

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Report title:	Sub-groups (Permissive Access; PROW; NAIP)
Date of meeting:	24 October 2018
Responsible Officer:	Steve Miller – Assistant Director, Culture and Heritage
Strategic impact Activities since the last NLAF meeting by the NLAF's three subgroups are summarised. The NLAF is a strategic body which provides advice on access to the countryside.	

Executive summary

This report summarises activities since the last NLAF meeting by the NLAF's three subgroups: The Public Rights of Way (PROW) subgroup; the Permissive Access subgroup and the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) subgroup.

Recommendations:

- (i) that the NLAF thanks members of the NAIP subgroup for their work to analyse comments received during the consultation and notes the revised timetable for production of the plan which will now be brought to the NLAF on 30 January 2019
- (ii) that recommendations concerning alterations to the Council's Transport Asset Management Plan (PROW section) are put forward by the NLAF to the Council for consideration (covered in a further agenda item (and report) at this NLAF meeting)
- (iii) that details of a new permissive access scheme developed in Bradenham are noted.

1. Proposal

- 1.1. The PROW subgroup met on the 17 September 2018 (See **Appendix 1** for minutes from the meeting).
- 1.2. The NAIP subgroup met on the 18 July 2018 (prior to the NLAF meeting on the same date at Thetford) to discuss next steps with production of the NAIP (See **Appendix 2** for minutes from the meeting).
 The NAIP subgroup had made significant individual efforts to analysis results from the online consultation.
 Areas for NCC to complete were highlighted including integration of comments into the plan and areas where Statement of Actions targets and methods for measuring progress had yet to be identified for some of the themes.

Although the expectation following this meeting was that a further draft of the plan would be ready for the 24 October NLAF meeting, this has not been met due to reduced NCC officer capacity. NCC therefore postponed the subgroup meeting scheduled for the 26 September (which will now take place on 22 November 2018).

NCC has proposed a new timetable as follows:

- (i) Draft of plan produced for 22 November 2018 NAIP subgroup meeting
- (ii) Plan brought to the NLAF meeting on 30 January 2018
- (iii) Plan endorsed (signed off) by the Council's Environment Transport and

1.3. Permissive Access subgroup

The Chair of the Permissive Access Subgroup (Chris Allhusen) has provided a report on progress with the establishment of permissive access in Bradenham:

An Agreement has been reached whereby much of the permissive access around the Village of Bradenham will continue after the Higher-Level Scheme finishes on the 31 October 2018. In the absence of this agreement all the permissive access would finish on the 31 October 2018. It is planned to start a new scheme on the 1 November 2018. Norfolk FWAG has developed an agreement between the Landowner and Bradenham Parish Council. This will provide 7.5 miles of 2-metre-wide footpaths to the north and south of the village of Bradenham. A public meeting was held back in July, attended by over 50 Parishioners, and the routes were agreed. The Parish Council are funding the initial set up costs, as well as an annual cost that equates to revenue lost owing to the inability to enter these routes into the Estate's new Environmental Mid-Tier Scheme. The Estate will cover the cost of maintenance and mowing. The legal agreement lasts for five years, but it is hoped that this will be renewed after this period. Once the scheme has been finalised and signed by both parties, we intend to try and get some good press coverage to try and persuade other Parish's to follow Bradenham's example. As a side-thought, Michael Gove has made much of his intention to increase public access over private land. I hope that he delivers on this and includes permissive access in any future post-Brexit UK Environmental Scheme, unlike the present Mid-Tier Scheme, also written by DEFRA, which makes no mention of access at all!

2. Evidence

2.1. See proposal and Appendices

3. Financial Implications

3.1. None

4. Issues, risks and innovation

4.1. None

5. Background

5.1. See proposal

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:

Officer name : Martin Sullivan **Tel No. :** 01603 879741

Email address : martinsullivan4x4@yahoo.co.uk

Officer name : Ken Hawkins **Tel No. :** 01362 691455

Email address : ken-hawkins@tiscali.co.uk

Officer name : Chris Allhusen **Tel No. :**

Email address : chris@bradenhamhall.co.uk



If you need this report in large print, audio, braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.