

Public Document Pack



PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

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13 January 2011

When calling or telephoning please ask for: **Mr Ross Johnston**

PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

DATE: MONDAY 24 JANUARY 2011

TIME: 10.30AM

PLACE: COUNCIL HOUSE, PLYMOUTH (NEXT TO CIVIC CENTRE)

Committee Members–

Mr Fairchild, in the Chair

Mr Stewart, Vice Chair

Mr Attrill, Councillor Browne, Mr Emery, Councillor K Foster, Mr Goddard, Ms Hitchens, Mr Loze, Mrs Mickley, Mr Pawley, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Rodgers, Mr Skinner and Councillor Wheeler

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf

Members are requested to sign the attendance list at the meeting.

Please note that, unless the Chair agrees, mobile phones should be switched off and speech, video and photographic equipment should not be used during meetings.

PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

1. APOLOGIES

To receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by Forum Members.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members will be asked to make any declarations of interest in respect of items on this Agenda.

3. MINUTES (Pages 1 - 8)

The Forum will be asked to confirm the minutes of the 22 November 2010.

4. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

To receive reports on business which, in the opinion of the Chair, should be brought forward for urgent consideration.

5. TRACKING RESOLUTIONS (Pages 9 - 14)

To monitor progress on previous resolutions.

6. ACCESS WHITLEIGH

The Forum will receive a verbal presentation on the Access Whitleigh project.

7. SOUTH WEST LAF CONFERENCE (Pages 15 - 24)

The Forum will receive an update and feedback from the South West LAF Conference held on 20 October 2010.

8. SOUTH WEST COAST PATH (Pages 25 - 26)

To receive an update on the South West Coast Path.

9. GRASSROOTS ENGAGEMENT: THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WHITE PAPER

To discuss the consultation on Grassroots Engagement on the Natural Environment White Paper.

<http://ww2.defra.gov.uk/environment/natural/whitepaper/>

10. RESULTS OF THE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM DEVELOPMENT QUESTIONNAIRE **(Pages 27 - 42)**

To receive a report on the results of the Local Access Forum Development Consultation Questionnaire.

11. WORKING GROUPS:

(a.) FUTURE OF THE WORKING GROUPS

To discuss the future of the Forum's Working Groups.

(b.) POTENTIAL RIGHTS OF WAY WORKING GROUP

To receive a report from the Working Group.

(c.) PLANNING WORKING GROUP

To receive a report from the Working Group.

12. WORK PROGRAMME **(Pages 43 - 44)**

To receive the Forum's Work Programme for 2010/2011.

13. CORRESPONDENCE **(Pages 45 - 54)**

To consider any correspondence received and note any correspondence sent by the Forum.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 10.30am on Monday 28 March 2011 at the Council House, Armada Way, Plymouth.

15. ISSUES ARISING FROM FORUM MEMBERS

To discuss any issues brought forward by members of the Forum.

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Plymouth Local Access Forum

Monday 22 November 2010

PRESENT:

Mr Fairchild, in the Chair.

Mr Attrill, Councillor Browne, Mr Emery, Mr Goddard, Ms Hitchens, Mrs Mickley, Mr Pawley and Mrs Rodgers

Apologies for absence: Councillor K Foster, Ms Roberts, Mr Skinner, Mr Stewart and Councillor Wheeler

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 1.15 pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were made by Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct –

Name	Subject	Reason	Interest
Councillor Browne	Plymouth Third Local Transport Plan (minute 36 refers)	Member of Planning Committee	Personal

33. MINUTES

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 27 September 2010 are confirmed as a correct record subject to Minute 26 being amended as follows “Rupert Goddard, LAF Member informed the Forum that Groundwork had been awarded a Rock Environmental Treatment Scheme (RockETS) grant to undertake works within Radford Woods”.

34. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

35. TAMAR VALLEY DISCOVERY TRAIL

David Readman of the Tamar Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Partnership provided an update on the Tamar Valley Discovery Trail and informed members that –

- (a) the Tamar Valley discovery trail runs from Tamerton Foliot to Launceston and has approximately 1km of trail within

Plymouth;

- (b) the Tamar Valley AONB were looking into ways of promoting and improving the trail as well as trying to increase local involvement in walking the trail;
- (c) improvements to the trail included increased and more visible signage and the creation of new check points and marker points;
- (d) promoting the trail to local communities was being dealt with by the local Stepping Stones to Nature Project, additionally the Tamar Valley AONB was liaising with Tamerton Foliot School with the aim of them adopting a small section of the trail;
- (e) with Natural England funding becoming available for walking for health schemes, local health walk groups were being communicated with to try and set up new walking projects. The overall aim was to increase the number of volunteer walks in the area.

Following questions from forum members it was reported that –

- (f) the information about the trail had been passed to the Ordnance Survey mapping agency;
- (g) the health walks were only started last year and the information was available in local libraries.

Forum members commented that the Tamar Valley AONB should contact the Plymouth Ramblers Society who could help to promote the Tamar Valley Discovery Trail walks.

Agreed that David Readman would send Tamar Valley Discovery Trail brochures to the LAF secretary to distribute to members at a future meeting of the Forum.

The Chair thanked David Readman for his attendance.

36. **PLYMOUTH'S THIRD LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN**

Daniel Forster, Senior Transportation Planner gave a presentation on the Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) and informed members that –

- (a) the timeframe for the LTP3 had been selected at 15 years, which was a longer timeframe than previous LTPs;
- (b) the LTP3 had two distinct elements which were to set out a Transport Strategy for Plymouth and a Transport Implementation

Plan;

- (c) the transport strategy would be used to help the council deliver the city's growth, carbon reduction and reducing inequality agendas, as well as enabling the authority to prioritise investment and support funding bids;
- (d) the LTP3 followed five national transport goals, which were –
 - supporting economic growth;
 - tackling climate change;
 - promoting equality of opportunity;
 - improving safety, security and health;
 - improving quality of life;
- (e) the five national transport goals led to six local objectives, which were;
 - to link communities together;
 - to reduce the negative impacts of transport;
 - to provide high quality transport standards for a vibrant city;
 - to make walking, cycling and public transport the desirable choice;
 - to maximise the transport contribution to Plymouth's carbon reduction target;
 - to use transport to drive the local economy;
- (f) the Transport Implementation Plan had been developed with a flexible approach as it needs to be able to evolve and respond to funding streams and developments as they emerge;
- (g) some of the effects on Transport following the Comprehensive Spending Review included a cumulative 28 per cent saving on local transport revenue grants over the next four years, an 11 per cent saving on transport capital expenditure and a 20 per cent reduction in subsidy (fuel cost reimbursement) paid to bus operators from 2012 – 2013;
- (h) the consultation for the LTP3 ends on 14 January 2011 with final approval of the LTP3 at Full Council on 11 April 2011.

In response to questions, it was reported that –

- (i) the council was very mindful that small scale walking and cycling schemes often provide excellent value for money;
- (j) the LTP3 was trying to address a number of issues and the LAF should direct its opinions and comments via the consultation process in order to improve the aspects relating to public rights of way.

Agreed that Forum Members individual responses would be sent directly to the LAF Secretary by 17 December 2010 in order for a response to be collated and sent to the Transport Department on behalf of the Forum before the end of the consultation period.

(Councillor Browne declared a personal interest in the above item)

37. **SALTRAM COUNTRY PARK MASTER PLAN**

Members were informed that the Saltram Country Park Master Plan was currently under consultation. It was commented by members that –

- (a) the plan had a lot of merit and it was very impressive to see such a large green space being opened up in Plymouth;
- (b) the forum should have a position statement in which it directly responds to consultations particularly in regard to public rights of way.

Agreed that if any members wanted to respond to the Saltram Country Park Master Plan consultation they needed to do so as an individual before Friday 26 November 2010.

38. **CENTRAL PARK DRAFT MASTERPLAN**

Members were informed that the Central Park Draft Master Plan was currently under consultation. It was commented by members that the planned changes were impressive and they would likely improve the amount of activities offered and the participation levels within Central Park.

Agreed that if any members wanted to respond to the Central Park Draft Master Plan consultation they needed to do so as an individual before Friday 26 November 2010.

39. **THE FUTURE OF THE PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

Ross Johnston, Secretary of the Local Access Forum (LAF) and Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer gave an update on the future of the

Plymouth LAF and outlined some proposed changes to the LAF. Members were informed that –

- (a) there were a number of changes happening to many public sector organisations and bodies, and the LAF also needed to change;
- (b) one change to the LAF had already been implemented with web links attached to the agenda where possible, rather than hard copies of consultation requests;
- (c) the changes proposed were to enable the LAF to become a more effective, efficient and focused body, particularly with regard to their role in advising section 94 bodies;
- (d) the proposed changes were to the agenda and the administration and delivery of the LAF;
- (e) the changes to the agenda included –
 - replacing the agenda item ‘Any other business’ with a new agenda item called ‘Issues arising from Forum members’;
 - including two new items onto all future agendas; the items would be called ‘Tracking resolutions’ and ‘Work Programme’;
- (f) replacing the ‘Any other business’ item would remove any ambiguity that surrounds this item and make the agenda item focus solely on issues that have arisen from Forum members since the last meeting;
- (g) adding an item called ‘Tracking resolutions’ on to the agenda would enable Forum members to understand what actions had been taken since the last meeting and if there were any outstanding actions that hadn’t been dealt with;
- (h) the ‘Work programme’ agenda item would allow Forum members to become more focused on strategic issues that the Forum could deal with;
- (i) the changes to the administration and delivery of the LAF were more complex and as a result each Forum member would be able to have their say on the proposals by filling in a consultation questionnaire.

Agreed that –

- (1) if the agenda has a web link attached Forum members should view the content and make comments so that they are prepared

for the meeting;

- (2) that all proposed changes to the agenda be implemented for the next meeting of the LAF;
- (3) that all members complete the evaluation questionnaire and return them to the LAF secretary by Friday 10 December.

40. **RADFORD WOODS RocketS FUNDING PROJECT**

Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer gave an update to the forum on the Radford Woods RocketS Funding Project. Members were informed that –

- (a) Groundwork and other volunteers were doing some amazing work at the Radford Woods project and the feedback received so far had been excellent;
- (b) the project had created new public rights of way, a nature trail, a circular path and had also improved signage and fencing;
- (c) the new public rights of way that were created had recently been signed off and would be added to the Definitive map;
- (d) drainage issues within Radford Woods had been targeted to for improvement.

Following questions from members it was reported that Plymouth City Council was looking into the possibility of delivering an on-line mapping tool, similar to that which was offered on Devon County Council's website.

Agreed that the LAF Secretary would send to all Forum members a link to the mapping tool available on Devon County Council's website.

41. **WORKING GROUPS**

a) **Future of the Working Groups**

Agreed that, following the discussion on the future of the Plymouth Local Access Forum, the future of the Working Groups would be postponed until the next meeting of the Forum after the responses to the consultation questionnaires had been received.

b) **Potential Rights of Way Working Group**

There was no report from the Potential Rights of Way working group.

It was commented by members that a work placement opportunity could be offered to a University student to review and collate the findings from the ramblers' map task.

c) **Planning Working Group**

There was no report from the Planning working group.

42. **SOUTH WEST COAST PATH**

John Emery, LAF Member gave an update to the Forum regarding the South West Coast Path. Members were provided with a briefing paper and informed that –

- (a) having the South West Coast Path as an item on the LAF's agenda was a good way of highlighting the continued closure of the section of footpath at Jennycliff and Staddon Heights;
- (b) the footpath was closed in February 2010 as a result of a landslip, since then further small landslips have led to Plymouth City Council commissioning a ground stability survey, the results of which have yet to be published;
- (c) the closure of the footpath could have had negative ecological impacts as well as a negative impact on health of local residents and tourism.

Agreed that –

- (1) a letter be sent to Asset Management asking for an explanation to be provided as to the continued closure of the Jennycliff and Staddon Heights section of the South West Coast Path;
- (2) the South West Coast Path would be added as an agenda item for the next Forum meeting.

43. **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

44. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed that the next meeting of the forum is held at 10:30am on 24 January 2011 at the Council House.

45. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A member of the Forum raised an issue around the Yacht Haven footpath, Oreston.

Agreed that the Public Rights of Way Officer would communicate directly with the Forum member regarding the issue.

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PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

TRACKING RESOLUTIONS

Date / Minute number	Resolution	Explanation / Minute	Action	Progress	Target date
27.09.10 Minute 24	<u>Agreed</u> that the draft Plymouth Local Access Forum Annual Report for 2009/10 be approved subject to the inclusion of public rights of way statistics and adopting an A5 format.	During a discussion on the Annual Report the forum approved it subject to the resolution.	Ross Johnston	Liaison with PADS undertaken in order to determine cost of printing. Annual Report aimed to be published on the LAF webpage.	January 2011
27.09.10 Minute 25	After a vote had been taken by the Forum it was <u>agreed</u> that the map on page 41 of the ROWIP be removed and the ROWIP be published as amended.	During the ROWIP discussion it was approved subject to the map on pg 41 being removed.	Robin Pearce	The PROW Officer addressed this issue in a letter to Forum Members sent on 24 December 2010.	COMPLETE
27.09.10 Minute 26	<u>Agreed</u> that a request be made to the Public Rights of Way Officer to provide a report at the next meeting of the Forum giving an update on the status of public rights of way that were going to be created on council owned land.	Following the update on Radford Woods other PROW in council owned land was discussed by members. An update was requested.	Robin Pearce	Robin Pearce attended the LAF on 22 November 2010 and advised the Forum that paths in Radford Woods had been adopted as PROW. Additionally, in the PROW Officer letter of 24 December 2010 a list of outstanding Definitive Map Modification Orders was provided.	COMPLETE

Date / Minute number	Resolution	Explanation / Minute	Action	Progress	Target date
27.09.10 Minute 28	<u>Agreed</u> that at the next meeting of the panel an agenda item be included that aims to identify a practical way forward on how to make the most out of the two working groups.	During the working group item it was felt that the most was not being made of working groups and that the forum should discuss the working groups at a future forum meeting.	Ross Johnston	A working group development item has been put on the agenda for the forum's next meeting on 22 November 2010.	COMPLETE
27.09.10 Minute 29	<u>Agreed</u> that a request be made to the PROW Officer asking for information to be provided to all members on what action would be taken in order to clear the footpath referred to in the Definitive Map Modification Order.	Under correspondence the forum received a Modification Order on (FOOTPATH NO 1, DRAKE). Forum members wanted further information provided.	Robin Pearce	The PROW Officer's letter of 24 December 2010 addressed this issue and informed members that the clearance had started prior to Christmas and would be completed in the new year.	COMPLETE
27.09.10 Minute 31	<u>Agreed</u> that the LAF Secretary would disseminate to all Forum Members an updated contact list of LAF Members for 2010/11;	Members wanted an update on forum membership disseminated to them.	Ross Johnston	Email sent to all forum members on 18 October 2010.	COMPLETE
27.09.10 Minute 31	<u>Agreed</u> that the LAF Secretary would disseminate to all Forum Members via an email a copy of the SW LAF Newsletter;		Ross Johnston	Email sent to all forum members on 18 October 2010.	COMPLETE

Date / Minute number	Resolution	Explanation / Minute	Action	Progress	Target date
27.09.10 Minute 31	<u>Agreed</u> that a request be made to the PROW Officer asking for information to be provided to all members on what was happening regarding Ridgeway Schools Public Path Extinguishment Order.		Robin Pearce	An update was provided by the PROW Officer in his letter of 24 December 2010. Further information would follow.	COMPLETE
22.11.10 Minute 35	<u>Agreed</u> that David Readman would send Tamar Valley Discovery Trail brochures to the LAF secretary to disseminate to members at a future meeting of the Forum.	Following David Readman's presentation members requested to see the brochures on Tamar Valley Discovery Trail.	Ross Johnston		24 January 2011
22.11.10 Minute 36	<u>Agreed</u> that Forum Members individual responses would be sent directly to the LAF Secretary by 17 December 2010 in order for a response to be collated and sent to the Transport department on behalf of the Forum before the end of the consultation period.	The forum's response to the LTP3 would be coordinated by the LAF Secretary.	Forum members/ Ross Johnston	Three responses were received and a letter with the LAFs response was sent to the Transport department on 7 January 2011. The letter has been attached to the next LAF agenda on 24 January 2011.	COMPLETE Consultation ended 14.01.11
22.11.10 Minute 39	<u>Agreed</u> that all proposed changes to the agenda be implemented for the next meeting of the LAF;		Ross Johnston		COMPLETE

22.11.10 Minute 39	<u>Agreed</u> that all members complete the evaluation questionnaire and return them to the LAF secretary by Friday 10 December.		Forum Members/ Ross Johnston	Seven Questionnaires were completed and returned and a report with the responses has been added to the next LAF agenda on 24 January 2011.	COMPLETE
22.11.10 Minute 40	<u>Agreed</u> that the LAF Secretary would send to all Forum members a link to the mapping tool available on Devon County Council's website.	Following a discussion provided by a forum member on the toolkit available on Devon County Council's website.	Ross Johnston	Email sent to all members on 2 December 2010.	COMPLETE
22.11.10 Minute 41 (a)	<u>Agreed</u> that, following the discussion on the future of the Plymouth Local Access Forum, the future of the Working Groups would be postponed until the next meeting of the Forum after the responses to the consultation questionnaires had been received.		Ross Johnston	Working Group item added to the LAF agenda on 24 January 2010.	COMPLETE
22.11.10 Minute 42	<u>Agreed</u> that a letter be sent to the Director for Development and Regeneration asking for an explanation to be provided as to the continued closure of the Jennycliff and Staddon Heights section	Following Mr Emery's presentation on the South West Coast Path it was discussed about a response being provided to the Council from the Forum.	Ross Johnston	Letter sent to Anthony Payne, Director for Development and Regeneration on 10 December 2010.	COMPLETE

	of the South West Coast Path;				
22.11.10 Minute 42	<u>Agreed</u> that the South West Coast Path would be added as an agenda item for the next Forum meeting.			South West Coast Path item added to the LAF agenda on 24 January 2010.	COMPLETE

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Report from the SW Region LAF Conference 20 October 2010

Dartmoor National Park

Kindly hosted by Dartmoor National Park, the SW Region LAF Conference was attended by representatives from nine of the twelve LAFs in the region. Twenty LAF members (including seven Chairmen), ten LAF secretaries and appointing authority officers and one Natural England member of staff were present, plus the speaker and five workshop leaders.

Keynote address

Stephen Lees, Recreation and Public Affairs Manager, Peninsula District, Forestry Commission outlined the FC's role in promoting recreational opportunities.



© Forestry Commission

Key statistics

1. The FC receives 40m visits a year and is the largest single provider of countryside leisure visits.
2. It provides 264 waymarked trails, safe off-road cycling, 32 play areas and 14 Go-Ape sites.
3. There are 40 key sites, 4 in the Peninsula district, and 24 visitor centres.
4. Over half the population lives within 6 miles of one of the FC woods, particularly on the urban fringe.
5. In the Peninsula district there are 200 woodlands, totalling 38,000 acres. There has been a policy of selling small woods.
6. Major destinations in the SW are Haldon and Cardinham. Parking and limited facilities are provided at a further 20 sites.
7. Open access, under the CRoW Act, is provided on freehold sites. Leasehold sites (999 year) have some dedicated or permissive access. The small access land sign is used with a FC logo.

Main woods in the SW

- Cann Woods, edge of Plymouth. Off-road biking is tolerated and managed.
- Stoke Woods – SSSI and promotion of broadleaves.

- Bellever, Dartmoor; Ranscombe, Quantocks. Picnic areas and toilets. Introduction of charging at Bellever has been contentious with local people. Raises approximately £10-15,000 per annum to retain and maintain facilities.
- Cardinham Woods – café.
- Haldon – 300,000 visits a year. 70% come to cycle.
- Mamhead - sensory trail and all ability access trail.

Other FC opportunities

- The Discovery Pass (yearly payment) offers benefits – free parking, activity offers, a newsletter and links to other attractions.
- Guided walks - but likely to decrease as not cost-effective.
- Commercial site partners – cycle hire, cafés etc.
- Commercial permissions for one-off events
- Venues for group and organisation activities

The FC uses a combination of internal investment and external grants.

Partnerships

- Wistland Pound. A project between the SW Lakes Trust, the FC and the Calvert Trust which provides activities for those with disabilities.
- Neroche Project. A Landscape Partnership scheme with an emphasis on access and conservation, involving the removal of conifers to encourage heathland. A local stakeholder group and independent trust are involved. The Herepath circular route includes horses.
- SW Rural Development Agency. Funding for off-road cycling. FC is lead partner with Bristol City and SW Lakes Trust.
 - Six hub centres – Forest of Dean, Ashton Court (Bristol City), one in Dorset, Haldon, Plym Valley and Bodmin (in conjunction with the National Trust). These provide whole cycle facilities; easy access through to more adventurous with different skills levels.
 - 4 start pedalling centres focussed around SW Lakes Trust sites e.g. Sibilyback and Roadford reservoirs.
 - 14 Protected Landscapes (2 National Parks and 12 AONBs), hosted by Dartmoor National Park. Facilities and private sector businesses are being mapped. A tourism focussed website with interactive map will go live in November.



Grants for landowners

Woodland Improvement Grant – key target to expand area with public access. Budget of £220,000. Grants cover 50-80% of costs. 10-30 years access is required depending on grant size. Priority depends on other woods in the area with access. High priority to urban areas.

Woodland Management Grant

Contribution towards additional costs of providing higher quality public benefits. Public access budget is £495,000. Grants of £30/ha per annum and some capital costs. Use quality of life map to ascertain priority.



Questions and discussion

Forestry production requirement, derisory grant levels and loss of access if woodland is sold.

The FC's role is to put a certain amount of timber into the market.

Grants have seen a big uptake and a scoring system has been introduced. The subsidy the FC receives from the state is about the same as the grant scheme.

Access under CRoW is binding and is an obligation on successive owners. Leasehold woods may not be the same.

Cycling damage to trails

Surfacing of trails depends on the ground conditions. Usually 4" compacted stone. Costs 50p per metre to maintain. Only sustainable if maintenance costs are covered.

Charges for the Discovery Pass

The pass is £20. A charge is only made on 4 sites.

Forest tracks

Bikes can be taken on forest tracks but harepin bends can be a safety issue. Cycle tracks are well used and not open to horse-riders. There is zoned horse-riding at Haldon with associated horse-box parking.

Permit charges and multi-use

Horse riding is a bone of contention between the FC and the BHS. Permits usually cost £50 plus VAT per year. There are exceptions where there is free horse riding:

- Haldon (funding from Sport England)
- Cookworthy Forest (sparsely populated with no perceived conflict)
- Neroche (funding partners)

Permits raise £8,000 per annum which helps to deal with maintenance issues.

Guided walks

These were likely to be reduced. It was suggested by a LAF Chairman that organisations, such as the Ramblers, with the insurance and expertise could run these. This offer was appreciated.

Management

Active management of woodland was sought though some mature woodland was not coppiced or cleared.

Disease

Main disease concerns were phytophthora. Large areas of larch were being felled. Increasing deer populations raised conservation and welfare issues.

Acquisitions and disposals

The FC still makes small acquisitions and tries to acquire freehold to secure multiple benefits, particularly in urban fringe areas, using a mapping system which relates to population. The Woodland Trust also aims to create woodland within areas. A portfolio analysis, carried out in 2009, may be used to drive the disposals programme.

Access and internet

The FC wishes to work with public transport to compensate for the numbers of people without a car or internet.

The FC uses the internet as it is cost effective to promote its work and facilities.

Strategy

The Trees, Woodlands and Forest Strategy set key targets but is now out of date and will be replaced by a new strategy.

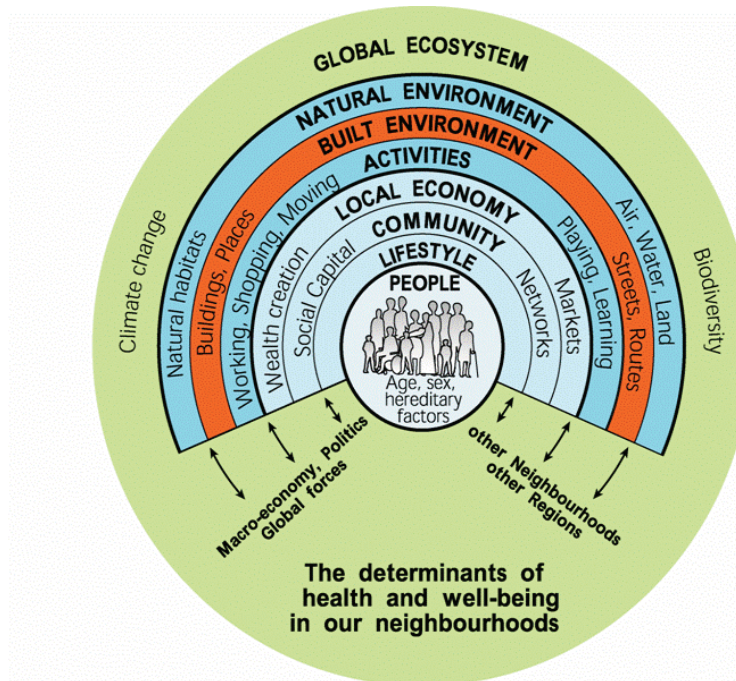
Output

The Peninsula District produces 80% of the timber from 17% of the woodland.

WORKSHOPS

Workshop 1 – Health

Led by Peter Ashcroft, SW lead for physical activity, Department of Health



Peter started the workshop with a quick and interesting quiz, aimed to find out how much participants knew about average levels of fitness in the population, which types of activity generated an increase in health and recommended levels of activity for children and adults.

A health map was produced, above, which illustrates the value of health and access and links people to lifestyle; community; the local economy; activities; the built and natural environment and the global ecosystem.

For the second part of the workshop the group was split into three smaller groups to discuss three scenarios:-

- an isolated elderly person
- a family group with low income and insufficiently active
- an educated young male with a work-hard, play-hard, drink-hard attitude

Groups had to come with ideas to the following questions:

1. What 'access product' could you devise which you think will match the interest or needs of your target audience?
2. How would you design it and who would you involve?
3. How would you market it to your target group?
4. What is the top line promotional message to your target group?
5. What is the top line promotional message to the new Public Health Service whom you may want to support it?
6. What 'outcomes' would you seek to identify in your evaluation?

It was relatively easy to come up with an access activity which might be enjoyed by the target person but the design, marketing and promotional messages were a challenging part of the activity. There was plenty to consider and some useful ideas were produced. With health improvement work coming across to local authorities this may be an area LAFs can get more involved in.

WORKSHOP 2 (a.m.) – The Mosaic Project Led by David Rolls, Project Officer, and Alarick Greenland, Young Champion

The Mosaic Project is an exciting project set up by the Campaign for National Parks to work with 16-25 year olds in some of the South West's most deprived communities, with an emphasis on those individuals who face barriers to accessing opportunities offered by the National Parks and YHA. David Rolls of the Mosaic Project showed a short DVD on its work to everyone. National Parks see 100m visitors a year yet only 1% are from ethnic minorities.



Those in this workshop enjoyed a pleasant walk in the grounds of Parke. At intervals the group stopped and discussed various aspects of involving young people in countryside activities, either as volunteers or as participants in a wide range of recreational pursuits. Alarick, a young champion, described his role in planning activities and getting involved with young people, encouraging them to participate.

The group saw a cycle track made up of mounds and jumps which a local group of young people had constructed themselves on land owned by the National Trust. This was set back in the woods a short distance from the former railway line path. Dealing with insurance, management, litter and participation by the young people were discussed.

Lack of young people on LAFs was a problem throughout the region. Key points for LAFs to consider were:-

- Don't re-invent the wheel – work through existing youth organisations and use modern technology

- Many young people would not find it interesting enough to be on a LAF so think about engaging them in a short term project. An excellent draft Dartmoor access leaflet written by one of the young people associated with the Mosaic Project was looked at.
- Consider whether the LAF offers something that would benefit a young person - certificated volunteering hours, CV etc.
- Think outside the box in terms of the access activities young people might enjoy – these might have a theme or involve a challenge

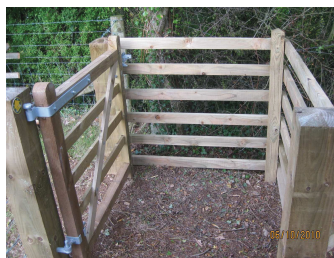
WORKSHOP 2 (p.m.) – LAF issues **Led by Colin Jones, Natural England.**

A group of 3 Chairs, 1 Vice-Chair, 2 LAF members and 4 secretaries/officers) focused on two issues, but mainly on the first.

Role of Volunteers and Stakeholders

The importance of LAFs (and all organisations interested in improving access) responding quickly and positively to the Big Society and the localism agenda was emphasised, notwithstanding some reservations individuals had about how and whether these concepts would work in practice. Several LAFs have already started looking at how they, and those they 'represent', can become more involved in improving 'local access'. For example:

- Somerset LAF is developing a 'Stakeholder Engagement Plan', utilising a working group, following discussion at a full SLAF meeting. In Somerset up to 90% of parishes now have a Parish Paths Liaison Officer (PPLO), supported by Somerset County Council, but there may be scope for them to do more in future. Some parishes organise successful monthly working parties doing ROW maintenance.
- The Ramblers in many areas already use volunteers, (insured by Ramblers), to replace stiles etc. – but this scheme could be extended.
- In Wiltshire, a grant scheme exists (currently!) for the new Wiltshire Council to match parish contributions £ for £ to improve local access opportunities. This had proved popular.
- In some areas, (e.g. Bristol), Neighbourhood/Localism Areas were being established to further the potential of 'local action', which could include access.
- Bath & NE Somerset Council pays parish councils to take on some ROW maintenance tasks.
- In Devon, the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) has recruited a large number of parishes, which were given some resources (training and equipment) for routine ROW maintenance. For example, in Brixton (in the South Hams, east of Plymouth) the local P3 had replaced 30 stiles.



- In Dartmoor National Park, with the benefit of full-time professional Rangers who do lots of maintenance of ROW, plus an in-house 'conservation works team', there is less need for volunteers, but there is a team of voluntary wardens who support the work of the paid staff.
- In Torbay, there is a different model – the (independent) Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust, which was formed some years ago as an externalised 'coast and countryside service', breaking away from Torbay Council. It receives grant aid from Torbay Council and (amongst many other things) maintains ROW, but the organisation has to source many other grants to survive and develop – which may be why this model has not been followed more widely, though TCCT has been very successful in accessing grants for a wide variety of countryside projects. TCCT has had success in recruiting young people as volunteers for 9-12 month work placement schemes, offering good quality training and interesting work, skills development and an enhanced CV!
- The Cotswold AONB Volunteering Service represents another model – highly-regarded and successful, but with a price-tag - a cost of about £120,000 per year to manage.
- In some areas, the use of individuals undertaking Community Service (Community Payback) had proved useful doing ROW maintenance, but in others problematic. Success would be dependent on the interest/enjoyment in the tasks offered, and the attitude of the participants, who were not 'volunteers'.

The possible engagement of the 'commercial sector' in supporting and funding ROW provoked a lively discussion. For example, if local companies (e.g. garden centres, supermarkets) sponsor floral displays on roundabouts, why couldn't they sponsor ROW – in return for a suitable acknowledgement or advertisement? Big companies in particular are now required to demonstrate their commitment to social and community responsibility, so look for projects and causes that they can support with their money and sometimes staff time too. It was agreed that this could be a useful avenue to explore, though there were some misgivings about associating with some large companies.

General points made were

- Insurance was often mentioned as a deterrent to volunteering, but this could generally be overcome by volunteers becoming 'registered with' (and therefore covered by) organisations which routinely had their own comprehensive insurance – for example local councils (incl. parish councils) or voluntary bodies like the Ramblers.
- Training and support was vital – the effective and safe managing of them was not a 'no-cost option', and more volunteers would generally require more support costs.
- LAFs could have an important role in co-ordinating initiatives and spreading best practice – though the scale of the task would be difficult in a county the size of Devon, where the LAF could not be expected to work directly with over 400 parish councils

Future Budgets and Finance for LAFs

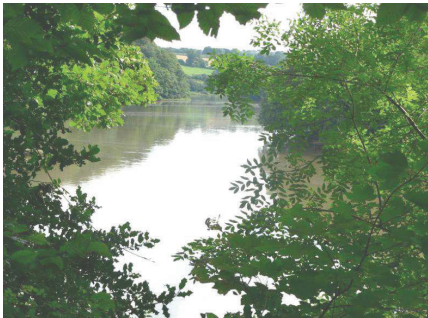
Some LAFs had already been informed that their budgets and/or staff support for next year would be reduced, but most were awaiting news from their appointing authority. Maintaining momentum would be a real challenge, at a time when voluntary bodies would need/want to do more (Big Society/localism etc), and many LAFs may be

required to reduce their numbers of meetings and be given less officer support. It was suggested that if LAFs were meeting only say twice a year, it would be difficult to provide any real continuity or make much impact, and the role of effective working groups and e-mail communication would become vital. It was agreed that LAFs would need to embrace change – whether desirable or not – and try urgently to find better and smarter ways of working in readiness for the more challenging times ahead.

WORKSHOP 3 – Green Infrastructure

Led by Naomi Wright, Natural England, Senior Specialist in community engagement. Responsible for coordinating work on green infrastructure and environmental equality for people in the South West region.

Green Infrastructure (GI) is a strategically planned and delivered network of high quality green spaces and other environmental features. It should be designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. Green Infrastructure includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, allotments and private gardens



Contributing to policy and delivery of Green Infrastructure

1. What do LAF members think GI is about?

- Healthy people
- Biodiversity
- Walking
- Local greenspace
- Woodlands
- Countryside
- Living with archaeology
- Waterways
- Coastal access
- Cycle paths
- Parks
- Fresh air and fun
- Energy production
- Access
- Green issues in suburbs
- Recreation
- Improvements
- Local food

- Countryside in the town
- Impacts on environment
- Connections – green corridors etc

2. LAF highlights – Green Infrastructure experience or influence

- Enjoyment of being outside
- Experiencing contrasting weather
- Achieving the Exe Cycle route
- Whiteleigh meadow access improvements (Devon CAF advice)
- Getting a new dog and walking more as a result
- Teaching adults and families to read maps
- Led ramblers walks and festival walks
- Commented on footpath diversion
- Improved access around Chew Valley lake
- Cleared restricted byway
- Fed the birds and had strong words with the cat
- Installed 3 stile kits
- Walked the Tamar trails
- Green corridors and allotments included in the district's core strategy
- Attended LAF meetings
- Influenced improved skyline walks of Bath
- Recorded footpaths
- Written three books for walkers
- Instigation of partnership orchard restoration project
- Snowball fight combined with walk at Neroche

Policy and Strategy

Discussions were held that highlighted:

- each County and Unitary were on different time frames with regard to key policy and strategy documents. Some had differing structures. The LAF response had to reflect this.
- LAFs had different levels of resource and capacity. They met between 2 and 6 times per year.
- that most LAFs were already responding to Local Strategic Documents
- that LAFs (and Natural England) need to keep up the pressure for better joined up thinking.

The group agreed that the top strategies to influence and respond to were:

- Core Strategy and resulting Local Development Framework documents
- Green Infrastructure Strategy/Delivery Plan
- Local Transport Plans (3)
- Health Strategies

There was a plea for integrated and holistic approaches and that it was impossible to respond to the plethora of strategies being developed locally and nationally. It was

agreed that more emphasis needed to be made on the local documents but in a strategic way. There was not time within the LAF to get involved in individual cases.

LTPs (3) were most important as they released resource for green transport options, both cheaper and more effective. – see report by Adrian Davis, NHS Bristol, Research report 5 March 2010.

Evidence

Evidence to give clear facts and figures will make responses easier to pull together, and influencing more powerful.

Recommended latest summary of evidence

- <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/newsrele.nsf/WebNewsReleases/9DA5059BD7A3918D802577BC0050B34E>
- Lots of evidence on www.GINSW.org.uk
- Standards for Green Infrastructure – Access to Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGST) within a document called nature nearby.
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/places/greenspace/naturenearby.aspx>

Direct Delivery

Most LAFs did not see their role in direct delivery of improved green infrastructure. But many LAF members already volunteer in other capacities to improve routes, manage green spaces, are volunteer leaders etc. This means there is a lot of experience within LAFs that needs to be recognised in terms of community engagement or action, parish and town led schemes etc.

FEEDBACK SESSION

There was a brief feedback on the workshops.

Colin Jones, Natural England, gave an update on the situation in Natural England:

- Natural England to be retained but with changes to reflect reduced budget and staff numbers
- Natural England adjusting to its future place and operation. Likely 30% staff reduction
- Clearer message about priorities – the natural environment and biodiversity will be priorities
- Natural England to be proactive in facilitating change and exploring delivery by private sector, voluntary and community sector
- New management structure with new divisions
- Meetings to take place with key stakeholders
- LAFs should see themselves as part of 'Big Society' and localism with their balanced approach and membership.
- Natural England has few statutory responsibilities for LAFs – receipt of annual reports, holding of list of secretaries and consulting LAFs
- LAFs should let NE know what is important to retain in the field of access and recreation.



Mr Ross Johnston
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Date: 5th January 2011

When calling or telephoning please ask for: Anthony Payne

My Ref:

Your Ref:

Dear Mr Johnston

South West Coast Path at Jennycliff

Thank you for your letter dated 2 December 2010 regarding the above.

As you will be aware the section of coast path between Jennycliff and Bovisand was closed in February of this year due to a landslide. The landslide was in our opinion a substantial one and most notably removed supporting vegetation exposing loose material and making the potential for future slippages likely. On the basis that we are aware of heavy public use of the path, that further slippages are likely and on the advice of our insurers we have decided to close the path indefinitely on the grounds of public protection.

We have successfully applied for Foreshore Renewal Funding which we are using to carry out a geotechnical survey of the bank. If and when we reopen the path we will do so on the back of informed professional opinion. The results of this survey are expected in January 2011 and will inform our next steps. In the meantime you will note that the original route of the South West Coast Path remains available for public use. Those who choose to walk that route should do so with care as there is no public footway. To reduce the conflict between pedestrians and motorists a new set of steps have been installed along Staddon Road to take users back on the coast path as soon as is reasonably practicable.

In answer to your specific questions: -

1. The path remains closed because we consider it to present a very real danger to the public. We cannot and will not ignore the fact that the landslide has occurred and simply hope the problem goes away. Instead we seek professional advice to enable us to make an informed decision as to our next steps.
2. There is no expected date for the reopening of the path. It is closed indefinitely and will remain closed until we consider it is safe to be reopened.

3. The geotechnical report is expected to be available to us in January 2011. The report itself will not be published however it will be available to members of the public for inspection subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I hope this information is of use to you, should you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Payne

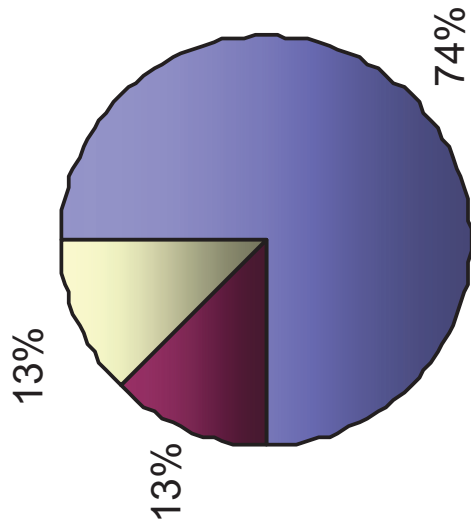
**Plymouth Local Access Forum
Consultation Questionnaire**

IS IT TIME FOR THE PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM TO EVOLVE?

A summary of the responses we received to the recent consultation questionnaire may be found enclosed.

Plymouth city council would like to thank those members who responded and whose feedback will be taken into account when we plan how to best support the continued running of the PLAF.

Q1. Do you feel that these are reasonable measures we can take which will assist the Chair and Vice Chair in the undertaking of their role?



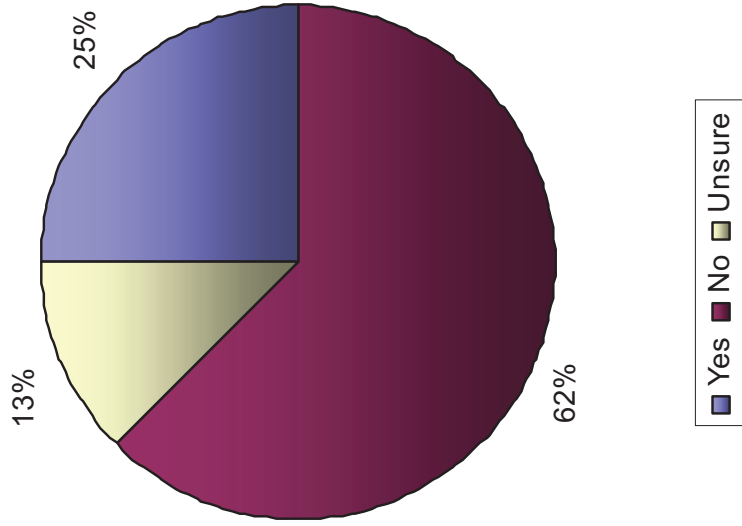
Additional Comments:

- LAF is supposed to be an independent body;
- Is the Chairman to be brainwashed?
- Contentious issues must be discussed not hidden.
- The briefing note should offer guidance and not seek to dictate or direct LAF discussions. It is open to the LAF itself to set its own priorities

Q2. Do you have any suggestions about what further measures could be implemented to assist the Chair and Vice Chair in the undertaking of their role?

- Chair and Vice-Chair from different user groups;
- Rights of Way Officer to always be available to assist Chair and Vice-Chair to provide guidance;
- The Chair to be completely independent from the Council so that they can be more involved with LAF members
- Provide a role description advising what is expected from the Chair of the LAF;
- By appointing an independent and experienced secretary with knowledge of public rights of way would assist the Chair

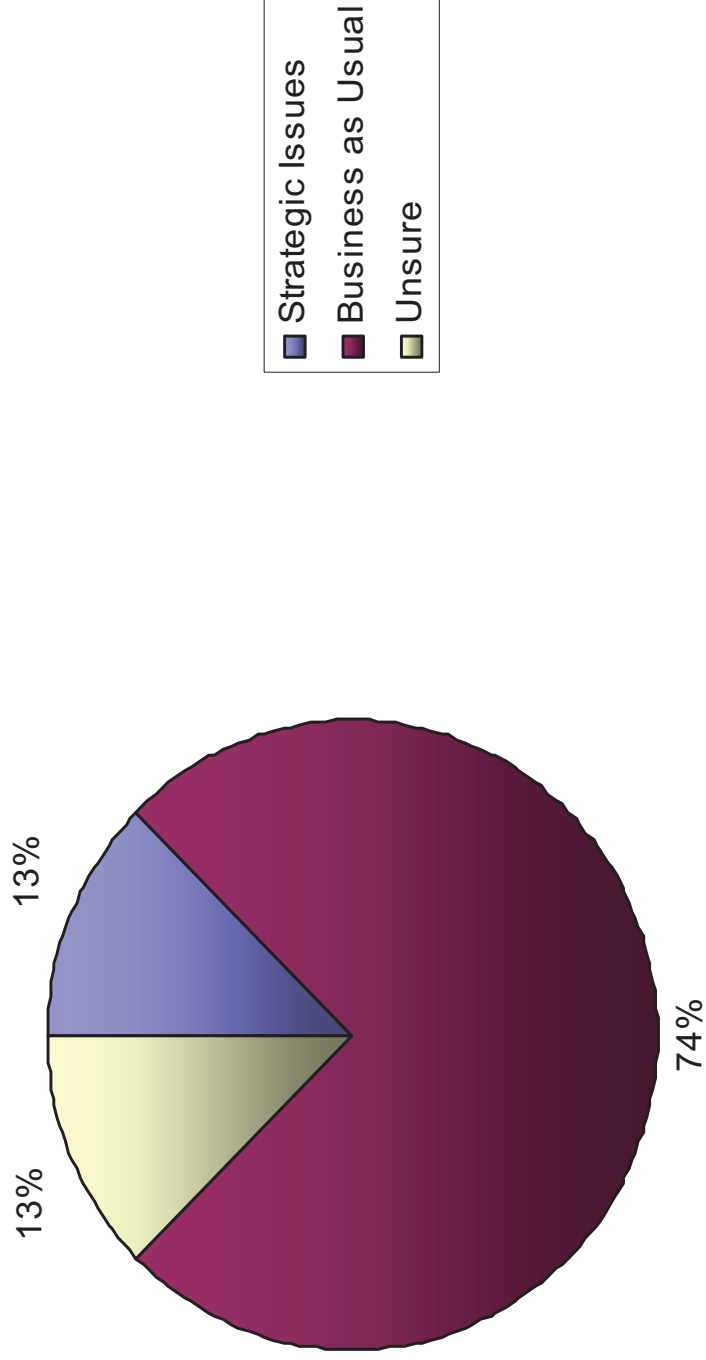
Q3. Would the mandatory rotation of the Chair, on a two yearly basis, between different user groups enable the Forum to be better represented?



Additional Comments:

- If chair rotation occurred it needs to be bared in mind that some members time and availability vary;
- There needs to be chair continuity and there are not enough members from other groups to have a rotation of the chair;
- The Chair is already elected annually so can potentially be rotated;
- The Chair and Vice-Chair should be represented from different user groups;
- There needs to be more Forum members particularly from Other Interest and Landowner groups.
- Landowner representation has always been minimal or non-existent. Election of the Chair and vice Chair is a matter solely for the Members to decide and should not be constrained by any requirement for rotation of the Chair between the different interest groups.

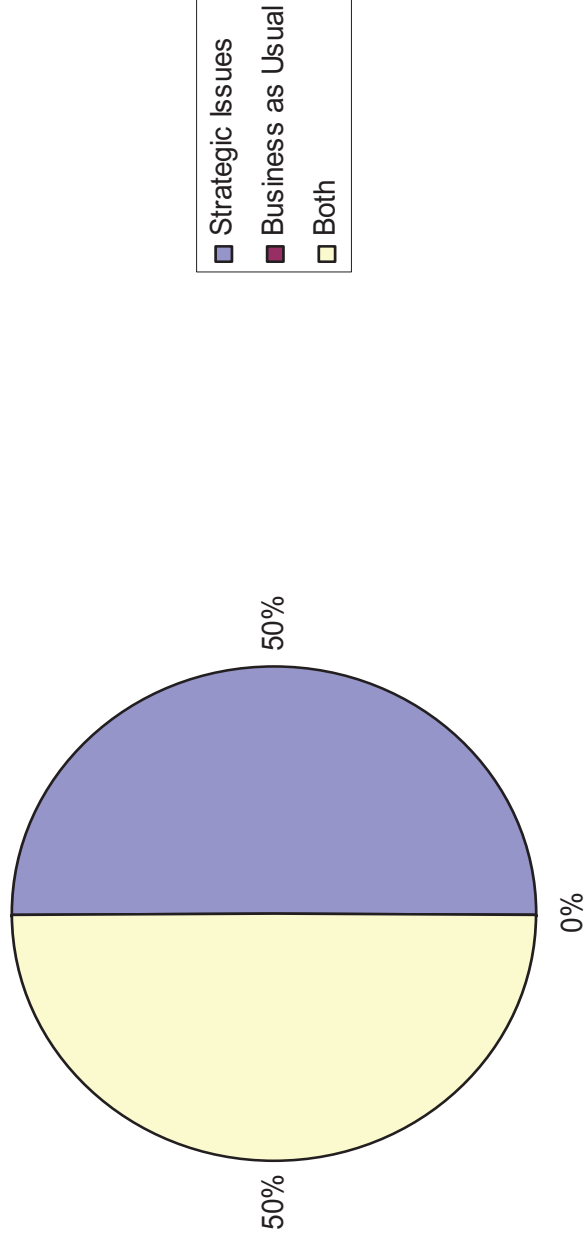
Q4. Thinking back over the past 12 months do you feel that the Plymouth LAF has spent most of its time on business as usual or on strategic issues?



Additional Comments:

- Strategic issues but not to the exclusion of important short term issues

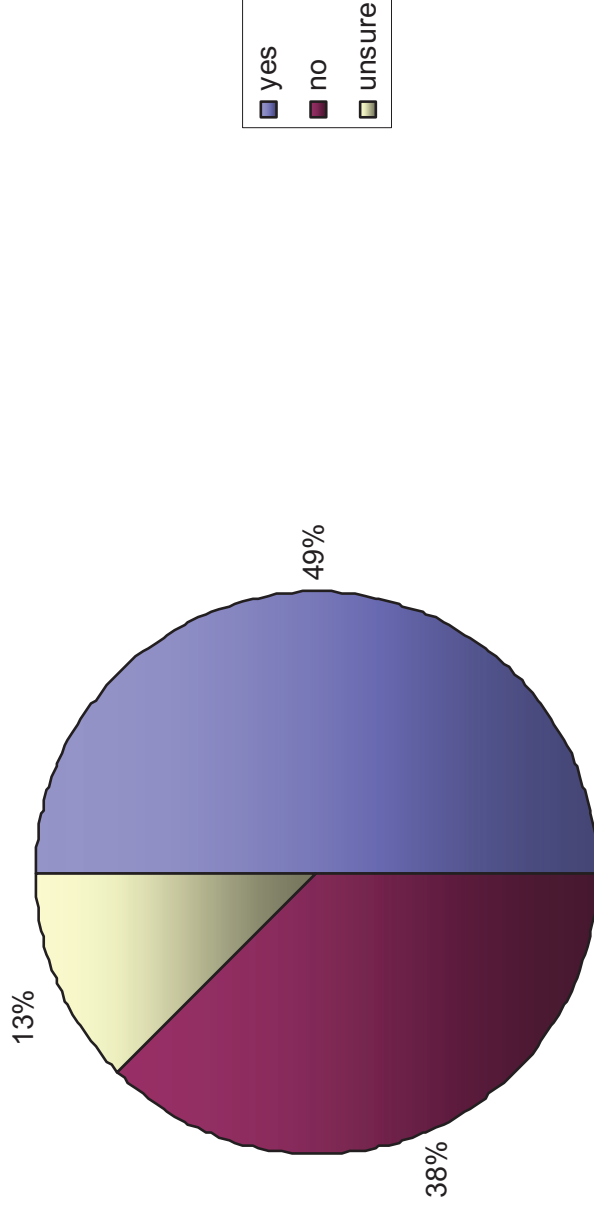
Q5. Do you feel that over the next 12 months the Plymouth LAF should spend most of its time on business as usual or on strategic issues?



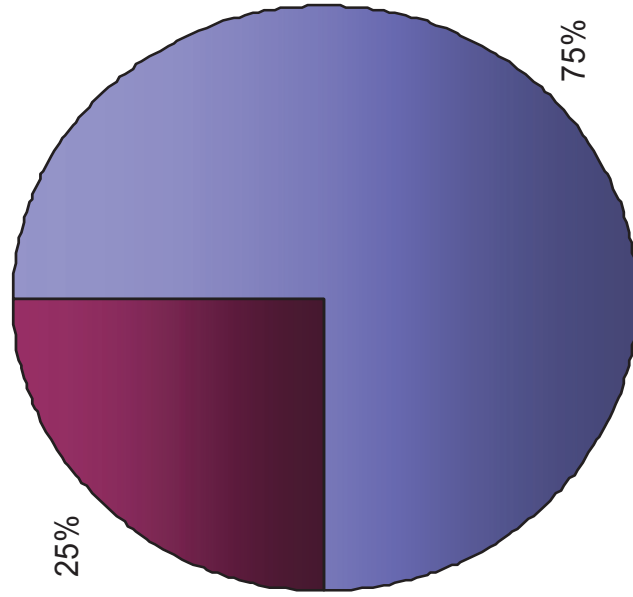
Additional Comments:

- Business happens very quickly often with little notice in an Urban LAF meaning 6 meetings a year is required;
- Sub Committee's should be used instead;
- If there was agenda planning in advance reducing the number of meetings could work;
- 6 meetings are required so that group get to meet up regularly;

Q6. Do you believe that having 4 meetings rather than 6 meetings per year could assist the Plymouth LAF to become a more strategic body?



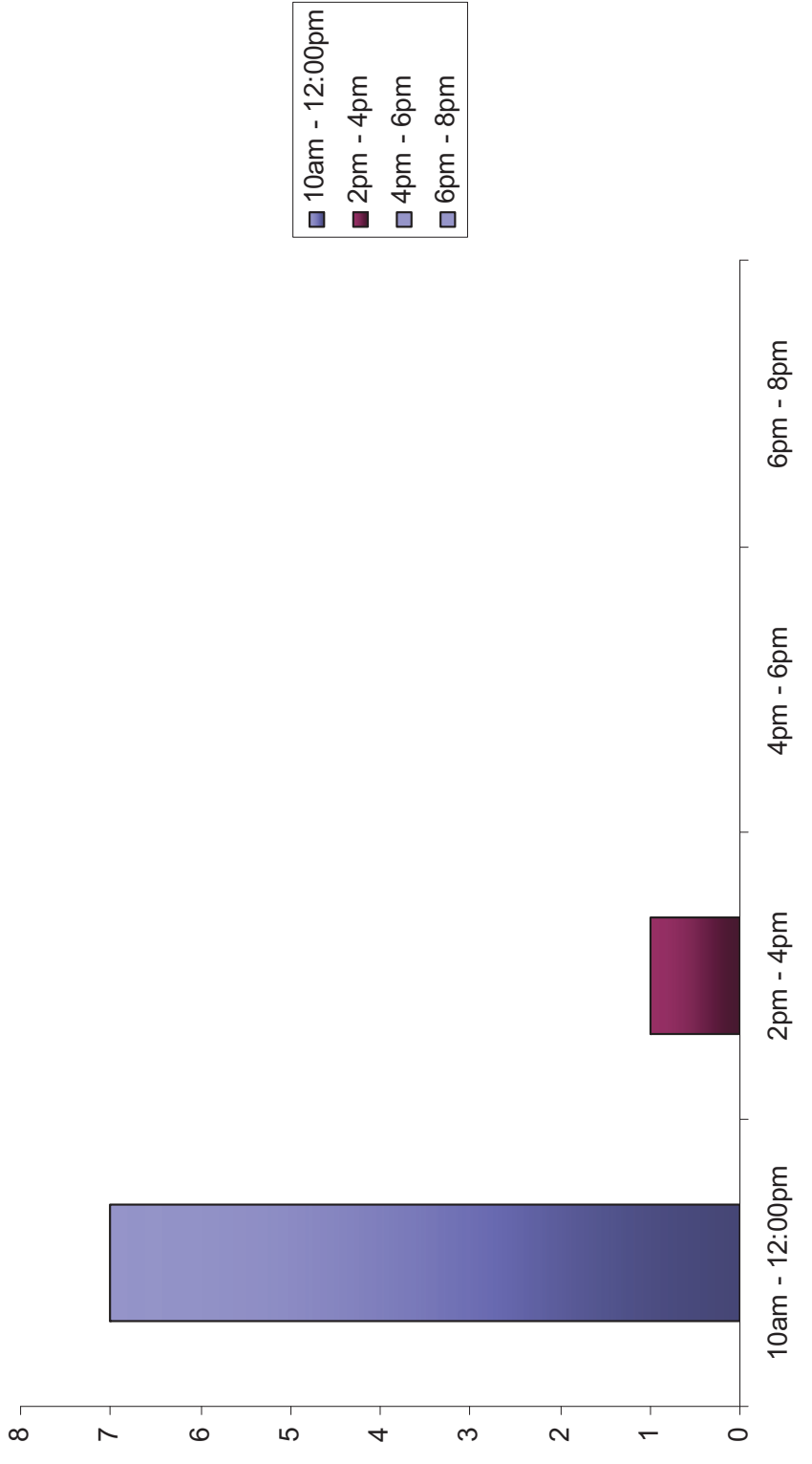
Q7 Do you think it would help focus the LAF if we provided a draft procedure note which set out how to set up a working group, define its boundaries and reporting procedures and make advance arrangements for its dissolution?



Additional Comments:

- Most Members of any working group will know what the particular task involves and will know how to tackle it.

Q8. Meeting time Preference



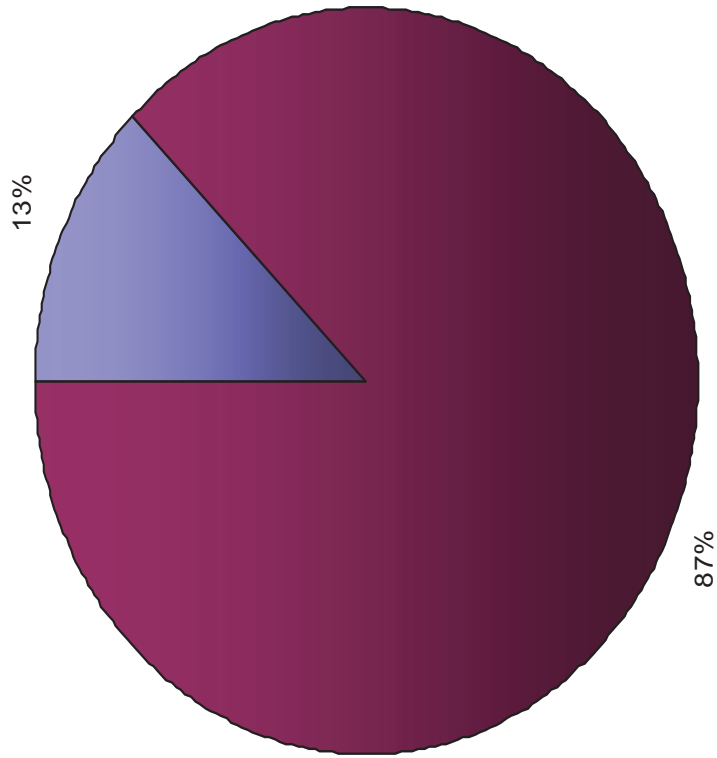
Additional Comments:

- I have no opinion on meeting times
- Meeting times should be decided at the beginning of each year
- Meetings should start at 10:30 as retired members cannot use bus passes before 09:30;
- If meeting times varied between locations and times members without cars may not be able to attend

Q9. Do you have any other comments or suggestions to make about the role of the meeting?

- Meetings should be held in a smaller committee room than the Warspite room as members with hearing difficulties struggle to follow what is being said;
- Although many members have pressing matters to them when dealing with an item we need to be guided to keep on track;
- Strategic issues have to be at the forefront of the meeting and specific sub committee's/working groups may help this;
- Business as Usual items still need to exist – they are important to members;
- Meetings are often long winded due to their focus on short term individual issues rather than longer term strategic objectives.
- Firmer Chairmanship with discussion better confined to the agenda and less digression into irrelevant matters

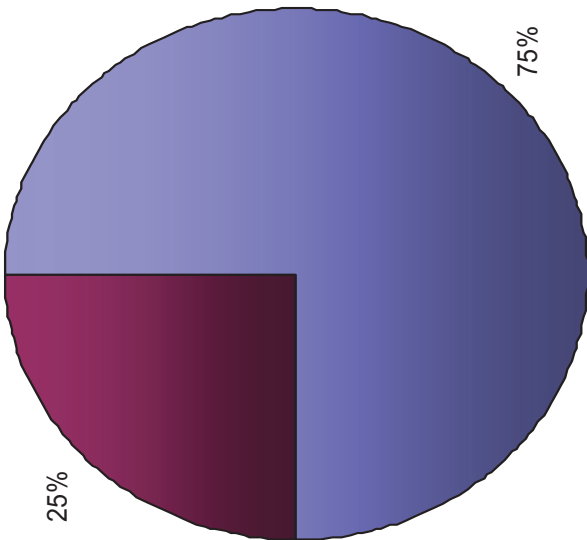
Q10. Should reappointments be dealt with by mandatory interview or should the Council decide independantly?



Additional Comments:

- It should not be necessary to interview existing members as their abilities should be known but their application should be considered equally with and NOT in priority to applications from new members.

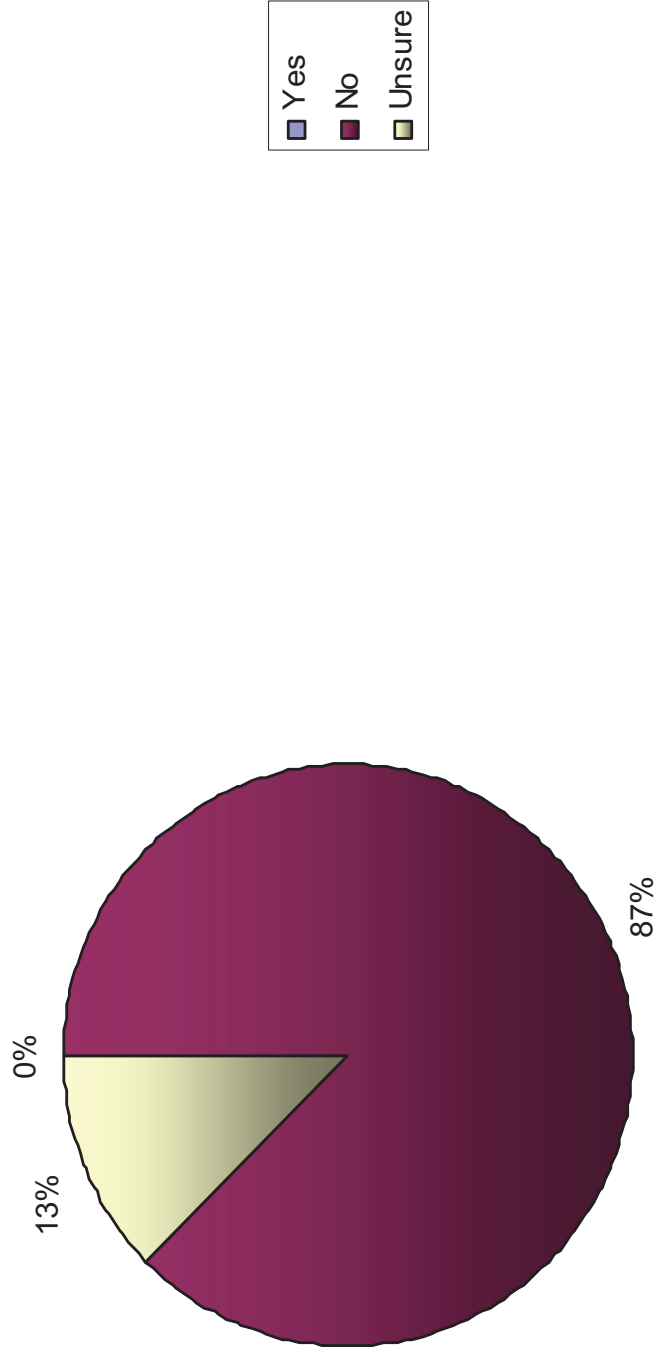
Q11. Should the Chair of the LAF be on any interview panel concerned with appointment of existing or new Members?



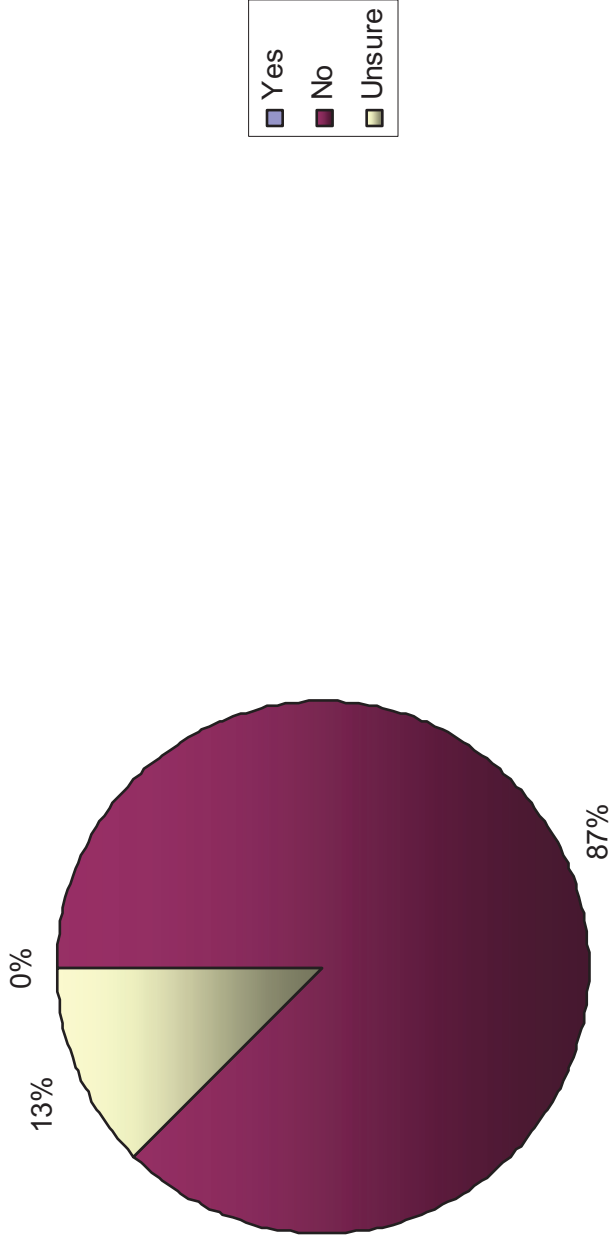
- **Additional Comments:**
- To assess suitability of new members;
- New members need to fit in with the group, particularly if meeting are reduced and working groups increased;
- Are there sufficient applicants to interview against new members;
- The Chair should be impartial the most important post at interview panel's and meetings is the Rights of Way Officer;
- The Chair is aware of the shortcomings of the Forum and can appoint new members who will benefit the Forum;
- To assess the ability and knowledge of LAF members.
- The Chair should not take an active part in the appointment process since it's the city Council who is the appointing authority.
- The chairman should be independent of the appointment process however there is some merit in the Chairman (or a LAF Member) being present at the appointment process but purely as an observer.

- **Q12. Do you have any other comments or suggestions about recruitment to the LAF?**
- Try and recruit younger members, the age range and abilities of members should be more diverse;
- It is the responsibility of the appointing authority to maintain membership of the Forum at an optimum level;
- A more representative Forum is required;
- More publicity is required through local media;
- Approach local youth groups and other clubs to appoint younger members.

Q13. Does enough work go into promoting the role of the LAF?



Q14. Is the Plymouth LAF website relevant and up to date?



Additional Comments:

- Website needs to be kept more up to date;
- Publish the recent annual report;
- Membership is not up to date on the website;
- The webpage needs revitalising;

Q15. Should the LAF take responsibility for its own communication strategy or should promotion responsibility lie with the Council? If you feel the LAF has a role to play how can we support you in taking ownership for self promotion?

- Produce flyers and booklets on walks and routes in Plymouth;
- The promotion of the LAF lies with the Council;
- This matter should be discussed in the Forum;
- A programme of walks and talks in schools and libraries should be produced;
- If the LAF members have the skills to do this then it would help in keeping the Forum outside of the realms of the local authority;
- It should be a shared responsibility;
- The LAF should take responsibility for promoting itself
- The Council is the appointing authority and the onus should be on the Council to promote the Forum, its functions and its relevance and importance

Q16. Do you have any other comments or suggestions about advertising the LAF?

- Posters placed throughout Plymouth and more advertising in the local newspaper;
- Promote the LAF more widely to increase awareness of the public and celebrate successes of the Forum;
- Put Public Rights of Way on a website;
- LAF meetings should be better advertised and press releases on the work of the Forum would help to stimulate interest in the local community;

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**PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

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2 December 2010

Anthony Payne
Director for Development and Regeneration
Plymouth City Council
Civic Centre
Armada Way
Plymouth
PL5 2UB

This letter constitutes formal advice from the Plymouth Local Access Forum. Plymouth City Council is required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this forum in carrying out its functions.

When calling or telephoning please ask for: **Mr Ross Johnston**

Dear Mr Payne,

Plymouth Local Access Forum Members at a meeting held on 22 November 2010 expressed their concern that nearly ten months after the Jennycliff and Staddon Heights section of the South West Coast Path (Plymouth Walkway) was closed by a landslip it has not yet been re-opened to walkers. The path was cleared in April but after further small landslips it is understood that Plymouth City Council commissioned a ground stability survey to ascertain what measures would be necessary for the safety of walkers in future. Results of the survey, expected in September or October, have not yet been published.

Requests for information regarding the South West Coast Path re-opening have been sought at PACT and Neighbourhood meetings and through Councillor ward surgeries. However, all requests have yet to provide a satisfactory response.

The Plymouth Local Access Forum have felt it necessary to formally raise their concerns in this letter and request that the council provide a written response to be submitted to the next meeting of the Forum scheduled to take place on Monday 24 January 2010. The Forum are requesting that answers be provided to the following questions:

- What is the continued reason for the closure of the footpath;
- What is an expected date for the re-opening of the footpath;
- What are the results of the ground stability survey, or when will these results be published;

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely,

Ross Johnston
Secretary to Plymouth Local Access Forum

cc. Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer



Mr Ross Johnston
Plymouth Local Access Forum
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ANTHONY PAYNE

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www.plymouth.gov.uk

Date: Friday 10th December 2010

When calling or telephoning please ask for: Anthony Payne

My Ref: AP/MC/Cor/RJ20101210

Your Ref:

Dear Mr Johnston,

Thank you for your letter dated 2nd December which has been received today.

In respect of your questions and points raised, for which we are grateful to you for taking the time to outline, a detailed response, has been requested from the Transport Department and as soon as these have been answered, we will respond in full.

Thank you for your patience and understanding in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Anthony Payne



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TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK/HIGHWAYS

Plymouth Transport & Highways
Civic Centre
Plymouth PL1 2AA

To: All LAF Members

By Email

T 01752 304233
E prow@plymouth.gov.uk

Our ref:
Your ref: DEV/PT&H/RP/GEN

Date: December 24, 2010

Dear LAF Member,

PLAF – Resolution Tracking

As part of our on-going remit to support and develop the Plymouth LAF your Secretary has introduced a means through which all your resolutions may be tracked and monitored. Therefore I may no longer lead you along with excuses in the hope your forget things as, bless him, he now has a paper record and is chasing me with it.

Therefore I enclose a list of responses to resolutions from previous meetings to bring Ross's list up to date ready for a clean start in January.

Members might also wish to be aware that a Public Inquiry has been called to examine the confirmation of a Definitive Map Modification Order. The Order was made last year and seeks to record a public right of way between Ham Drive and Carnock Road, Plymouth. The inquiry process is the end result of anywhere from 12 months to 2 years work for myself and I would consider it an excellent training opportunity for LAF Members. Those of you who wish to see first hand quite how complex the process of recording a public right of way can become when contested should try to attend. As we are only anticipating the Inquiry to last the 1 day attendees should get to see the whole process from start to finish which is quite rare. I'm aware at least 1 member has requested your Chair urge you to attend this Inquiry however for the sake of clarity the Inquiry, which will be led by the Planning Inspectorate, will take place at 10am on **Wednesday 12th January 2011** in the Charter Room, Guild Hall, Plymouth.

Finally, may I wish you all a peaceful and relaxing Christmas.

Yours Faithfully

Robin Pearce
Public Rights of Way Officer
Sustainable Transport - Plymouth Transport & Highway

Resolution Tracking

Date/Minute No.	PLAF Resolution	Local Authority Update
27.09.10 Minute 25	Agreed that the map on page 41 of the draft ROWIP be removed.	We will consider this advice when we publish the document in question.
27.09.10 Minute 26	Agreed that the PRow Officer be requested to provide a list of all outstanding Modification Order applications.	List attached
27.09.10 Minute 29	Agreed that a request be made to the PRow Officer asking for information to be provided to all Members on what action would be taken in order to clear the footpath referred to in the Definitive Map Modification Order.	The court probation services unpaid work unit will undertake work. The clearance work was scheduled to take place on the 15 th , 20 th and 22 nd December 2010 but I understand there was some delay given the weather. The site was inspected on 23 rd December and work had been started but not completed. Work will be completed in the new year.
27.09.10 Minute 35	Agreed that a request be made to the PRow Officer asking for information to be provided to all members on what was happening regarding Ridgeway Schools Public Path Extinguishment Order.	We have received an application and following informal consultations are considering whether or not to proceed to make an Order. At the current time we are holding back on making any decision whilst talks take place between the School, Ward Members and their constituents. We are not party to those talks so are unable to provide an update other than to say the matter is progressing in the background and should we make a Order the LAF will be consulted.

List of Outstanding Definitive Map Modification Orders

1. Winstone Ave – Glen Park Ave – **STATUS:** Confirmed 2010
2. Ham Drive to Carnock Road – **STATUS:** Public Inquiry Jan 2011
3. Hooe Lake Slipway – **STATUS:** In Queue – Work to start Jan 2011
4. Hooe Road – **STATUS:** In Queue – Work to start Jan 2011
5. Widewell School – **STATUS:** In Queue – Work estimated to start 2011/12
6. Stamford Lane – **STATUS:** In Queue – Work estimated to start 2011/12
7. Elizabeth Cottage – **STATUS:** In Queue – Work estimated to start Jan 2012/13
8. The Kloof – **STATUS:** In Queue – Work estimated to start Jan 2012/13
9. Sparkwell Bridge to Greenwood Park Road - **STATUS:** In Queue – Work estimated to start Jan 2013/14

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5 January 2011

Dan Forster
Senior Transport Planner
Plymouth City Council
Civic Centre
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PL5 2UB

This letter constitutes formal advice from the Plymouth Local Access Forum. Plymouth City Council is required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this forum in carrying out its functions.

When calling or telephoning please ask for: **Mr Ross Johnston**

Dear Mr Forster,

Plymouth Local Access Forum Members at a meeting held on 22 November 2010 received a presentation on the draft Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) and were invited to respond to the public consultation on the document. It was agreed by the Forum that individual responses would be sent directly to the LAF Secretary by 17 December 2010 in order for a combined response to be sent to the Transport Department before the end of the consultation period.

The Local Access Forum made a number of points in response to the LTP3 Consultation, the main points that the Forum wished to express were regarding Public Rights of Way and Transport.

Public Rights of Way

- The LTP1 and LTP2 failed to provide the resources to ensure the hundreds of unrecorded public rights of way within the city boundary were recorded on the definitive map and statement.
- The LTP3 acknowledges that public footpaths and public rights of way are an important part of the transportation infrastructure but again fail to say how they can be adequately resourced, preserved and protected.
- The Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan referred to in the LTP3 has yet to be published. It has been a statutory requirement since 2007 and is a major strategy document in LTP3 and should be integrated as part of the LTP3.
- The transport vision at 4.16 to develop a network of primary routes for pedestrians connecting local amenities and transport facilities should be a fundamental aspiration in the LTP3.
- The LTP3 is bereft of information or references to public rights of way.

- The economic importance of walking as a tourist attraction is not fully recognised in the LTP3.

Transport

- There should be a free number to ring or e-mail to report problems with pedestrian walkways. There should be a time limit on responses and actions to problems reported.
- There should be more integration with the transport eg. water transport to allow cycles, wheelchairs and pushchairs to link to bus stops or railway stops.
- Encourage the extension of Ivybridge Station platform to allow local commuter traffic for the east part of the city. Open rail stops like the one promised at Plympton Station to encourage more local traffic and commuting throughout the city with links to buses and especially a regular link from North Road to the City Centre for wheelchairs and pushchairs.
- Repaint and clean up Bretonside as it presents a very poor first impression of the city.
- Consideration should be given to reducing Vehicular Noise in Urban areas on main roads e.g.Parkway A38 etc.This could be achieved by reducing speed limits from 70 to 50mph and building more sound reducing barriers

Other

- There should be more reference in the LTP3 regarding the protection and enhancement of the natural environment particularly in regard to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- Sustainable access to the natural environment needs to be improved.
- Local Transport Planners to liaise more frequently with the Rights of Way Officer, Natural England and the Local Access Forum on future issues and developments.

Conclusion

There is very little in the LTP3 on Public Rights of Way or walking and it is felt that walking is a principal mode of transport which provides health, recreational and economic benefits and this along with Public Rights of Way should form an integral part of the LTP3. The document also has little coverage on the measures envisaged to record known and well used footpaths on the Definitive map and statement or how this could be achieved. Transport and other issues could have some improvements made to them in the LTP3 as listed above, however, the Forum's main concerns regarding the LTP3 are about Public Rights of Way.

Yours Sincerely,

Ross Johnston
Secretary to Plymouth Local Access Forum

cc. Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer