

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

Report title:	Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) 2018 - 2028 Consultation
Date of meeting:	7 February 2018
Responsible Officer:	Steve Miller, Assistant Director Culture and Heritage
Strategic impact The Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018 – 2028 (NAIP) will replace the Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007 – 2017 fulfilling the statutory duty for Norfolk County Council as county Highway Authority, to review and publish a Rights of Way Improvement Plan every 10 years under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.	

Executive summary

The NAIP Sub-Group of the Local Access Forum is working with Norfolk County Council to develop a Rights of Way Improvement Plan for 2018-2028 when the current plan finishes (see minutes of last meeting – Appendix 6).

The new plan is now completed in draft (Appendix 1) along with a draft Statement of Actions (Appendix 2) and draft Action Plan 2018 – 19 (Appendix 3). These documents are now ready for public consultation.

Recommendations:

1. **Agree that the NAIP document (Appendix 1) and supporting Statement of Actions (Appendix 2) and Delivery Plan 2018-19 (Appendix 3) are ready for consultation with stakeholders.**
2. **Agree that the revised timetable for the consultation shall run between 1 March 2018 and 31 May 2018 (12 weeks)**
3. **That public consultation will be via ‘Citizen Space’ with one structured stakeholder event (invitees only) for stakeholders and organisations not members of the NLAF taking place at County Hall during mid-to late April 2018. NAIP subgroup members to assist with the stakeholder event and with the collation of survey responses. A stakeholder list is appended to this report (Appendix 4). Posters will be sent to all parish councils to promote the public consultation. A popup banner will ‘rove’ around libraries to promote the consultation. Paper copies of the report will be available in libraries. A notice will be placed in the press.**
4. **Agree questions that will be used in the survey (see Appendix 5)**
5. **Agree that Keith Bacon (Chair of the Broads Local Access Forum) is co-opted onto the NAIP subgroup.**

1. Proposal (or options)

1.1. NAIP documents

Draft timetable for consultation

The consultation period is at least 12 weeks (3 months). Both the Strategic elements and Statement of Actions will be consulted on.

Consultation

There will be two consultation mechanisms: a structured stakeholder event for invitees taking place mid to late April at County Hall; and a public consultation which will be managed by an online 'Citizen Survey' which will be supported by public displays (e.g. libraries and promoted by parish councils). Paper copies of the plan will be available in public libraries across the county. NAIP sub-group members have offered volunteer time to help collate responses to the consultations.

Stakeholder consultation event format

1. Takes place at County Hall in mid/late April. Two options over timing for the event: 1430 to 1700 or 1600 to 1900.
2. Includes breakout sessions to check objectives against the plan's 8 themes, and to seek help with the plan's delivery:

Time	What
1430 (or 1600)	Registration/ tea coffee
1500 - 1520 (or 1630 to 1650)	Introductory presentation
1520 – 1640 (or 1650 to 1710)	Breakout sessions (to check objectives and establish opportunities for input by stakeholders to delivery): 8 'stations', one for each of the plan's themes (well managed access network; well-connected access network; well protected natural and historic environment; well promoted access network; well informed access network; community access network; healthy access network; valuable access network). Capture via post-its. Attendees move around the stations, spending 10 minutes at each. NLAF support required at each station
1640 - 1655 (or 1710 - 1825)	Plan appearance and usability.
1700 (or 1900)	Conclusions and thanks

Revised timetable:

Date	What	Who
23/1/2018	NAIP consultation draft complete	NCC/NLAF
7/2/2018	NAIP consultation draft signed off (this meeting)	NLAF
1/3/2018 to 31/5/2018	NAIP consultation (stakeholders and the public) – Citizen Space	NCC/NLAF
Mid-April 2018	Structured NAIP stakeholder consultation event Appropriate officers and NLAF/NAIP in attendance	NCC/NLAF
1/6/2018/-/30/6/2018	NAIP redrafted and completed	NCC/NLAF
18/7/2018	NAIP signed off	NLAF

7/9/2018	NAIP approved by EDT committee at NCC	EDT committee
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Consultation questions

- The NAIP subgroup agreed that consultation questions should reflect the strategic nature of the plan

2. Evidence

2.1. Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

[DEFRA guidance on local authority responsibilities for Rights of Way Improvement Plans](#)

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1. Cost of consultation and publication – there will be a significant saving on the previous consultation which was wide reaching, involving many events and officer time as well as a large print run. The new version will use an online form for feedback and it will be published online as an interactive document. There will be a print version for people who do not have online access but with a small print run (available through libraries) and there will be a cost associated with this (and the production of a pop up display – several copies of pop-up required - and posters for parish councils).

4. Issues, risks and innovation

- 4.1. Our public consultation process will use Citizen Space to capture comments via survey. See comments under ‘financial implications’

5. Background

- 5.1. The Norfolk Access Improvement Plan 2018-2028: Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2 (or “NAIP”) sets out the priorities for improving our rural and urban access network for the benefit of people and wildlife. This includes public rights of way (PRoW), long-distance trails, other promoted routes such as circular walks/rides, quiet lanes, unclassified county roads (UCRs) and permissive paths.

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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