

Calderdale Local Access Forum

MONDAY 8th September 2025 - Teams meeting 6.15pm start

Apologies: Danielle Haslam, Brian Crossley, Antony de Heveningham, Councillor Danielle Durrans, Tim Brooks.

Present: Graham Hale, Julie Swift, Mark Corrigan, Councillor Scott Patient, Moy Cash, Sarah Talbot, Jeff Keenleyside (Environmental Projects in Kirklees).

1. Welcome and introductions

Sarah T welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions followed for the benefit of Jeff Keenleyside. The agenda changed slightly from the planned one in that Robin Dalton's report on Norland Moor has been deferred until the next meeting so Antony can take part in discussions.

1. Jeff Keenleyside - Environmental Projects in Kirklees

Jeff Keenleyside attended for this item. He is a Director of Environmental Projects in Kirklees (EPiK) which is an organisation that has 9 part time employees. He has worked on riverside access around Kirklees and runs active travel hubs. EPiK are a partner in Calder and Colne Landscape Links (CCaLL) which is led by Calderdale Council. The group have secured 2 years of development funding of £850,000 for nature recovery and for making links to access networks and improving access on the routes. Wide range of partners in CCaLL including Canal and Rivers Trust, Network Rail, CMBC, Kirklees, Yorkshire Water, National Trust, Syngenta and John Smith Stadium.

EPiK are working with Experience Community and are the lead partner on site access. The funding includes projects in Calderdale including the Two Valleys Trail which runs from Cooper Bridge to Todmorden then goes over the tops to Marsden and back to Cooper Bridge. The route primarily focuses on using canal towpaths, challenge is to create an accessible route over the tops.

Another project that includes part of Calderdale is the Lower Valley Nature Park which focusses on linking areas of deprivation to green spaces. This route runs from Elland to Huddersfield. Epik is running a Green Routes Crowdfunder which identifies potential routes that don't get much attention. Underpinning this is trying to get people to use and look after path networks.

The group employ a volunteer coordinator who leads work parties and organises guided walks. They also attend events to offer support and advice for people including e-bikes, dr. bike and heritage walks. They also encourage schools to make use of their local environment including Greenhead College who are involved with the River Fly Project.

The group are also developing activity hubs including one at Cromwell Bottom.

The following questions were raised by Local Access Forum members:

Cllr. Patient: Really liked the concept. Said that it feels like a proper collaboration between Calderdale and Kirklees and wondered if it was possible to formalise links between the two areas? Jeff replied that they have considered making a formal agreement and could potentially add Calderdale into the name making EPiK into EPiCK.

Graham; Has worked with Cromwell Bottom and Experience (Craig Grimes). Graham commented that he would prefer routes to be accessible to wheelchairs as well as mobility scooters. He likes the idea of linking train stations. He said that getting onto towpaths can be a challenge as main maintenance of routes. Jeff said that he was going to raise the issue of tree roots raising tarmac with the Canal and Rivers Trust(CRT).

Mark: 6 years ago he had a meeting to discuss a product for surfacing routes. A full plan was taken away from that meeting with included members of the equestrian community. Mark said that he hasn't been involved in EPiKs which saddens him. He is concerned that horse riders are once again being excluded. Horse riders should be able to use the canal towpath (width dependant). CRT need to listen to horse riders and use flexi-pave for surfacing routes <https://www.kbiuk.co.uk/flexipave> . The product passes the leech test for use near water courses and comes with a 10-year guarantee. It is kinder on knees for runners. Towpath is great link between Calderdale and Kirklees . Active travel currently excludes horses. CRT have funding

from WYCA to upgrade towpaths and EPIKs are not involved in this work, but Jeff takes Marks point particularly with regard to slopes. EPIKs are happy to discuss their projects with Mark.

Sarah: added that bridleways are often used as multiuse routes but that horses are often excluded from other routes. There are possible multi use paths in Kirklees and Calderdale.

Moy: Thanked Jeff for his presentation.

The discussion then moved onto the Hub in Todmorden or Walsden. EpiKs is keen to try and support a hub that is easily accessible. Cllr Patient said that the idea of the Walsden Centre is complex and the Council are currently looking into ways of funding this.

Sarah T asked about horsebox parking. Jeff said he would ask about Walsden hub plus add it to the list of things to discuss at Cromwell Bottom.

Moy asked if the project was looking to remove the 'washouts' from the canal towpath? Cllr Patient replied that funding to do this work had been confirmed by WYCA last week.

Moy asked if routes on tributaries to the Calder are included? Jeff said that this is possible in the future as funding becomes available.

Graham asked about who owns the carpark at Cromwell Bottom? Moy said that this is currently being looked into by Legal. She also said that the people who are living in the car part have been reported to Community Safety.

Jeff commented that regarding access by horses to the routes that he would give it some thought and come back to Sarah T and Mark. Graham said that he would put Jeff in touch with ACDAF about potential routes for disabled access.

Moy thanked Jeff for attending the meeting.

Jeff said that if anyone had any questions or wanted more information to email him – jeff@epiks.org.uk

Matter Arising from last meeting.

No updates on this due to Tim being on leave. Carry over until November meeting.

Sarah asked if Julie could ask Tim to send her an update on Back Lane at Ogden and on Ringby Lane.

i. HX1 Back Lane, Ogden update.

Waiting for engineer to fit handle and new spring to gate.

Action: Pat

ii. HX 314 Shibden Valley footpath issues

Hx314 – assume barbed wire on path near Walter Scout Hall has been removed? **Action: Brian has offered to check that this has happened (carried over until November meeting).**

iii. Hx16 Coal Lane, Ogden

Sally and Sarah T are gathering evidence to put in a claim.

Action: Remove from agenda for next meeting.

iv. Ripponden 99 Heys Lane/Folly Lane

With Enforcement **Action: Tim to update when information available. Sarah T said she would check with Sarah R to see if she has heard anything.**

v. Elland 64 Carr Hall Lane update

This is on capital projects list for this financial year. **Action: Leave on agenda.**

vi. Beacon Hill

On capital projects list for 25/26. No progress yet, **Action: Update next meeting.**

vii. HX 311 Ringby Lane back of Leo Group, illegal gate across the Bridleway.

Tim still not sure where the gates are, needs to resolve so this can go to Enforcement. No update. **Action: Sally offered to check site at June meeting but couldn't attend this meeting. Carried over until November meeting.**

**viii. HX 302 Locked gates at Holmfield, bottom of the Howcans
bridleway**

On-going issue. Obstruction keeps being removed and then comes back. Enforcement have dealt with this but needs raising again if locked again. **Action – LAF members to raise if problem in future. Leave on agenda to remind people to check.**

ix. Disabled access at Ogden Water

Graham said that he is still waiting for a meeting with Chris Sutcliffe. Moy said that Chris has got prices for repairing the route. Not sure where he had got with marking an alternative route but will follow up with Chris. **Action: Moy to update at November meeting following a catch up with Chris.**

All items below are pending information being available.

x. **Acre Lane, Heptonstall**

With Planning Inspectorate to make a decision.

xi. **Rights of Way Improvement Plan**

No update. **Action: Tim**

xii. **Hangingstones Lane**

With Planning Inspectorate.

xiii. **Elland 77 Dean House Lane, Stainland**

No update. **Action: Tim to follow up.**

2. DMMO application update

Tim shared update with LAF members before going on leave. Sarah asked if Tim could share any information about when the investigations on the list will be completed? She also asked if Tim could tell her who it is who makes the final decision about a report? **Action: Tim**

3. Updates from members

Mark – Reported that Brig132 was now complete. This includes a partial new surface, new gates with equestrian handles. He said that he would appreciate receiving updates from Tim. **Action: Tim to send information about work on bridleways to Mark.**

Graham – Suggested that the sections on the canal towpaths that go over weirs could do with being surfaced with a non-slip surface. He also said that there is still an issue at Widdop with a gate that is roped shut. Trying to work closer with the Yorkshire Water ranger.

Sarah T – Walshaw Moor Consultation. Sarah said that she was against the windfarm but as a Local Access Forum could only comment on the consultation with regard to access. Members need to decide whether to respond as a group or individuals (or both). Sarah asked

Julie to recirculate the email with her comments. **Action: Julie to send email to LAF members.**

Graham – commented that Calderdale had been lucky with moorland fires this year so far and that the campaigns seem to be working.

4. Proposed footpath diversions

Nothing to report.

5. Any other business

Graham – commented that Calderdale had been lucky with moorland fires this year so far and that the campaigns seem to be working.

6. Date of next meeting – Monday 10th November 2025 6.15pm start.

Please note contacts for reporting issues on Rights of Way

General Rights of Way enquiries: Rightsofway@calderdale.gov.uk

Enforcement issues: community-safety@calderdale.gov.uk