

Bradford Local Access Forum
Minutes of meeting
Wednesday 6th May 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 (administering 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

Pam Allen (PA) (Chair):

Equestrian, Regional LAF representative

Marilyn Banister (MB):

Menston Parish Council representative

Keith Binns (KB):

Keighley Town Council

Apologies:

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

Andrew Beck (AB):

Trail Riders Fellowship representative

Tom Hacker

WYCA (Ardent Management)

Emma Young (EY):

Bradford Council - Cycle and Active Travel Champion

| Item | Discussion | Action | Person(s) Responsible |
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| 1 | Members present – introductions | Members present and introductions. Keith Binns resigned from council duties – website to be updated. | |
| 2 | Apologies | Apologies. | |
| 3 | WYCA (West Yorkshire Combined Authority) | WYCA Mass Transit Update – Presentation from Scott Harvey (Mott MacDonald) Scott Harvey provided an update on the West Yorkshire Mass Transit scheme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheme aims to deliver high-quality, high-capacity connections between Leeds, South Leeds and Bradford. • Work on the scheme has been ongoing for several years, with detailed development over the last five. • Previous approach had been progressing design and the business case in a “twin-track” approach. • Following independent peer review into the project design has taken a back seat while strategic case is prioritised. • Strategic case (why the region needs mass transit) expected to be completed later this year. • Delivery timeline has shifted from mid-2030s to late 2030s. • Spatial Development Framework public consultation held Jan–Mar; second consultation planned for summer (details to follow). | |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting work includes a Growth Prospectus (akin to brochure) outlining growth potential enabled by mass transit. Two policy workstreams will feed into the Outline Business Case. <p>Questions & Responses</p> <p>PA: Is the aim to reduce traffic? SH: Aim is to provide more sustainable transport options.</p> <p>PA: LAF previously requested involvement. SH: Design work paused; priority is securing funding through the business case. SH: Current corridor focus is Leeds and Leeds–Bradford; further detail will come later due to new business case approach.</p> <p>KB: How does this relate to the tram proposal? SH: Same scheme; previously referred to as a tram system but now framed as mass transit.</p> <p>ND: Will corridors link to active travel schemes? SH: Phase 1 aims to improve access to active travel, though not all elements will be delivered simultaneously.</p> <p>DM: Concern about Queensbury Tunnel and risk of losing the structure. SH: Not aware of details but will take this away. PA: Highlighted government plans to fill the tunnel and emphasised its historic and strategic value.</p> <p>MB: Concern about long timelines and costs; asked when business case will be ready. SH: Business case expected summer.</p> <p>ND: Will the spatial framework be publicly available? SH: Yes, via WYCA Your Voice; regional development will focus on identified corridors.</p> <p>DC: Asked about current development status. SH: Routes and modes are not yet open for discussion at this stage of the business case.</p> | |
| 4 | LAF | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was noted that Jules Hooper (Cycling) has resigned. KB resigned from the council, will update the relevant profile information on the website to reflect this change. DM proposed adding a statement on the website inviting the public to submit comments. LS suggested including a short explanatory text about the LAF within press releases relating to Rights of Way work. Proposal for more Parish Council Engagement MB highlighted that Parish Councillors are often very busy and may have limited capacity to engage. LS confirmed that all participation options have been offered, whether as full members or on an ad-hoc basis. Noted that PA attended the Parish Council’s meeting in Oxenhope in 2025. LS also noted contact from the clerks in Oxenhope and Haworth with Stanbury. | |

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| | | Action: LS to contact the Parish Council (via Jonathan Hayes, Area Co-ordinator) to follow up. | LS |
| 4 | Minutes of last meeting and matters arising | <p>Minutes accepted from February meeting.</p> <p>Steeton/ Silsden bypass bridge No further updates reported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MC noted that he has raised an objection, but this has not been addressed. • Outstanding objection remains unresolved. • KB reported significant cost escalation, including an estimated £10m increase linked to proposed footpath widening. • PA has attempted to contact MP Robbie Moore • Funding from WYCA remains uncertain and the scheme is not yet secured. • No new information has been issued regarding delivery timescales. • The scheme has taken over a decade to progress from feasibility to outline business case, with no construction underway. • MP Robbie Moore has publicly raised concerns about delays and cost inflation. <p>Wharfedale Greenway No further updates reported.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DM contacted WWR and received an update on their activities, but no reference to the Working Group was included. • ND confirmed a business case is being developed. • Ongoing work includes monitoring use and promoting short sections of the route. • DM to identify suitable sections for equestrian use (outstanding). • ND can prepare a draft map using existing bridleways; DM to add potential extensions and links. • MB is investigating the possibility of creating a new footpath between Beech Grove and the railway; landowner identified. MB requires guidance on the process for establishing a new Right of Way or permissive path. • MB to request that the proposed link from Beech Close across the field to the existing path is added to the ROWIP. • ND noted that JB is encouraging identification of all possible routes that could be designated as Rights of Way. <p>Occupation Lane, Menston</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MB reported that the electronic gate is currently open, improving accessibility. • DC confirmed that Planning Enforcement is taking action regarding the Pump House and an agricultural building. • DC is exploring enforcement options for the gates; current gap width and alignment are not appropriate. Highways are being consulted due to their greater enforcement experience. Aim is for landowners to resolve issues voluntarily, but enforcement and removal remain possible next steps. • DM has not yet submitted a claim for higher rights. • A landowner agreement exists following a previous access dispute, with the landowner mapping out agreed routes. | <p>DM</p> <p>ND/DM</p> <p>MB</p> <p>MB</p> |

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| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The original route passed through gates onto the moor; a slightly revised route was later agreed. Action: DM to speak with Fiona to confirm the exact route to avoid submitting a confused or inaccurate claim. <p>Bradford South 80 LS to ask JB for an update.</p> <p>Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DC reported that the LNRS has now been adopted and is active. WYCA is exploring opportunities to deliver elements of the strategy and considering how it can be integrated into wider programmes. <p>Grove Mills cycleway into Damems No further update.</p> | DM LS |
| 5 | Carlrayne Lane (Ilkley 84) | <p>Notes from FP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance request was passed to Highways, who were asked to respond directly to MB. FP reported that Highways have inspected a drainage issue on the route and are considering solutions. FP suggested checking with DC regarding the use of Section 106 funding intended for Highways to support improvements; confirmation needed on whether discussions have taken place. DM has submitted a DMMO application to upgrade the route to bridleway. The application has been added to the Section 53 Register and is now in the investigation queue. DC noted that S106 funding from the 2017 Bingley Road development is available for improvements to the local footpath network leading to the moors. Approximately £30,000 is earmarked for resurfacing; Highways will deliver the work. MC suggested considering Flexipave, given the potential bridleway upgrade, but emphasised that drainage is the priority. DC will review all surfacing options, including crushed stone, to determine what can be achieved within the available funding. | DC |
| 6 | CROW Team update recruitment and structure | <p>LS to circulate CROW Consultations to LAF. LS to circulate CROW Update to LAF</p> | LS |
| 7 | BDMC ROWIP (2017) Update And LAF feedback and discussion on the approach to ROWIP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JB provided an update on the ROWIP as part of the CROW report. JB is willing to provide a further update in September. <p>Action: LS to ask JB whether the LAF can have sight of the list of ROWIP requests.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> KB reported that the Friends of Damems voluntary group (contact: Louise Southill) may be interested in supporting Rights of Way work in the area. MC proposed adding Volunteer Activity on PRoWs as an agenda item for the next meeting. | LS |

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| | | Action: LS to include this on the next agenda. | LS |
| | Equestrian Road Safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LS reported that, following the last meeting, she has contacted the Traffic & Road Safety Team. Miguel D-Souza, Team Leader – Casualty Reduction & Road Safety, has agreed to meet with the LAF. Action: LS to explore possible dates and arrange the meeting. | LS |
| 8 | Any other business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MC noted that the new Wainwright Coast to Coast route is now officially open and designated as a Protected National Trail. MC will give a presentation on repairing a BOAT at the next meeting. BGI (Blue-Green Infrastructure) Discussion MC asked whether the BGI work links with planning for other infrastructure routes and whether it should connect with the ROWIP. DC advised that BGI operates at a strategic level, so it will not specify individual elements within the ROWIP. | MC |
| 9 | Dates of Next Meetings | Agreed quarterly meetings, three online and one outside. These have been set until November 2025. Next meetings: 2026 meeting dates to be agreed. LS proposed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6th May 2026 – by Teams 2nd September 2026 – Outside at Menston 4th November 2026 – by Teams | MB/ND LS |