

**Bradford Local Access Forum**  
**Minutes of meeting**  
**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 - 6:30 pm**  
**By Teams**

**Meeting Organiser:** David Campbell (DC)

Countryside and Rights of Way Manager

**Notes:** Linda Stafford (LS)

Area Rights of Way Officer (administrating the LAF)

**Present:**

**Didy Metcalf (DM):**

Equestrian, landowner, Regional LAF Secretary

**Nick Dybeck (ND):**

Walker, Ramblers Association representative, Friends of Ilkley Moor representative

**Mark Corrigan (MC):**

Regional British Horse Society representative

**Marilyn Banister (MB):**

Menston Parish Council representative

**Andrew Beck (AB):**

Trail Riders Fellowship representative

**Jules Hooper (JH):**

Cycling

**Keith Binns (KB):**

Keighley Town Council

**Apologies:**

**Pam Allen (PA)** (Chair):

Equestrian, Regional LAF representative

**Emma Young (EY):**

Bradford Council - Cycle and Active Travel Champion

**Cllr Alex Ross-Shaw (ARS):**

Bradford Council Executive Member, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Planning & Transport – with responsibility for Countryside and Rights of Way Service and Transport Planning

Item	Discussion	Action	Person(s) Responsible
1	Members present – introductions	Members present and introductions.	
2	Apologies	Apologies.	
3	LAF	<p>Membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Corrigan extended for a further 2 years.</li> </ul> <p>Three membership enquiries, two applications received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keith Binns – cycling and walking</li> <li>• Jules Hooper – cycling</li> </ul> <p>KB and JH introduced themselves. The meeting welcomed and confirmed them as members. LS to send out member confirmation letters and update the website.</p> <p>It was noted that Steve Parkes has stepped back from his role as a member, and DC will contact him to thank him for his contribution.</p>	<p>LS</p> <p>DC</p>
4	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	<p>Minutes accepted from November meeting.</p> <p><b>Consultation with WYCA</b> (West Yorkshire Combined Authority)            LS met with Chris Payne, Strategic Stakeholder Manager, WYCA Mass Transit (MT) Team on 18.8.25. Notes of the meeting were circulated to LAF.</p>	

EY sent an email to WYCA – requesting that they include Local Access Forum as consultee on WYCA schemes in the future (to be included at an early enough stage of the scheme).

LS reported that an invitation had been sent to Chris Payne to attend the meeting, but a reply was received stating that he had been asked to step back from engagement activities for the time being.

LS redirected the enquiry to the WYCA Mass Transit mailbox as instructed, and was subsequently contacted by Scott Harvey, Senior Stakeholder Officer, who advised that they were unable to attend this meeting but would be happy to meet with the Forum at the next available opportunity.

LS has forwarded an invitation for the May meeting and requested that any relevant information in the meantime be shared by email for circulation to members.

LS also noted the “Have your say on the West Yorkshire Mass Transit Spatial Development Framework” consultation email received on 29 January 2026, which was circulated to the LAF.

ND commented that the Forum is particularly interested in understanding the impact of Mass Transit proposals on Public Rights of Way and access to the countryside, rather than receiving a general programme update.

LS confirmed that this information had already been discussed with Chris Payne at the initial meeting, but she will refer to these notes when next communicating with the Mass Transit team.

**Steeton/ Silsden bypass bridge**  
 FP email update to LS noted that ROW are consultees and the proposed bridge isn't a ROW project. Planning application 25/02498/MAF can be viewed on Bradford Council's website. It appears that the planning application is still being considered by Planning with some amended plans added to Public Access earlier in January, but the proposal is still only for foot and cycle use.

DM: There may have been a suggestion that the tunnels could be used for equestrians.

MC: Noted that he had objected to the planning application to exclude equestrians from the bridge and raised that this exclusion is inconsistent with current government legislation and funding requirements, which emphasise that equestrians should be included on multi-user routes and supported infrastructures.  
 He noted that *'The term 'Active Travel' applies to journeys undertaken for a range of purposes, whether to reach a place of work or local amenities, or for recreation. He referenced the recent Parliamentary Debate on Active Travel in Westminster Hall, Robert Courts MP proposed that "horse riders...ought to be thought about in the context of active travel as well." This was endorsed by Michael Ellis, Minister of State for Transport, who confirmed that "Active travel includes horse riders and bridle paths".'*

He noted the importance of ensuring that all bridge and bypass schemes comply with these national standards to maintain safe and continuous access for all users.

**Wharfedale Greenway**

JB: JB reported that there was no further update.

MB: noted that a meeting was scheduled to take place next week.

ND: advised that work was ongoing to develop the strategic case, with a draft expected in the near future, and that discussions with councillors were planned regarding potential next steps.

DM: confirmed that she would be contacting Sustrans and would report back with any further updates.

ND: highlighted the need for information on what a network of bridleways in the area would look like, noting that the Wharfe corridor currently has very limited linear routes available for all users - walkers, cyclists and equestrians - and emphasised that any future provision must be multi-use and inclusive.

**Occupation Lane, Menston**

FP update: Occupation Lane or rather Ilkley 79 – hasn't progressed owing to lack of staff time

MC: Electric gates at the location should be removed as they are unauthorised and asked DC if a Sec130a been served on this.

DC confirmed that a Section 130a notice has not been served in this case.

He noted that any assistance would be welcomed, as the authority would currently struggle to resource and fund enforcement action.

He emphasised that the issue remains a priority, but current staffing constraints limit the ability to progress enforcement action.

He noted that the authority is cautious about initiating enforcement that may not be successful, stressing the need to ensure that all evidence and processes are correctly aligned before proceeding. He explained that the team currently has one vacant officer post, and recent recruits had no prior ROW experience. The vacant post is being re-advertised, with the job advert closing on 18 February.

The preference would be to appoint someone with Rights of Way experience; however, if no applicants with the relevant background come forward, the aim is to appoint someone with transferable skills, which should help free up existing staff time.

MC referenced a previous case in North Yorkshire, which went to High Court last year, where an electric gate failed during a power cut, leaving a child trapped on the wrong side and requiring the fire brigade to attend. This highlighted the safety risks associated with such installations.

MC: reminded the meeting that the Council has a statutory duty to keep the Definitive Map and Statement up to date.

He referred to Circular 1/09, which makes clear that authorities should ensure sufficient resources are devoted to meeting their statutory duties regarding the protection and recording of public rights of way.

		<p>MC: Noted that for a public footpath or restricted byway, the process under Section 130a of the Highways Act 1980 provides the mechanism for dealing with unlawful gates. Reference was made to Herrick v Kidner [2010] EWHC 269 (Admin), which confirmed that an unauthorised gate constitutes a “significant interference” with a public right of way and therefore falls within the scope of Section 130a.</p> <p><b>Bradford South 80</b> Petition for closure of path An update from JB and FP has been provided JB attended Chairs pre-meeting on the 28th of Jan, no questions were raised. Report essentially maintains the position we have taken before but with an added survey of public users and residents which gives some relevant and useful data - path is used daily, quite a few people use it to get to school, local shop, bus stops, visiting friends, not considered unsafe. The report goes to Bradford South Area Committee meeting is on the 26th of Feb at City Hall.</p> <p><b>Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)</b> ND: reported that he had submitted a response on behalf of the LAF in late November, noting the strong links between the proposals, Public Rights of Way and green corridors.</p> <p>DC: added that the deadline for the Authority to comment was 22 February, with the matter scheduled to go to the mayor in early March.</p> <p><b>Grove Mills cycleway into Damems</b> KB: Would like to see a cycle route connecting Keighley to Oakworth. KB: It was noted that, since his initial contact, he has investigated the matter further and found that the proposals had not progressed previously due to the route crossing private land and the associated costs. LS: The route has been identified on the ROWIP. EY has confirmed that the route has been identified through the work they have been commissioned to undertake in support of developing the Bradford LCWIP (<b>Bradford Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan</b>) <a href="https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/resources/bradford-local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan/">https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/resources/bradford-local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plan/</a> This forms part of the wider evidence base being used to prioritise active travel corridors and future investment proposals.</p>	
5	<b>Carlrayne Lane (Ilkley 84)</b>	<p>MB: improvements needed. DM: in the process of putting in a claim as a bridleway DC: noted is identified on the ROWIP LS: noted previous email from EY – picked up as a possible route for active travel.</p>	

		<p>Post meeting MB contacted CRoW team with a request for maintenance and potential to upgrade the route to a bridleway. FP responded: passed to Highways, as they maintain the path as it is an urban one, and I've asked for them to inspect it and reply to MB.</p> <p>The route is identified within the Rights of Way Improvement Plan with a request that it be considered for upgrade to bridleway. The ROWIP is currently being reviewed. Progress on the various requests identified will depend on their priority and resources being available to take the requests forward</p> <p><b>DC:</b> A draft programme of planned spending for the next financial year is being prepared for submission to WYCA (West Yorkshire Combined Authority) as part of the CRSTS (City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements) funding. Work is underway to review ROWIP (Rights of Way Improvement Plan) requests. These will be considered alongside ongoing programmes of vegetation clearance and general maintenance across the network.</p> <p>A list of proposals for next year's CRSTS-funded activity is expected to be available for discussion at the next LAF (Local Access Forum) meeting.</p>	
6	CROW Team update recruitment and structure	<p>LS to circulate CROW Consultations to LAF.</p> <p><b>DMMO's – update from JB</b> Denholme/Bingley - restricted Byway order has received several objections. Meeting with Legal on the 10<sup>th</sup> of Feb to discuss next steps.</p>	LS
7	BDMC ROWIP (2017) Update And LAF feedback and discussion on the approach to ROWIP	<p>JB provided an update on the review, LS read out: "Thank the LAF for their responses to the consultation we sent out in November 2025. No significant progress to report since the last LAF, although we have made some useful connections with colleagues in other Departments. Fiona has cleaned up the data from the Improvement requests, and we are looking to archive this version and create a new version as a working document, but we need to add extra fields to this to enable it to work with a tool across ROW and Countryside. Whilst responding to the Bradford South Area Committee, we have come across a way to have an online survey created - this was facilitated by a colleague in Service Improvement and captured some very useful data. Jayne is working on some questions for the ROWIP to push out to a public consultation - based around the questions we previously used for community questionnaires and focus groups. We have incomplete revisions for 3 parts of the previous ROWIP and need to move forward on the remaining parts and bring all the elements together for a draft document to put out to public consultation. Nick Dybeck had been asking for a timeline - I have drafted something and sent it to David to look at. Policies need to be updated, streamlined, and new areas around climate change and resilience need to be added.</p>	

		<p>It has been challenging for us between November and January to make the time available to progress this key piece of work.”</p> <p>MC: <b>Reconomics 3.0</b> report, launched in Parliament on January 27, 2026, by the Sport and Recreation Alliance in partnership with Leeds Beckett University, is a vital, up-to-date evidence base for Rights of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP). It provides a comprehensive analysis of the economic, health, and social value of outdoor recreation, updating the 2014 and 2017 reports to reflect the significant, post-pandemic surge in demand for outdoor space.</p> <p>He stated that it should be included in the ROWIP and that other Local Authorities has already started to incorporate this into their ROWIPs.</p> <p>LS to circulate to FP and JB.</p> <p><a href="https://sportandrecreation.org.uk/news/reconomics-plus-launched-to-champion-outdoor">https://sportandrecreation.org.uk/news/reconomics-plus-launched-to-champion-outdoor</a></p> <p><a href="https://sportandrecreation.org.uk/files/reconomics-3-0-2026---summary-report-270126103416.pdf">https://sportandrecreation.org.uk/files/reconomics-3-0-2026---summary-report-270126103416.pdf</a></p>	LS
8	Any other business	<p>The Forum discussed the ongoing debate around the proposed Road Safety Bill for equestrians, noting that 58 equestrian-related deaths were recorded last year.</p> <p>It was highlighted that the Highway Code currently advises motorists to pass horses at a distance of 2 metres and at a maximum speed of 10 mph, and that campaigners are pushing for these provisions to be strengthened in law, with appropriate penalties for non-compliance.</p> <p>Concerns were also raised about the lack of bridleways, the poor condition of existing routes, and the number of unrecorded bridleways in West Yorkshire.</p> <p>DM reported that Kath Windett had previously provided information on dangerous road crossings.</p> <p>It was agreed that LS would contact FP to check whether this material is still held so that it can be included within the ROWIP.</p> <p>LS noted that the annual outdoor meeting was scheduled for September, and asked members to bring forward any suggestions for site visits for consideration at the next LAF meeting in May.</p>	LS  ALL
9	Dates of Next Meetings	<p>Agreed quarterly meetings, three online and one outside. These have been set until November 2025.</p> <p>Next meetings: 2026 meeting dates to be agreed.</p> <p>LS proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 – by Teams</li> <li>• 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2026 - Outside</li> <li>• 4<sup>th</sup> November 2026 – by Teams</li> </ul>	LS