the finished drainage scheme with to allow access at all states of tidal flooding.	3,000	4,000	7,000	Low	Yes	NCC E20m	2018-19
North	PFA017	N1	N Norfolk	Blakeney	BR7	Urban	Route between boundary walls leading to High Street	Surface (Slurry)	Slurry seal 120m x 2m	Always high on parish agenda. Well used route tourists and locals.	1,000	3,000	4,000	Medium	Yes	NCC E20m	2018-19
South	PFA018		South Norfolk	Denton	FP21	Rural	Footbridge replacement Carries FP21 over a tributary of the River Waveney	Footbridge	The existing bridge has the same form of construction (post tensioned segmental concrete beams) as the bridge that collapsed into the Waveney and is exhibiting the same seepage problems. We are currently planning to close the bridge on safety grounds and install a temporary Youngmans board bridge as a temporary measure pending permanent replacement of the bridge	In view of the lower estimated costs. This may be a good candidate to fund in 2018/19.	5,000	35,000	40,000	4	Yes	NCC E20m	2018-20
South	PFA019		South Norfolk	Diss	FP14	Urban	From Mount Street north around St Mary's Church to Church Street	Surface	Re-surfacing	Footpath is well used in the centre of Diss. It is surfaced already but this is in a poor state of repair and requires resurfacing. Approx 130m x 2m	3,000	15,000	18,000	High	Yes	NCC E20m	2018-19

## Norfolk Trails team Countryside Access arrangements update

Norfolk trails have procured a cutting contract which ensures the management of the long distance routes across Norfolk. These routes are cut three times annually with each cut totalling 393,794m. In addition to this additional works are carried out by the contractors as required which has added an additional 5,488m to the cutting contract. The additional cuts are in direct response to customer comments and feedback thereby ensuring the overall quality of our routes are improved or maintained

Highlights from the past 3 months include:

- Surface improvement project at Beeston Bump, Sheringham which improves access to the SSSI as well as replacing a number of steps to improve their safety and longevity. Work was also carried out on Sheringham FP10 to improve access and rectify damage by vehicular access
- Marriott's Way associated circular walks signage started
- Workhouse Walks project completed and signage installed
- Boudicca Way signage installed from Tyrell's Wood to Diss, with 8 kissing gates installed in Scole to improve access
- Disabled Access Audits carried out and created in to publications ready for publishing
- Little Ouse Path resurfacing at Santon Downham to give access to a bridleway along the riverbank

The next three month work programme includes work on the Marriott's Way as part of the HLF project to install signage on the 6 associated circular walks and a surface improvement project at Hellesdon station. Signage will also be completed on the remaining section of the Boudicca Way and signage on the Angles Way. Nar Valley Way and Norfolk Coast Path circular audits will be carried out for disabled access.

Row Labels	Count of Status detail (Object) (Highways Defect)
Already reported and fix planned	2
Enquiry was cancelled in CRM	
No action has been taken at this time but we will continue to monitor the problem.	3

We are investigating the problem	10
We could not find the problem and so have not taken any action at this time.	
We have resolved the problem	6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>21</b>

The above issues relate to issues on the Norfolk Coast Path and Peddar's Way (National Trail) and the Marriott's Way that come in to the CRM as a Highways issue. However a number of issues are reported externally via volunteers who report in problems. For example a volunteer report on the Norfolk Coast path reported a number of issues. Following this we carried out a number of signage installations which would not be recorded using the CRM system. Similarly reports of damage to the steps on Beeston Bump were rectified in addition to the resurfacing project to make the site safer.

### **3. Financial Implications**

3.1. None arising from this report

### **4. Issues, risks and innovation**

4.1. Nothing to report.

### **5. Background**

5.1. The background information to this paper is covered by the preceding paper on Public Rights of Way Maintenance, presented to this Committee.

### **Officer Contact**

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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