

Norfolk Local Access Forum

Report title:	NLAF subgroups' report (Permissive Access; PROW; NAIP)
Date of meeting:	30 January 2019
Responsible Chief 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 considers a proposal from the PROW subgroup to set up a working group to explore the value of the PROW network to Norfolk (health, economy etc.)
- (ii) that details of a new permissive access scheme developed in Bradenham are noted and promoted by the NLAF.
- (iii) that the NLAF endorses the NAIP which has now been completed with timely and helpful assistance from the NAIP subgroup (covered in separate agenda item)

1. Proposal (or options)

- 1.1. The **PROW subgroup** met on the 7 January 2019 (See **Appendix 1** for minutes from the meeting).

Following a discussion on the benefit of Norfolk trails to the Norfolk economy (presentation to the Forum in October), the group agreed that it would recommend to the NLAF that it should set up a working group to explore how the value to Norfolk of the wider PROW network could be recognised and developed.

- 1.2. **Permissive Access subgroup**

The following update had been circulated to the NLAF by the chair of the Permissive Access subgroup concerning the Bradenham permissive scheme:

"The new Bradenham Scheme is now up and running! The Parish Council signed it off last month and we now have 12 kilometres of permissive footpath access around Bradenham. I have put up the new map boards in the old HLS holders and published it in the December edition of the village magazine. The scheme set up costs were about £1,300 which the PC will pay as well as an annual cost based on £600 per hectare of 2-metre-wide paths. In our case this is only £368 per annum as we are mowing the blackcurrant headlands anyway. However, a payment of £600 per annum would provide for 5 kilometres of paths! Mike Edwards and I met this morning to discuss publicity and he is going to draw up a press release to try and get something into the EDP etc., as well as contacting relevant landowners. I would also like to get something onto Radio Norfolk. We can then follow this up with a spring visit and more publicity. I have had a couple of enquiries from other landowners & parishes as well.

Vic, it would be good if the Ramblers could publicise it as that may persuade others to follow.

Do let me know if you have any queries or comments and I am quite happy to talk to anyone interested to discuss any possible schemes.

Kind regards,
Chris”

There has been good publicity and an article in the EDP

<https://www.edp24.co.uk/business/farming/bradenham-hall-farms-agreement-secures-permissive-footpaths-1-5827753>

1.3. The NAIP subgroup

The group had met in December (**Appendix 2**). The timetable for completion of the document was noted. It was agreed that the NLAF would receive an update on the annual action plan derived from the NAIP at all future meetings.

2. Evidence

2.1. Please see proposal and appendices

3. Financial Implications

3.1. None as a result of this report

4. Issues, risks and innovation

4.1. None as a result of this report

5. Background

5.1. Please 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:

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