

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Item No.

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| Report title: | Progress with the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) |
| Date of meeting: | 18 July 2018 |
| Responsible Officer: | Steve Miller, Assistant Director, Culture and Heritage |
| Strategic impact Under sections 60(3) and (4) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) (CROW Act), Norfolk County Council (as Highway Authority for Norfolk) is required to create a Rights of Way Improvement Plan which sets out priorities for improving the rural and urban access network. | |

Executive summary

The Norfolk Access Improvement Plan – “NAIP” (which incorporates Norfolk Rights of Way Improvement Plan) has been drafted to replace the previous 10 year plan, which was reviewed as required under the CROW Act.

Norfolk County Council consulted on the draft NAIP between 16th March 2018 and 15th June 2018. Comments were fed in through:

- (i) a structured stakeholder event, which focussed on the Statement of Actions and sought help with identifying gaps and opportunities for collaboration. This was by invitation only.
- (ii) a Citizen Space public survey www.norfolk.gov.uk/naip which focussed on future user need, but gave the opportunity for comments on all parts of the plan. The survey link was widely promoted and available to all. Direct email feedback was accepted.

Recommendation:

That the NLAF notes work on the Plan and agrees to a revised timetable for completing the document, with sign-off by the NLAF on 24th October and approval from the EDT committee to follow on 9th November 2018.

1. Proposal

- 1.1. Members of the NAIP subgroup have provided invaluable support and advice for work on the NAIP.

At the last meeting of the subgroup (22nd June), which took place just after the consultation had closed, it was apparent that more time would be needed to evaluate the comments and integrate them into the plan. It is proposed that further time is spend evaluating the comments received.

2. Evidence

2.1. Stakeholder event results summary

- 151 people were invited and responses indicated that 42 people would attend. There were 41 actual attendees, representing:
 - University of East Anglia
 - Deepdale Backpackers and Camping
 - Norfolk Cottages
 - Marriott's Way project
 - Broads Authority
 - North Norfolk District Council
 - Norfolk Cottages
 - Norfolk Local Access Forum/Pathmakers
 - Charles Burrell Centre
 - Active Norfolk
 - King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council
 - NCC Public Health
 - Trail Riders Fellowship
 - The Ramblers
 - CPRE
 - Active Trails
 - Walk Norfolk
 - NCC Highways
 - NCC Environment Team
 - NCC Norfolk Trails
 - NCC Community and Environmental Services Planning
- One district planner attended
- Natural England; Broads Local Access Forum; Walk Norfolk were expected to attend;
- 116 comments were captured on Post-its against the 8 Statement of Action Themes – See Appendix 1

2.2. There were 102 responses to consultation, of which 18 were manually input into the survey software to capture their qualitative information (because the responses were made by email). Of the 84 who made their response online, 68 agreed (strongly agreed or agreed) with the aims of the Plan. See Appendix 2 for a summary report from the online consultation.

The NAIP subgroup are assessing the responses. A further meeting of the subgroup is scheduled for 18th July to review progress and agree on actions to complete the whole document.

3. Financial Implications

3.1. None.

4. Issues, risks and innovation

4.1. None.

5. Background

5.1. There are two parts to the NAIP

(i) a review of the many achievements of the previous plan (Norfolk's Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2007 – 2017) including recommendations on future user need; and

(ii) a 10 year Statement of Actions organised under 8 umbrella themes (aims) to achieve:

- a well-managed access network;
- a well-connected access network;
- a well-protected natural and historic environment;
- a well-promoted access network;
- a well-informed access network;
- a community access network;
- a healthy access network and
- a valuable access network.

Aims of the NAIP

The NAIP's aims are to:

- Manage the countryside access network so that it is better able to meet the varying demands place upon it;
- Increase public, economic and environmental benefit;
- Seek the active involvement of communities;
- Take a collaborative and pragmatic approach to responsibilities and resources; and
- Increase investment in the countryside access network.

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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