

# TEES VALLEY

## LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Bike...Walk... Ride in Tees Valley

4<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Middlesbrough Regeneration Room Civic Centre

**Attending** – Yvonne Ramage(YR), Mike Cherrett (MC), Mike Roff (MR), Paul Harman(PH), Leanne Thompson (LT), Chris Scaife(CS), Rob Morrow(RM), Steve Petch (SP), Graham Clingan (GC), David Simpson (observer)(DS), Rob Brown (RB), Beka Lee (BL)

**Apologies** – Peter Clark, Cllr Brian Jones, Cllr Dennis McCabe

### **Introduction and Welcome**

MR welcomed everyone to the meeting

### **Minutes of 17th July AGM/meeting and Matters Arising**

It was agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting.

No matters arising

### **Quarry Wood – Preston Park**

BL introduced herself as the Park and Garden Coordinator for Stockton Council. Quarry wood is a Local Nature Reserve based within the grounds of Preston Park, it has been without rangers for 18months now and has degraded considerably. The pond now resembles a swamp, the wood is overgrown with Snowberry and some of the paths no longer exist. The aim is to create a habitat that is beneficial, options are to leave the pond as it is, turn it into a wet woodland or have the sludge removed. It was discussed that a RoW runs alongside the wood but BL is looking to improve the pathways that run through the woods. GC and RM advised that they would be happy to meet with BL outside of the LAF meeting to discuss this area in more detail. BL explained that 'Friends of Preston Park' no longer exists but she is hoping to re-establish this again. CS advised BL to look into Veolia Trust as they provide grants for environmental improvements. It was also suggested that Groundwork NE maybe another organisation to contact. YR provided her details and is happy to volunteer. Other suggestions for potential workforce volunteers were Probation service, Jacobs and Caterpillar. It was briefly discussed that the Teesdale Way runs alongside the wood, and could be redirected directly through the wood, as this would help maintain the pathways once they have been cleared.

## **Local Authority Access Officers Updates**

### **Darlington – (SP)**

Path inspections continue - the Teesdale Way is reviewed 2 x yearly.

Darlington currently have 7 live Path Orders – diversions/extinctions due to major housing developments and 4 DMMO's as a result of the 2026 cut off on unrecorded paths.

Teesdale Way – a section has been closed off due to erosion - a diversion has been put in place around a field.

RoWIP is 11years old and is to be reviewed.

Tees Sculpture Trail – Officers across the 4 boroughs have been looking at this as each area will have 5 sculptures. (Action: Sculpture trail to be added to agenda for next meeting)

2025 Darlington/Stockton Railway celebrations – Action plan is going to the board for approval soon.

### **Middlesbrough**

No report

### **Stockton – (RM)**

A new footbridge had been installed at a cost of approx. £10,000.

The council have bought a camera that will create a 'google street view' of all the cycle paths in the borough, it will also cover the England Coast Path and Teesdale way over a 12month project, this will allow the public to view paths/check surfaces before setting out on a walk/bike ride.

Hand out given to members - (Action: email out copy of report with minutes)

### **Hartlepool – (CS)**

Funding from the Local Growth Fund has allowed for 3 bridges to be replaced and tarmac surfacing to be completed around the housing development at Bishop Cuthbert. Quadbikes continue to be a problem in the area - 'A' Frames with field gates are a possibility to try to tackle the issue.

Extra work has been carried out on the England Coast Path – link paths needed surfacing, as well as vegetation and path clearance.

'The Way of St Hild' pilgrimage – Smart Phone App testing will soon take place. This Pilgrimage Way will use a mobile phone App to provide additional information/facts on the area and historical information on St Hild at certain GPS locations throughout the route. The pilgrimage will be from St Hilda's Church, The Headland in Hartlepool to Whitby Abbey. It will be launched in early March 2020

MR explained that on Palm Sunday, March 2020, the Bishop launches 4 pilgrimage walks to Durham along existing RoW, members of his church are compiling a list of 'pit stops' and B&B's along the way so the walks can be done over 3 days or 3 separate days.

(Action: email out copy of report with minutes)

## **Member's activities**

### **Website/Facebook**

LT explained the website and Facebook page are up and running – Facebook page currently has 23 'likes/followers'. Emails have been sent to all parish councils across the four boroughs and 'friends of' local parks seeking new members – disappointing response.

MR advised that he would write to the local press to try to promote the LAF – (Action: LT/MR to look to do this in the New Year)

GC felt that the LAF needed to set out clear aims/objectives and that the website needs to clearly highlight these, he felt the group was set up to look at issues at a strategic level. A few suggestions were raised – promoting local walks/feature walks in local papers and wildlife corridors – GC reported that local walks are already promoted via the 'Enjoy Tees Valley' site, he suggested that the LAF meet again and hold a 'workshop' – members can then spend some time working together on a statement/purpose to try and bring some clarity to the forum. LT advised that at the meeting in July 3/4 points were discussed as projects the LAF could work on in the future – (Action - LT to review previous minutes)

### **Consultation – Diversion at Greys Towers**

No information was available as Stewart Williams was unable to attend the meeting

### **Any other business raised by members**

RB spoke about the Environmental Land Management Scheme – land owners/managers will be paid for 'public goods/public access'. It's unclear when this will come into effect as it was due to start being rolled out next year but may be postponed due to the uncertainty with the election.

### **LAF meetings for next year**

It was agreed that we would not arrange meetings for next year until we hold a workshop to work on the aims/objectives of the forum. MR suggested early March – no date formally set.

Meeting ended at 4pm.