

North Yorkshire Timber Freight Quality Partnership (NYTFQP)

Meeting at Cold Kirby Village Hall, 09:45

Thursday 29th November 2018

Minutes

Item	Details	Action
1.0	Introductions and apologies Attendees: Jeremy Walker (JW) – Chair Garth Dearden (GD) – Euroforest Roland Stiven (RS) – Confor Ian Austermuhle (IA) – Tilhill Brian Nugent (BN) - Tilhill Tom Coates (TC) – Egger Crispin Thorn (CT) - Forestry Commission Geoff Garrett (GG) – Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority Jon Bates (JB) – Forestry Comission Mark Antcliff (MA) – NY Moors Victoria Hutchinson (VH) – NYCC Keisha Moore (KC) – NYCC Richard Marr (RM) - NYCC Apologies: Will Richardson – Yorwoods County Councillor Don Mackenzie - NYCC Nigel Smith – NYCC Andrew Bainbridge – NYCC Jim O'Neill – Forestry Commission (Cumbria) Colin Binnie – Forestry Commission (Cumbria) Katie Thomas – York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Request for Keith Haywood and Andy Powell of Taylor made & Kerr Timber to be added to future meetings. Jeremy Walker announced that this was his final meeting as chair. VH explained that KM would take over her role in FQP but KM intends to go on maternity leave from 25.01.19	
2.0	Review of previous meeting notes and actions Minutes taken as read – no previous issues	
3.0	Governance – Terms of Reference VH circulated prior to meeting and suggested FQP considers any updates.	

	Suggestions were: Add a section on ways of working including election of a chair and a deputy chair for a specific term - possibly 2 years. The two roles might be filled from both highways and forestry sector so as to help manage conflicts of interest. Add meeting frequency; previously group meetings were 4 times per year, then 2, then 'ad-hoc'. Agreement to meet once per year as a minimum then as required. Add the date for refreshing the document and adding a ToR title Refresh the membership list. Invite the Councillor with Highways portfolio to attend meetings from time to time as people would value their attendance/engagement (Cllr Mackenzie was invited but unable to attend). Integrate the Core Values listed in the Timber Transport Forum's 'draft model group terms of reference' into the updated NYTFQP ToR. Update the Aim of the partnership to "supporting the supply chain/environment and sustainable management" Add to Priority Actions "encourage constructive dialogue between the authority and industry and encourage active participation in the Timber Transport Forum". Provide a link to the NYTFQP Good Practice Guidance Update FQP contact details. Action: KM to update the ToR and circulate to members for comment	KM
4.0	Timber Routes Map & Coordination Collection of Timber Production Data NYCC currently co-ordinate FQP site. Web statistics show that the site isn't being viewed as much as we would like. There had been only 37 page views this year to date, 150 page views in 2017. There have been very few updates and no refresh of timber production data since 2016. Members discussed the value in refreshing the timber production data annually given the officer time involved and the fact it is not widely used. It was suggested that the Timber Transport Forum GB map might be being used in place of the NY map. The NY map feeds into the GB map so there is value in keeping the routes up to date. RM reported that NYCC funding for schemes is changing slightly; the seven highway areas will receive a list of schemes from County Hall which need work and an amount of funding it is up to them to prioritise funding for local projects. Downside to this is there is a 2 year delivery time before area are able to do the work. Typically timber production data was requested from the sector at the end of the year for the next calendar year (updates put on the map early in the year)	

	but now if the information was available 2 years in advance that would be preference for area. CT asked how much forward planning can reasonably be offered to assist with this investment planning? JB asked if the FC should correspond directly with area teams rather than NYCC coordinating a refresh? BN advised that the private sector reacts to markets and is changeable which means their response would be different to that of the FC. BN suggested it could be helpful for the sector to concentrate on data collection for known 'problem areas' and these can be looked at up to 5 years in advance? It was agreed that a focus on planning for and monitoring known 'weak spots' would be a more cost effective approach for the future. Action: Forestry Sector to provide Highways Area teams (list of contacts below) with advanced notice of planned timber extraction on problematic/weak spots. Highways teams to continue to liaise with industry where issues identified. JB/CT added that the FC are actively trying to encourage users to take a management planning approach to look at their longer term felling plans. This would include considering timber extraction/haulage and potential impact on highways. Guidance on application for felling licences could include a suggestion for "land manager should use timber agreed routes maps when planning their locations for felling" in the guidance Action: CT to investigate inclusion information on agreed routes maps in forest management plan guidance. The Group agreed it will be useful to keep the NY website functioning as a reference point for new people and a demonstration that highways are concerned about/interested in Is it still useful for Highways to have production forecasts where weak roads/spots are identified but annual timber production data to be removed by NYCC from the website. Action: KM/VH to update the NY agreed Routes map/ToR/Good Practice Guide to remove timber production data and make reference to early notification of timber production forecasts where there are 'hotspots' identified by sector representatives (e.g. where there is a consultation/severely restricted route) along with advice to area teams. Circulate to the FQP for comment. Action: Attach names and contact details of all highway area offices to meeting minutes for all correspondence – supply list of current maintenance managers – see below: Email Address and Area Manager - Area1.Richmond@northyorks.gov.uk - Area2.Thirsk@northyorks.gov.uk - Area3.Whitby@northyorks.gov.uk	All CT KM KM
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Steve Barker
Richard Christon
Karen Hebron

	• Area4.KirbyMisperton@northyorks.gov.uk Peter Garnham • Area5.Skipton@northyorks.gov.uk Andrew Mellor • Area6.Boroughbridge@northyorks.gov.uk John Putsey • Area7.Selby@northyorks.gov.uk Luis Alpalhao You can also click on a point on the online NYCC routes map and it comes up with the area email address and area manager although this may not always be the most up to date information.	
5.0	Current updates and potential future issues in North Yorkshire VH explained there have been few, if any, issues in the last year at least. FC and area met to discuss Bransdale recently but this wasn't an 'issue' as such.	
5.1	Bransdale Renewal plans were shared with NYCC and forwarded to area office for comment. Area identified a number of 'concerns' with the document so arranged to meet with the FC where the issue was quickly resolved. An example of the Partnership working. The National Trust are preparing a forward plan and there is a particular challenge at Scots Ridge as it is under two ownerships (on map item no 13) and has challenging access routes. Discussions to secure access routes from across the moor need to take place, not on route network at all at present. The plan is to speak to both land owners recognising the interest in felling those woodlands and establishing the most practical access route which works alongside the NP/FC/NYCC's highway network plans. The suggestion is to put in a 44t access route then re-instate road to existing condition. Bumble Wood JB noted that an operation to remove 2000 tonnes and creation of a management plan has been successful. Greenfield and Cam GG noted that Tilhill are managing this on behalf of Cam Forest Trust and the new road for extraction of timber is working well. The area included the 2nd best red squirrel reserve after Kielder Forest. Other Discussion about a recent scheme which involved an updated access track where NYCC required a speed monitoring survey which wasn't typical of a scheme (not routinely requested). The manager complied and completed the work as required but there was a question as to whether this would come up again especially as this was down as an existing route/junction. RM requested any clarity can be sought by getting in touch with NYCC or escalated from area office maintenance manager.	
6.0	Update from Timber Transport Forum (RS) 2 main things to note:	

	1. New guidance on loading timber from the road side forest has been released on website, hard copies are available and can be sent on request – guidance covers both English and Scottish regulations 2. Ongoing liaison process with councils and forestry sector and the communities and forestry sector. RS is producing some protocols about that engagement and at which stage in the process liaison should be happening, with whom and the timeframes for responding. This has been drafted for Scotland and will be circulated and if helpful can be adapted to an English version. Northumbria and Cumbria groups haven't met for a long time but will be offered the same opportunity. The group agreed that this is important for the industry. TTF maps are still maintained and well used.	
7.0	Timber and the York, North Yorkshire and East Riding Local Enterprise Partnership (VH) Katie Thomas joined the LEP earlier this year but was unfortunately unable to attend for this item. CT said that she is interested to engage with forestry industry to understand more about the impact on issues relating to low carbon and the circular economy. There is no existing dialogue between LEP and forestry industry (FQP) but given this is a significant part of the NY industry and JW agrees they should be engaged. JW understands Leeds City Region LEP is investing heavily in planting and forest management in the upper Aire to contribute to flooding prevention measures – this might be a sensible approach in many places in NY. Forestry was increasingly been seen as valuable natural capital. CT advised that the Routes to Prosperity partnership (chaired by Confor, Will Richardson has involvement) still exists which can help secure funding; to date it has been focussed on Northumberland but it could help NY now. CT is happy to facilitate discussion with the LEP. Action: VH to put KT and CT in touch to facilitate discussions between LEP and FQP	VH
8	Funding Opportunities Discussion about various forestry related funding including: Routes to Prosperity Countryside Stewardship, Agri bill working its way through parliament (public payments for public goods) – this doesn't fund public roads Rural Challenge Fund – Northumberland got approx. £5m Tree Strategy and the appointment of Sir William Worsley as National Tree Champion – just announced by Michael Gove JW to speak to Sir William Worsley to flag up the importance of timber transport in effective forestry management for the future.	JW
9.0	Nomination of new FQP Chair & thanks to Chair JW JW thanked everyone for their support, in particular recently to Victoria for the coordination, and welcome to KM.	

	Nominees for next chair are: • Will Richardson – Chair • Nigel Smith – Deputy Chair who were duly elected. In line with the discussion on governance it was agreed that the appointments would be for 2 years ideally with the positions of Chair and Deputy Chair alternating between the industry and highways. There was a suggestion that if the chair needs to be independent in cases of dispute between highways and the sector. Someone else would attend from NYCC if there is a highways issue to discuss (and Highways are Chairing). VH thanked JW for his work as chair and offered a letter of thanks for his contributions to the group and industry. Group agreed and thanked JW for his valuable input.	
10.0	AOB None	
11	Date of next meeting Autumn 2019 – KM to arrange	KM