



**PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS
FORUM**

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2 September 2011

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

PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

DATE: MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER 2011
TIME: 10.30 AM
PLACE: COUNCIL HOUSE, PLYMOUTH (NEXT TO CIVIC CENTRE)

Committee Members–

Mr Fairchild, in the Chair

Mr Stewart, Vice Chair

Mr Attrill, Councillor Churchill, Mr Curno, Mr Emery, Councillor K Foster, Mr Goddard, Ms Hitchens, Mr Pawley, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Rodgers, Mr Skinner, Mrs Stephens 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 of the meeting agrees, mobile phones should be switched off and speech, video and photographic equipment should not be used in 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 13 June 2011.

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 - 12)

To monitor progress on previous resolutions.

6. REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

(Pages 13 - 20)

To review the PLAF's terms of reference.

7. DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010/11

(Pages 21 - 36)

The Forum will consider the draft Plymouth Local Access Forum annual report for 2010/11.

8. WHITLEIGH: SAFER AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL 2011 (CONSULTATION RESULTS: PRELIMINARY REPORT)

(Pages 37 - 42)

The Forum will receive an update report on progress of the Whitleigh: Safer and Sustainable Travel 2011 consultation results (previously known as Access Whitleigh Project).

9. STEPPING STONES TO NATURE PROJECT UPDATE

(Pages 43 - 48)

The Stepping Stones to Nature Project Coordinator will provide an update report on the Stepping Stones to Nature project (Year 2 July 2010 – June 2011).

10. PLYMOUTH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT

(Pages 49 - 52)

The forum will receive a briefing report on the Green Infrastructure Plan.

11. NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION

To discuss the consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1951747.pdf>

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1951736.pdf>

12. RECRUITMENT TO THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY DEPARTMENT

To receive an update from the Public Rights of Way Officer.

13. WORKING GROUPS

To receive updates from any recent working groups and to agree any working groups for items on this agenda.

(a.) RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN WORKING GROUP

14. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 53 - 54)

To receive the Forum's Work Programme for 2011/2012.

15. CORRESPONDENCE (Pages 55 - 62)

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

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 10:30am on Monday 12 December 2011 at the Council House, Armada Way, Plymouth.

17. 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 13 June 2011

PRESENT:

Mr Fairchild, in the Chair.

Mr Stewart, Vice Chair.

Mr Attrill, Councillor Churchill, Mr Emery, Councillor K Foster, Mr Goddard, Ms Hitchens, Mr Pawley, Mrs Roberts, Mr Skinner and Councillor Wheeler.

Apologies for absence: Mrs Rodgers

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 1.00 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.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Agreed that Ray Fairchild is appointed as Chair and Ian Stewart is appointed as Vice-Chair of the Plymouth Local Access Forum (LAF) for the forthcoming year.

2. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Chair welcomed Councillor Churchill to the Plymouth LAF.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Name	Subject	Reason	Interest
Mr Pawley	Coastal Access: Public Slipways in Plymouth (minute 10 refers)	A user of slipways and the Secretary of Mayflower Boat Owner Association	Personal
Mr Pawley	South West Coast Path Update (minute 11 refers)	Is the Plymouth local representative for the South West Coast Path	Personal
Mr Skinner	Public Path Extinguishment Order – Ridgeway School (minute 12 refers)	Ramblers and Open Spaces	Personal
Mr Emery	Public Path Extinguishment	Ramblers and Open Spaces	Personal

	Order – Ridgeway School (minute 12 refers)		
Councillor Wheeler	Coastal Access: Public Slipways in Plymouth (minute 11 refers)	A member of the Cattewater Harbour Commission	Personal
Councillor Wheeler	Public Path Extinguishment Order – Ridgeway School (minute 12 refers)	Member of the Planning Committee	Personal
Councillor Churchill	Public Path Extinguishment Order – Ridgeway School (minute 12 refers)	Member of the Planning Committee	Personal

4. **MINUTES**

With regard to the minutes of 28 March 2011 members commented that –

- (a) Mr Stewart, Vice-Chair was not present at the meeting and he should be removed from the attendance record;
- (b) regarding minute 71, Mr Attrill did not leave the meeting and his name should be removed from the list members who left the meeting.

It was also commented by Ray Fairchild, Chair of the Forum that, if the Forum was not to be quorate at a future meeting then there should be a break for lunch with members returning to complete LAF business in the afternoon.

Agreed that –

- (1) the minutes of the meeting held on 28 March 2011 are confirmed as a correct record subject to the above amendments in (a) and (b);
- (2) regarding minute 66, the Forum Secretary would chase the response from Ian Gillhespy, Senior Valuation Surveyor.

5. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

6. **TRACKING RESOLUTIONS**

The Forum noted the tracking resolutions document. Following comments made by members it was agreed that –

- (a) the recently published 2009/10 Annual Report is forwarded to Natural England;
- (b) a mechanism is added to the document to easily identify which resolutions have been completed and which are still outstanding;
- (c) an update is provided to the next Forum meeting from Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer on the progress of recruiting a university student to undertake a work placement within the public rights of way department.

7. **REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Forum considered the terms of reference and commented that –

- (a) section 4.11 stated that the forum needed to have one member from each user group present for meetings to be quorate and that given the low number of landowners this could potentially cause conflict at future meetings and as such needed to be reviewed further;
- (b) Natural England's guidance for LAFs should be reviewed and an updated section 4.11 included in the Terms of Reference to be discussed at a future meeting;
- (c) clarification was needed on the membership of Beth Roberts who was acknowledged to be a landowner in the Annual Report but an other interest member on her nameplate.

Agreed that the LAF Secretary would seek clarification on Beth Roberts membership and the guidance from Natural England and report back to the next meeting where the Terms of Reference would be reconsidered.

8. **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010/11**

The Forum considered the 2010-2011 annual report and commented that –

- (a) there should be a section that highlighted the number of designated public rights of way at the beginning of the year and how many designated public rights of way at the end of the year;
- (b) the section on membership groups needed to be clarified and updated;
- (c) in section 3.1 the wording 'as far as practicable' should be included after the word constituted so that the sentence reads 'The Plymouth Local Access Forum has been constituted, as far as

practicable, so that it is balanced between three main interests’;

- (d) clarification should be sought on the wording used in section 3.4 – Advertising for Members as this was felt that it did not follow the guidance produced by Natural England.

Agreed that –

- (1) the LAF Secretary would make the suggested amendments and additions as discussed in (a), (b) and (c) above;
- (2) the LAF Secretary would seek clarification on the guidance from Natural England and report back to the next meeting where the annual report would be reconsidered.

9. **RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN - WORK PROGRAMME PRIORITIES**

Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer submitted a briefing note on the Rights of Way Improvement Plan – work programme priorities. It was commented by members that –

- (a) the detail of the ROWIP required members to be able to have an informed discussion with the Public Rights of Way Officer before determining the priorities;
- (b) If the ROWIP was deferred until the next meeting then there was the potential that time would elapse before any of the allocated revenue of £10k could be spent;
- (c) an all forum working group would be the best way to address the work programme priorities of the ROWIP with the Public Rights of Way Officer also invited to attend.

Agreed that the LAF Secretary would seek to organise a working group on the ROWIP – work programme priorities within the next three weeks and invite all Forum members and the Public Rights of Way Officer to attend.

10. **COASTAL ACCESS: PUBLIC SLIPWAYS IN PLYMOUTH**

Dave Pawley, Forum member addressed the Forum about public slipways in Plymouth and informed members that –

- (a) Plymouth City Council had a responsibility to provide coastal access and that this was also under the remit of the Local Access Forum;
- (b) in Plymouth there were three main ways to access the sea, which were using slipways, landing stages and steps;

- (c) due to slipways and steps involving tidal movements both were subjected to regular sea washing which resulted in the growth of weeds; it was the council's responsibility to maintain these areas to ensure that they were cleaned and safe to use;
- (d) recently a member of the public slipped on the Mount Batten slipway as it had not been cleaned and following an inspection was closed; the slip had since re-opened and had been fully cleaned following a written complaint being sent to the Chief Executive of Plymouth City Council;
- (e) the council's webpage for landing stages and slipways, highlighting which slipways were public, private and commercial, was inaccurate; this was inadequate particularly as this is the first place that members of the public look for coastal access points.

It was commented by members that –

- (f) given the importance of the America's Cup and the high number of expected visitors that this would bring it was imperative that the council maintained its means of coastal access to an acceptable standard;
- (g) the Forum needed to highlight their concerns to Plymouth City Council and recommend that the inaccuracies on the slipways and landing stages webpage is updated as a matter of urgency;
- (h) Plymouth City Council when updating their web content should liaise with the Waterfront Partnership and the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum to ensure that their web content does not conflict.

Agreed that Dave Pawley, LAF member, would provide a written response highlighting the Forum's concerns to the LAF Secretary who would then forward the letter to Assistant Director for Development and Regeneration.

(Mr Pawley and Councillor Wheeler declared a personal interest in the above item)

11. **SOUTH WEST COAST PATH UPDATE**

Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer submitted a briefing note giving an update on the South West Coast Path. Members were provided with updates on the Jennycliff footpath closure, the Royal William Yard and the Breakwater Road Diversion. It was commented by members that –

- (a) the boardwalk at the Royal William Yard had been fully erected, although it was still closed to the public for decorative work;
- (b) the steps at the Royal William Yard were not in place and works had stalled due to a lack of funding. Funding discussions were

ongoing and were dependent on the footpath through the yard being adopted as a public right of way;

- (c) the signage erected at Breakwater Road had improved access to the Yacht Haven Quay footpath, however, there had been one comment from a member of the public that they wished to see the bespoke cast iron signage renovated rather than replaced.

(Mr Pawley declared a personal interest in the above item)

12. **PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER - RIDGEWAY SCHOOL**

Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer submitted a briefing note on a Public Path Extinguishment Order at Ridgeway School asking for the LAF to respond with any representations or objections. Some members commented that –

- (a) they were disappointed that the LAF had not been consulted prior to the Extinguishment Order being made on 3 June 2011;
- (b) since the original consultation with the LAF 18 months ago the footpath still had not been fenced; it was felt that this needed to be considered before the Extinguishment Order was made;
- (c) if the Forum objected to the Order then the decision would be referred to the Secretary of State;
- (d) the Extinguishment Order was very similar to a recent order in Buckinghamshire where the Inspector did not confirm the order due to the school not erecting a fence;
- (e) the Forum should object to the Extinguishment Order on the grounds that the local authority have not followed the correct procedures and regulations contained within the Highways Act 1980 and the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Other members disagreed with the comments and stated that –

- (f) the school was instructed to not fence the footpath by the fire authority as a fence would jeopardise the pupil's health and safety;
- (g) they supported the Extinguishment Order as it would provide increased protection to teachers and the pupils of Ridgeway School.

Following a debate, a vote was taken and it was agreed that the Forum accept the Extinguishment Order of Ridgeway School and therefore will not offer any representations or objections.

The decision was a majority decision and the members voting against expressed a desire that the minute would state that it was the feeling of some members that the

statutory tests contained within section 118 (b), paragraph 8 of the Highways Act 1980 had not been satisfactorily met.

*(Mr Emery and Mr Skinner declared a personal interest in the above item.
Councillor Churchill and Councillor Wheeler declared a personal interest in the above item
and did not take part in any of the discussion)*

13. **WORKING GROUPS**

Mrs Hitchens advised the Forum that on 7 May 2011 a working group undertook to look into the Access Whitleigh Project. Members were informed that –

- (a) footpaths were identified using the Ramblers' maps and then walked by the group to identify potential issues;
- (b) the Whitleigh area was well designed with some excellent footpaths, particularly around Cann woods and it was understood that these paths were being used by a local health group walk leader;
- (c) it was believed that the paths were maintained by the council and recommendations were provided to Rosemary Dale, Major Schemes Officer within the Sustainable Transport department about cleaning, street lighting and signage.

It was also commented by members that the Planning Working Group should request that the Planning department be made aware that when a planning application is received if there is a public footpath involved then the footpath should be made a public right of way and included on the definitive map.

Agreed that –

- (1) the LAF Secretary would type up the notes of the Access Whitleigh Project Working Group and distribute a copy to all members by email;
- (2) Ian Stewart, Vice-Chair would draft a letter to the Planning department asking for them to explain the process of determining applications where a public footpath is involved.

14. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Forum noted their work programme and commented that an update on the Green Infrastructure Plan should be provided at a future meeting with the Forum potentially holding a working group to review the Plan in detail.

15. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Forum noted their correspondence and commented that all responses sent from the Forum should be addressed to an individual and not to 'whom it may concern'.

16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed that the next meeting of the Forum be held at 10.30am on Monday 12 September 2011.

17. **ISSUES ARISING FROM FORUM MEMBERS**

Following a member of the Forum suggesting a change to the start time of the Forum to 10am, members were informed that –

- (a) during a previous consultation in 2010 Forum members opted to hold their Forum meetings at 10:30am;
- (b) the Forum should not be a lengthy meeting as the working groups should undertake to look at issues in detail with the Forum used to endorse the working groups recommendations.

PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

TRACKING RESOLUTIONS

Date / Minute number	Resolution	Explanation / Minute	Action	Progress	Target date
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	David Readman contacted the LAF Secretary on 13 June 2011 and would provide the brochures for Forum members at the September meeting.	24 January 2011
28.03.11 Minute 67	Agreed that the creation of position statements are approved;	This was discussed and agreed as part of the LAF development item.	The Forum	Need to set up a working group to ascertain the subjects of position statements.	July/August 2011
13.06.11 Minute 4	regarding minute 66, the Forum Secretary would chase the response from Ian Gillhespy, Senior Valuation Surveyor.	Members expressed their disappointment to have not received an update or response to their letters regarding the recent School Academy Transfers.	Ross Johnston	Chased Ian Gillhespy on 14 June 2011 and again on 27 June 2011. Letter received on 13 July 2011 and added to 12 September 2011 agenda.	September 2011
13.06.11 Minute 6	the recently published 2009/10 Annual Report is forwarded to Natural England;	Members noted the report had been published and advised that the report needed to be forwarded to Natural England.	Ross Johnston	Robin Pearce forwarded report to Natural England on 10 August 2011.	July 2011
13.06.11 Minute 6	a mechanism is added to the document to easily identify which resolutions have been completed and which are still outstanding;	Members were not clear on what resolutions had been completed and wished for the document to be made clearer.	Ross Johnston	Completed with a key added to the document.	September 2011
13.06.11	an update is provided to the	Members discussed the	Robin	An item added to the agenda	September 2011

Minute 6	next Forum meeting from Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer on the progress of recruiting a university student to undertake a work placement within the public rights of way department.	definitive map and the possibility of asking a university work placement student to assist in updating the map.	Pearce	for 12 September 2011 meeting called 'Recruitment to the Public Rights of Way Department'.	
13.06.11 Minute 7	<u>Agreed</u> that the LAF Secretary would seek clarification on Beth Roberts membership and the guidance from Natural England and report back to the next meeting where the Terms of Reference would be reconsidered.	Following the discussion on the Terms of Reference it was noted that there was a lack of land-owners and also requested that clarification was provided on Forum membership.	Ross Johnston	Confirmed with the PROW Officer that Beth Roberts appointment to the LAF was as a Landowner. Terms of Reference updated accordingly and added to the 12 September 2011 agenda.	September 2011
13.06.11 Minute 8	the LAF Secretary would make the suggested amendments and additions as discussed in (a), (b) and (c) above; AND the LAF Secretary would seek clarification on the guidance from Natural England and report back to the next meeting where the annual report would be reconsidered.	Following the discussion on the annual report members wanted to receive clarification on some of the items before approving the report at the next meeting.	Ross Johnston	Changes were made to the Annual report accordingly and it has been added to the 12 September 2011 agenda.	September 2011
13.06.11 Minute 9	<u>Agreed</u> that the LAF Secretary would seek to organise a working group on the ROWIP – work	Members discussed the ROWIP and wished to discuss the issue with the PROW officer before they agreed to	Ross Johnston	Working group was set up and met on 11 July 2011.	8 July 2011

	programme priorities within the next three weeks and invite all Forum members and the Public Rights of Way Officer to attend.	any of the work programme priorities.			
13.06.11 Minute 10	<u>Agreed</u> that Dave Pawley, LAF member, would provide a written response highlighting the Forum's concerns to the LAF Secretary who would then forward the letter to Director for Development and Regeneration.	Following the discussion on coastal access members wished to highlight their concerns to the local authority.	Ross Johnston	Sent the draft letter to Ray Fairchild for approval on 27 June 2011. Letter sent to Anthony Payne, Director for Development and Regeneration on 30 June 2011.	27 June 2011
13.06.11 Minute 13	the LAF Secretary would type up the notes of the Access Whiteligh Project Working Group and distribute a copy to all members by email;	Members received an update on recent working group activities.	Ross Johnston	Notes typed up and emailed to members on 27 June 2011.	27 June 2011
13.06.11 Minute 13	Ian Stewart, Vice-Chair would draft a letter to the Planning department asking for them to explain the process of determining applications where a public footpath is involved.	The Planning Working Group wished to receive updates from the Planning Department to enable them to focus on specific issues.	Ian Stewart	Letter sent to Paul Barnard on 24 August 2011.	September 2011.



= Complete resolution



= Outstanding resolution

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Plymouth Local Access Forum**Terms of Reference****1. Title and Forum Area**

- 1.1 The Forum shall be known as the Plymouth Local Access Forum.
- 1.2 The area to be covered is the whole of the area within the boundaries of Plymouth City and that area for which Plymouth City Council is the responsible authority.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

- 2.1 The purpose of the Plymouth Local Access Forum shall be to advise the relevant Section 94(4) bodies (see Appendix B) on how to make the outdoors more accessible and enjoyable for open-air recreation, in ways that address social, economic and environmental interests, and with regard to issues of particular local relevance.
- 2.2 The Plymouth Local Access Forum shall:
 - Contribute to the development of any Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Plymouth;
 - Promote a constructive and inclusive approach to the improvement of recreational access to the countryside which can be implemented through Community Strategies, Local Transport Plan, AONB Management Plans and Planning Policy;
 - Advise upon the management and maintenance of access, balancing the provision of access against the needs of conservation of the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage, and the needs of residents, landowners and land managers;
 - Identify and respect local circumstances and different interests while operating within national guidance;
 - Advise on developing additional opportunities for everyone to enjoy the rights of way and access network.
- 2.3 In providing advice the Local Access Forum will have regard to:
 - The needs of land management;
 - The desirability of conserving the natural beauty of the area;
 - The management and maintenance of access whilst balancing this against the needs of biodiversity, wildlife management, the interests of landowners and managers, and countryside management projects in and around Plymouth;
 - Guidance issued by the Secretary of the State;
 - Any Position Statement agreed by the Forum.
- 2.4 The Forum will promote liaison with any Local Access Forums established in Devon, Cornwall, Torbay, South Hams, West Devon and Dartmoor and actively encourage the attendance of such authorities to Forum meetings with observer status.

2.5 The Role of Plymouth City Council

- To advertise and appoint members to the Forum taking into account the need for fairness, transparency and compliance with the Council's policy on equality and diversity;
- To take account of the advice given when making decisions;
- To provide feedback to the Forum on advice the Forum has given;
- To provide a secretary for the Forum, and ongoing Officer support, training and advice;
- To provide a meeting venue and refreshments where necessary;
- To publicise the Forum;
- To reimburse Forum members expenses for travel and child care and subsistence cost directly incurred in respect of members' duties.

3. Membership

3.1 Membership to the Forum will be representative of one or more fields of interest as defined below rather than any particular organisation of which they might also be a member: -

- Local people who enjoy outdoor recreation in the area;
- Owners and occupiers of access land, or land over which the public have access;
- Other interests considered to be relevant to Plymouth which include, but are not limited to tourism, outdoor education, sport and recreational provision, disability awareness, local business interest, the military, health promotion and wildlife and cultural heritage.

3.2 Members shall be appointed to the Forum by Plymouth City Council in accordance with the Member Selection Criteria in Appendix A. The purpose of the Member selection process is designed to ensure a fair distribution of interests and ensure members have the knowledge and experience necessary to enable them to make an informed and constructive contribution to the work of the Forum.

3.4 Members shall be appointed for an initial period of three years after which they will be eligible for appointment for a further period of three years only. In the event that a seat becomes vacant during the initial term of appointment the replacement member shall continue that same term of appointment.

3.5 A member may resign his/her seat by giving notice of resignation in writing to the Secretary of the Forum.

3.6 Plymouth City Council may terminate the appointment of a member of the Forum if:

- He/she becomes an elected member of Plymouth City Council;
- He/she is absent from all meetings of the Forum in a 12-month period without the prior agreement of the Council;
- He/she fails to comply with the requirements set out in clause 3.8 below;
- He/she has failed to comply with clause 3.11 below;
- He/she fails to comply with the members code of Conduct (See Appendix C).

3.7 The Plymouth Local Access Forum has places for 22 members of which three places are reserved for Plymouth City Council Elected Members.

3.8 Before appointment members shall confirm:

- Their ability to devote their own time to attend meetings and training events as required;

- Their commitment to represent the Plymouth Local Access Forum over any other organisations of which they may be a member;
- Their ability and willingness to network with a wide range of interests outside of Forum meetings;
- Their commitment to working within the Terms of Reference.

3.9 The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be appointed by election by the Forum at the first meeting held following the City Council's AGM. The term of office for this appointment shall be until the first meeting of the Forum following the City Council's subsequent AGM. Elected Members of Plymouth City Council will not be eligible for appointment to either position but shall be entitled to vote in elections.

3.10 The method of appointment for the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Local Access Forum shall be as follows:

- Voting shall be by secret ballot;
- Election for the post of Chair shall take place first, with all members of the Forum (including those standing for the position concerned) being entitled to vote. A member may vote for him/herself;
- The secretary will announce the result of the election to the post of Chair;
- In the event of a tie on the first round of voting for the post of Chair, a second round of voting will be held in which the only candidates standing will be those whose scores were tied. Again, all members may vote including those standing;
- Election for the post of Vice-Chair will then take place and preferably candidates eligible to stand for the position shall be those drawn from a different category or type of interest (set out in paragraph 3.1) to that of the newly elected Chair;
- The secretary will announce the result of the election to the post of Vice-Chair;
- In the event of a tie on the first round of voting for the post of Vice-Chair a second round will be held in the same manner as that of the Chair's election.

3.11 Members shall disclose the nature of any direct or indirect interest in any matter brought up for consideration at a meeting of the Forum.

3.12 Members shall identify their own training needs.

4 Administration

4.1 Plymouth City Council shall provide a secretary responsible for the administration of the Forum who shall be neither an elected Member of the City Council nor a member of the Forum.

4.2 The Forum shall normally meet at least quarterly and additional meetings arranged where necessary.

4.3 Meeting agendas shall be agreed between the Chair and the Secretary.

4.4 Meetings shall be advertised in advance and held in public.

4.5 Agendas, papers and minutes of the meeting shall be available to the public.

4.6 The public shall be able to ask questions on the business of the Forum at the discretion of the Chair.

4.7 The Chair may, where appropriate, invite observers to the meeting who shall be able to contribute to the meeting at the discretion of the Chair.

4.8 The declaration of interests shall be an agenda item at the start of each meeting.

4.9 All papers for meetings will be sent to members at least five days in advance and should be supported by a clear recommendation wherever possible.

4.10 A consensus should be reached on all matters discussed but where this is not the case opposing views will be recorded.

4.11 The quorum for meetings of the Forum shall be 7 members.

5 Allowances

5.1 Members may claim travelling costs for attending Forum meetings and authorised training events and where appropriate a carers allowance is payable at rates in line with the City Council Members Allowance Scheme.

Appendix A – Membership Selection Criteria

Requirements	Essential	Desirable
Skills	<p>Good communication and interpersonal skills.</p> <p>Ability to work as part of a team.</p> <p>Ability to consider competing interests in a strategic manner to find agreed solutions</p>	<p>Proven ability to network and liaise with wider interests</p>
Knowledge	<p>Knowledge/appreciation of countryside issues with particular reference to Plymouth</p> <p>Knowledge of the conflicting interactions between recreation, land management and conservation.</p>	<p>An understanding of administrative procedures in central or local government</p> <p>An understanding of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000</p>
Experience	<p>Experience of using public rights of way or access land for recreational purposes</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Experience of managing land over which public rights of way or access land subsists</p> <p>OR</p> <p>Experience of tourism, outdoor education, sport and recreational provision, disability awareness, local business interest, the military, health promotion or wildlife and cultural heritage.</p>	<p>Experience of public speaking</p> <p>Experience of attending formal public meetings</p>
Equal Opportunities	<p>A commitment to further equal opportunity issues in the work of the forum</p>	<p>Knowledge of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995</p>
Other Requirements	<p>Willingness to commit to attending Local Access Forum meetings and training events for up to 3 years</p> <p>A commitment to making the countryside more accessible and enjoyable for open-air recreation in ways, which address social, economic and environmental interests.</p>	

Appendix B – Section 94 (4) bodies

- the appointing authority(ies) (which will be a highway authority or National Park authority)
- any county, unitary, district or borough council within the area of the Forum
- the Secretary of State (in effect this means any Government Department with a Secretary of State, e.g. Defra and MOD, as well as 'executive agencies' such as the Planning Inspectorate and the Highways Agency)
- Natural England
- the Forestry Commission
- English Heritage
- Sport England (the English Sports Council)
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Conservation Boards
- Parish and town councils

Appendix C – Plymouth Local Access Forum Code of Conduct

PART 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Scope

(1) A member must observe the Plymouth Local Access Forum's code of conduct whenever he or she -

- (a) conducts the business of the Forum;
- (b) conducts the business of the office to which he or she has been appointed; or
- (c) acts as a representative of the Forum,

and references to a member's official capacity shall be construed accordingly.

(2) This code of conduct shall not, apart from paragraphs 3 and 4(a) below, have effect in relation to the activities of a member undertaken other than in an official capacity.

(3) Where a member acts as a representative of the Forum on another relevant Local Access Forum, he must, when acting for that other Local Access Forum, comply with that other Local Access Forum's code of conduct.

(4) In this code, 'member' refers to appointed members of the Plymouth Local Access Forum.

(5) In this code, 'Forum' refers to the Plymouth Local Access Forum.

2. General Obligations

A member must:

- (a) promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person;
- (b) treat others with respect; and
- (c) not do anything which compromises or which is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, the Forum.

3. A member must not in his or her official capacity, or any other circumstance, conduct himself or herself in a manner that could reasonably be regarded as bringing their office or the Forum into disrepute.

4. A member:

- (a) must not in his or her official capacity, or any other circumstance, use his or her position as a member improperly to confer on or secure for himself, herself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage; and
- (b) must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of the Forum, act in accordance with the Forum's requirements.

5. A member must, if he or she becomes aware of any conduct by another member who he or she reasonably believes involves a failure to comply with the Forum's code of conduct, make a written allegation to that effect to the Forum Secretary as soon as it is practicable for him or her to do so.

PART 2

INTERESTS

Personal Interests

6. (1) A member must regard himself or herself as having a personal interest in any matter if the matter relates to an interest in respect of which notification must be given or if a decision upon it might reasonably be regarded as affecting to a greater extent than other council tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of Plymouth, the well-being or financial position of himself or herself, a relative or a friend or -

- (a) any employment or business carried on by such persons;
- (b) any person who employs or has appointed such persons, any firm in which they are a partner, or any company of which they are directors;
- (c) any corporate body in which such persons have a beneficial interest in a class of securities exceeding the nominal value of £5,000; or

(2) In this paragraph:

- (a) 'relative' means a spouse, partner, parent, parent-in-law, son, daughter, step-son, step-daughter, child of a partner, brother, sister, grandparent, grandchild, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece, or the spouse or partner of any of the preceding persons; and
- (b) 'partner' in sub-paragraph (2)(a) above means a member of a couple who live together.

Disclosure of Personal Interests

7. A member with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the Forum at which the matter is considered must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent.

Prejudicial Interests

8. (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, a member with a personal interest in a matter also has a prejudicial interest in that matter if the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the member's judgment of the public interest.

(2) A member may regard himself or herself as not having a prejudicial interest in a matter if that matter relates to -

- (a) another relevant Local Access Forum of which he or she is a member;
- (b) another Local Access Forum in which he or she holds a position of general control or management;
- (c) a body to which he or she has been appointed or nominated by the Forum as its representative;

Participation in Relation to Disclosed Interests

9. (1) a member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must :

- (a) withdraw from the room or chamber where a meeting is being held whenever it becomes apparent that the matter is being considered at that meeting, unless he or she has obtained a dispensation;
- (b) not seek improperly to influence a decision about that matter.

10. For the purposes of this Part, "meeting" means any meeting of the Forum.

PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

ANNUAL REPORT

2010 - 2011



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I. Chairman's Foreword

Welcome to the 2010 - 2011 annual report of the Plymouth Local Access Forum. Over the past 12 months we have held 6 meetings in the Plymouth City Council meeting rooms and have discussed and debated numerous topics concerning public rights of way, the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP), planning and local transport plans and nature conservation within the boundaries of Plymouth.

We have been involved in consultations on the England Access Forum, Saltram Countryside Park, Review of Statutory Duties on local government.

Our members have attended a Regional LAF Conference at Bovey Tracey in October 2010. At the conference, workshops included Forestry Commission – 'promoting recreational opportunities', Department of Health – 'the health agenda' and Natural England – 'how LAFs can contribute to green infrastructure policy and involving young people in countryside recreation'.

We have been involved in supporting planning applications for the Royal William Yard (RWY) for the boardwalk and access to Devil's Point.

We attended a public inquiry in January 2011, Ham Drive to Carnock Road, to view the process and learn what happens.

I have attended two regional chairman's meetings at Taunton and met Mr C Gammon, Regional Director for Natural England and Mr P Owens, Regional Business Manager for Natural England. The main themes at the meetings was 'the way ahead for LAF;s and Natural England'.

Recently the LAF has formed a working group to review and advise on a project called 'Access Whitleigh'.

I would like to thank the Rights of Way Officer for his continuing support and advice and finally my members who have given up their free time to work on various LAF topics.

Ray Fairchild
May 2011

2. A Local Access Forum

A Local Access Forum is an independent advisory body set up under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. All highway and national parks authorities are required to have such a forum in place and their role is to provide strategic advice to prescribed bodies on how they can improve access to land for outdoor recreational use.

DEFRA has prescribed the following bodies to whom the forum may give advice to:

The local Authority (Plymouth City Council)
Natural England
The Forestry Commission
English Heritage
Sport England
Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Conservation Boards
District Borough, Parish and Town Councils within its area

These bodies are known as section 94 bodies as they are prescribed by section 94 (4) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The purpose of providing advice to these bodies is to influence their decision making processes.

When a section 94 body receives advice from a Local Access Forum it is obliged, by statute, to consider that advice. This does not necessarily mean that the receiving body must follow the advice given but that they properly consider it. If that advice is not followed it is usual that justification for this be given.

2.1 The Role of Plymouth's Local Access Forum

The Plymouth Local Access Forum was established in 2006. The role of Plymouth's Local Access Forum is to advise the Council on issues that involve people enjoying and using the outdoors. The members of the Forum will be people who can demonstrate knowledge or experience in this area. They might be people who like to walk or cycle around Plymouth or they might own land that people like to walk on. They might even be people whose job it is to help others enjoy themselves outside.

Although there may be different views on some subjects, the Forum will discuss these matters so that they can tell the Council what they think. The Forum's membership is varied so that their views are representative of all those who live in Plymouth. The views of the Forum will be very important to the Council when decisions are made. The below list acts as a guide to the issues the Forum might talk about. However, this is only a guide and the Forum can talk about anything they think is relevant, such as:

- helping the Council with, and giving opinion on Plymouth's rights of way improvement plan
- telling the Council and its partners what they think of recreation and access strategies

- advising the Council how local people might view access issues so they can be included in the national guidelines the Council has to stick to
- commenting on wider plans and strategies for landscape, recreation, transport, health, tourism and information
- telling the Council if the strategies and policies currently in place suit different types of users and whether they reflect the needs of local people and businesses
- telling the Council what they think of the way resources are used in providing ways for people to enjoy the outdoors
- telling the Council how to manage areas people use without harming agriculture and conservation areas or risking public safety
- discussing the way the Council handles public rights of way

In addition the forum may wish to:

- make representations to the Planning Inspectorate on any appeal
- look for ways to encourage landowners to make more areas available for the public to use
- promote the work of the forum and countryside issues to other people
- find new ways of getting money so we can make improvements
- comment on new large-scale developments so that peoples' use and enjoyment can be made better

The Local Access Forum is independent from the Council and it decides what issues they want to discuss and what they would like to advise the Council or other bodies about. The map below shows the area covered by the Plymouth Local Access Forum.



3. Forum Membership

3.1 Members and Representation

The Plymouth Local Access Forum has been constituted as far as practicable so that it is balanced between three main interests, which are:

- Users of access land or public rights of way
- Owners and occupiers of access land or land crossed by rights of way
- Other interests considered relevant to Plymouth

The Membership of the Plymouth Local Access Forum is:

Name	Membership	Group
Ray Fairchild	Chair	Access User
Ian Stewart	Vice-Chair	Other Interest
Ken Foster	Member	Councillor
Thomas Browne	Member	Councillor
George Wheeler	Member	Councillor
John Emery	Member	Access User
Patricia Hitchins	Member	Access User
Keith Raymond Loze	Member	Access User
Barbara Mickley	Member	Access User
David Pawley	Member	Access User
John Skinner	Member	Access User
Rupert Goddard	Member	Other Interest
Beth Roberts	Member	Land Owner
Stephanie Rodgers	Member	Land Owner
Nick Attrill	Member	Other Interest

3.2 Observers and Advisers to the Forum

All meetings are public and anyone can attend if they wish but the Forum can specifically invite observers and advisers to attend and participate in meetings. The following representatives are those that have attended meetings in 2010/2011:

Robin Pearce	Public Rights of Way Officer, Plymouth City Council
Colin Jones	Natural England
Dan Forster	Senior Transport Planner, Plymouth City Council
Dave Readman	Tamar Valley AONB Partnership
Rosemary Dale	Major Schemes Officer, Plymouth City Council

3.3 Secretariat

Plymouth City Council as the appointing authority provides the Plymouth Local Access Forum with a secretariat:

Mr Ross Johnston

Secretary to the Plymouth Local Access Forum
Democratic Support Unit
Corporate Support Department
Plymouth City Council
Plymouth PL1 2AA
Tel: 01752 307990
E-mail: laf@plymouth.gov.uk

3.4 Advertising for Members

In March an article appeared in the local media advertising for members to the LAF.

Membership to the Forum will be representative of one or more fields of interest as defined below rather than any particular organisation of which they might also be a member:

- users of rights of way, or the new access right
- owners and occupiers of access land, or land over which local rights of way subsist
- in addition to this we will encourage fair representation of other interests considered to be relevant to Plymouth, these include tourism, outdoor education, sport and recreational provision, disability awareness, local business interest, the military, health promotion and wildlife and cultural heritage

Within these interests we have aimed to encourage a better representation of younger people, woman, people with disabilities and those on low incomes.

4. What has happened over the past year (2010 – 2011)

4.1. Chairman

Ray Fairchild was Chairman of the Plymouth Local Access Forum and Ian Stewart Vice-Chairman from March 2010 to March 2011.

At the Forum's meeting of 8 February 2010 it was resolved that Ray Fairchild be appointed Chair and Ian Stewart be appointed Vice Chair for the forthcoming year with the new term of office beginning on 29 March 2010.

4.2 Formal Meetings

Over the past year May 2010 – April 2011 there have been six formal meetings at the following dates:

- 14 June 2010
- 9 August 2010
- 27 September 2010
- 22 November 2010
- 24 January 2011
- 28 March 2011

Information about the agenda's and minutes from the Forum's meetings in 2010 – 2011 can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/32e8ey4>.

4.3 Presentations and Reports

The Forum has received the following presentations over the past year:

- Local Transport Plan 3
- Radford Woods – ROCKets Grant Award
- Tamar Valley Discovery Trail
- Access Whitleigh Project
- Local Sustainable Transport Fund

The Forum has received the following reports and papers over the past year:

- Promoted walks in Plymouth
- Local Access Forum involvement in coastal access implementation
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- South West Coast Path
- Local Access Forum Development Questionnaire
- Notice of Statutory Land Transfer – Ridgeway School
- Notice of Statutory Land Transfer – Coombe Dean School

4.4 Consultation

The Forum responded to the following consultation requests over the past year:

- Local Transport Plan 3
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- English Access Forum
- Saltram Countryside Park
- Public Path Diversion Order application on Hooe Lane, Plymstock
- Central Park Draft Masterplan
- Plymouth Local Access Forum Development
- Sustainable Neighbourhoods
- Review of Statutory Duties

4.5 Policy Development

Over the past year the Plymouth Local Access Forum had formally made comments and or submitted correspondence with the aim that it would be considered in the development of the following policies and plans:

- Local Transport Plan 3
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan

4.6 Planning Application responses

The Forum has become increasingly responsive to Planning Applications submitted to Plymouth City Council. Since January 2011 a weekly update has been sent to members informing them of the Planning Applications that have been submitted and the LAF has formally responded to the Planning Department on the following applications:

- Royal William Yard (Urban Splash) – Reference. 10/02104/FUL
- Royal William Yard (Urban Splash) – Reference. 10/02094/FUL

4.7 Working Groups

The Plymouth Local Access Forum has created two working groups:

- Potential Rights of Way Working Group
- Planning Working Group

Over the past year the working groups have discussed the following issues:

- Ramblers' 1988 Maps
- Access Whitleigh Project

4.8 Training and Events

The following training subjects, events and dates were made available for attendance by Plymouth Local Access Forum Members:

Regional LAF Annual Conference

20 October 2010

4.9 Promotion and Media Coverage

A number of articles have appeared in the local media with regards to work undertaken by the LAF. These articles demonstrate the effectiveness of the LAF in monitoring and reviewing public rights of way. The articles refer to the Forum's continued monitoring of the South West Coast Path and can be viewed by clicking on the attached links:

<http://www.thisplymouth.co.uk/news/Coastal-path-near-Plymouth-won-t-reopened-survey/article-2924441-detail/article.html>

<http://www.thisplymouth.co.uk/news/coast-path-closed-indefinitely-landslip/article-3139237-detail/article.html>

The LAF agenda has incorporated new aspects including a tracking resolutions document and a work programme. These new items were included following a consultation undertaken by Forum members with the aim of ensuring a more effective and efficient Forum. These new items were seen to offer improvements to the Forum and as such were distributed to regional LAF's for their information.

4.10 Public Rights of Way

On 1 May 2010 Plymouth City Council had 53 separate footpaths (83 links) designated as Public Rights of Way (PROW).

On 30 April 2011 Plymouth City Council had 53 separate footpaths (83 links) designated as PROW.

In total for the period 1 May 2010 – 30 April 2011 Plymouth City Council created 0 footpaths.

5. Future Aspirations

Given the fact that it is often difficult to anticipate topics that may arise on the access agenda either locally or nationally and regarding Public Rights of Way it is believed that the following topics offer a quality insight into what the Plymouth Local Access Forum aim to cover over the coming year in 2011 - 12.

National Issues

Coastal Access
English Access Forum

Regional Issues

Access Projects
Sustainable neighbourhoods
Northern Corridor Development
The Rights of Way Improvement Plan
Definitive Map
Local issues around Open Spaces
Ramblers' 1988' maps
South West Coast Path
Access to Nature project

New membership to the Forum was hoped to be achieved for 2011 – 2012 and as such new training initiatives will be offered to all members. Furthermore, it was hoped that the use of the Forum working groups would be utilised to a greater effect enabling the Forum to respond and offer advice to wider reaching issues.

6. Financial Statement

The financial statements relates to the finance period of 1 April 2010 to 1 March 2011.

Members' expenses

Travel Allowance	-	£120.79
Childcare	-	£0.00
Total	-	£120.79

Meetings

Advertising	-	£0.00
Catering	-	£142.50
Total	-	£142.50

Total Expenditure for 2010/11	-	£263.29
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6.1 Members Expenses

Member	Travel (£)	Subsistence (£)	Childcare (£)
Ray Fairchild	£120.79	0	0
Ian Stewart	0	0	0
Ken Foster	0	0	0
Thomas Browne	0	0	0
George Wheeler	0	0	0
John Emery	0	0	0
Patricia Hitchens	0	0	0
Keith Raymond Loze	0	0	0
Barbara Mickley	0	0	0
David Pawley	0	0	0
John Skinner	0	0	0
Rupert Goddard	0	0	0
Beth Roberts	0	0	0
Stephanie Rodgers	0	0	0
Nick Atrill	0	0	0
LAF Secretary	0	0	0

Members' (Who's Who)

Mr Attrill
Mr Attrill is a Plymothian who has worked for the Ordnance Survey for 38 years and is currently working in and around Plymouth. This allows him to visit many parts of the city and beyond. He walks a great deal for his work and leisure; latterly he is usually accompanied by his dog. He has worked in the archaeological side of the OS which has stimulated his interest in history and archaeology of which there is much in Plymouth. He reads extensively with interest in history, science fiction, and fantasy and he also enjoys films and music.
Mr Emery
John Emery is interested in Planning, transport, heritage and rights of way issues. Member of the Ramblers Association and Open Spaces Society. Writes a monthly article for the local parish magazine on community affairs.
Mr Fairchild
Mr Fairchild is a retired technical officer of the M.O.D. His interests include walking, the environment and gardening. As well as being Chair of the PLAF he is also a governor at Eggbuckland Community College.
Mr Goddard
Mr Goddard worked for Groundwork South West, a local environmental regeneration charity. He coordinated volunteering projects including Conservation volunteering and Horticultural Healing. Recent projects have included the upgrading of footpaths through Woodland Wood Local Nature Reserve. He has been working for Groundwork for 12 years, before which he worked as a countryside ranger. Throughout his career he has worked within the field of countryside management and predominately with volunteers. Outside of work he enjoys walking local footpaths, including the South West Coast Path. He is a keen explorer of local caves and mines and aswell as sitting on the LAF he is a member of Devon Cave Rescue Organisation.
Mrs Hitchens
Mrs Hitchens is a long time resident of the Crownhill/Derriford Area. She has an interest in maintaining and defining open spaces and ancient footpaths in this fast changing area.
Mr Pawley
A Plymothian, as a teenager attended Sutton High and R. Dockyard TC and was a member of Mayflower Sailing Club. Graduated and employed as an RAF Education

Officer for 21 years followed by 14 as a senior lecturer in Management Science and Computing at CFE. Has now retired. A long time member of the Ramblers with a keen interest in seeing footpaths properly recorded in the City. An enthusiastic boat owner actively working to provide affordable moorings for locals. A member of the Plymouth LAF since its formation in 2006.

Mrs Roberts

Mrs Roberts is currently a full time Mum of two young children, who has a passion for the Environment and community work. Her previous roles were as a Project Manager for Groundwork Trust and Community Development Worker in the Public Sector. She was responsible for the development of local and National projects that aimed to encourage walking at all levels. I am a trained Walk Leader and have worked as a Volunteer for both the National Trust and Millfields Trust. She is a keen and active person, who enjoys walking and bee keeping on her family's farm in the North of Plymouth.

Mrs Rodgers

Mrs Rodgers works for the National Trust in the Plym Valley as a Community Engagement Officer. A big part of her role requires her to work closely with the local community to enable them to feel a part of their local property, and also to make sure that access is available and appropriate at all times for visitors to National Trust property. Her knowledge of rights of way, land management and environmental issues helps her to support the aims and objectives of the LAF here in Plymouth. As a trained walk leader and trainer she spends a lot of time promoting walking as a worthwhile past time on National Trust land, also walking in her spare time too, mostly on Dartmoor.

Mr Skinner

John Skinner has been a member of the Plymouth Local Access Forum since it was first set up in 2006. He is also a member of the Devon Countryside Access Forum. John is an experienced mountain and moorland walker, rambler and occasional cyclist. He is currently Access Officer for the Devon Area of the Ramblers' Association. For the Ramblers' Association he had extensive involvement with the preparatory work and mapping of access land for the introduction of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CRoW) in Devon in 2005. He now monitors closure of land under the CRoW Act and matters affecting public rights of way. Largely through self-education he has a good knowledge of the law relating to public rights of way. He firmly believes that the City of Plymouth should have a comprehensive and complete Definitive map of public rights of way within the City boundaries.

In due course he expects to provide input to the emerging proposals for the introduction of a coastal footpath and coastal corridor.

He is Chairman of the Dartmoor Rambling Club and a member of the Ramblers' Association, Dartmoor Preservation Association, the Open Spaces Society, the National Trust and the Youth Hostels Association. He has been retired for several years but spent his career with HM Land Registry.

Mr Stewart

Mr Stewart as a doctor with an interest in sports injuries (which includes exercise) he found himself doing many sports, including long distance walking and hence his involvement with the LAF.

He would like to see as many open spaces as possible within the city and all linked by foot/cycle paths. There are already many footpaths available which need to be mapped and made available and accessible to the public, and some of these specifically for the disabled.

As a LAF we should support and promote all healthy lifestyles and increase the public profile of the LAF.

Cllr Foster

An elected member of Plymouth City Council serving the Southway Ward. At the meeting of the City Council on 21 May 2010 was appointed to sit as a member on the Plymouth Local Access Forum.

Cllr Browne

An elected member of Plymouth City Council serving the Southway Ward. At the meeting of the City Council on 21 May 2010 was appointed to sit as a member on the Plymouth Local Access Forum.

Cllr Wheeler

George Wheeler has been a member of the LAF since it was first set up in 2006. He is an elected member of Plymouth City Council, representing St Budeaux ward. He is an experienced transport administrator, having served spells as chair of the transport committee before the executive/scrutiny system and as cabinet member for transport since. He is an advocate of the use of sustainable transport means, of which walking is an essential element. He is a keen Rambler, though usually outside of the city.

APPENDIX B

Summary of Members' Attendance at Forum Meetings

Name	Membership	Attendance (maximum 6)
Ray Fairchild	Chair	6
Ian Stewart	Vice-Chair	5
Ken Foster	Councillor	5
Thomas Browne	Councillor	6
George Wheeler	Councillor	5
John Emery	Member	6
Patricia Hitchens	Member	5
Keith Raymond Loze*	Member	2
Barbara Mickley *	Member	5
David Pawley	Member	6
John Skinner	Member	4
Rupert Goddard	Member	3
Beth Roberts	Member	3
Stephanie Rodgers	Member	4
N Attrill	Member	6

* Resigned mid-term

WHITLEIGH SAFER AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL 2011

Consultation Results: Preliminary Report



1.0 Aim: The purpose of this report is to provide a high level summary of recent consultation on the WHITLEIGH: Safer and Sustainable Travel scheme and set out the next steps for the development of the Whitleigh programme.

2.0 Introduction: The WHITLEIGH: Safer and Sustainable Transport programme will trial an area based approach to road safety delivery and the use of 20 mph speeds in residential areas with the intention of rolling it out citywide during LTP3 subject to assessment of outcomes.

The Council has put in place 20mph speed limits outside schools and a number of schools have had road safety measures introduced. However, the implementation of limits outside a school does not make the rest of the journey to school any safer, or provide the wider benefits for the community. We want to look at ways of improving road safety and local travel that benefit whole communities instead of one small area and this is what the Council will be trialling through the Whitleigh; Safer and Sustainable Travel scheme

The scheme will improve safety, encourage sustainable travel, improve the urban environment, encourage healthy lifestyles and improve access to employment opportunities and green spaces by tackling excess speed, making road crossing easier and safer, making cycling easier and safer, improving permeability and making it easier for buses to pass each other.

Whitleigh has a busy community of about 7,300 people, and schools that serve many other areas of Plymouth. However, Whitleigh also has the highest number of child pedestrian collisions in Plymouth, which is why we are looking at piloting a new, 'low-infrastructure' approach to road safety in the area that may involve reducing speeds without traditional traffic calming measures.

Between March and May 2011 the Council engaged in consultation with the Whitleigh Community in order to understand the key barriers and opportunities to safe, sustainable travel, in the Whitleigh area. This paper sets out the high level results from this consultation

3.0 Consultation summary.

Table 3.1. Consultation undertaken in Whitleigh

Consultation Activity	Dates
Woodfield Primary School Playground Surgery	15 th March 2011
Whitleigh Primary School Playground Surgery	17 th March 2011
Whitleigh Green	16 th March 2011
Whitleigh Neighbourhood Meeting	23 rd March 2011

Whitleigh Green Fitness Festival	7 th April 2011
Leaflet consultation	<p>Copies of the leaflet were available from Wednesday 20 April until Friday 6 May at the Whitleigh Plymouth Community Homes housing office, St Chad's Church and the Albemarle pub as well as local community centres.</p> <p>Limited house to house leaflets drops were also made.</p>

3.1 Leaflet Consultation

The Whitleigh: Safer and Sustainable travel leaflet asked a number of questions about walking, cycling and road safety in Whitleigh. Thirty two responses were received and the results are recorded below.

SPEED REDUCTION

Qu. Do you think reducing speed in Whitleigh is a good idea?

10 out of 32 respondents answered this question. All 10 respondents thought it was a good idea to reduce speed in Whitleigh with one respondent adding that they agreed "as long as it's policed".

WALKING

Qu. Are there any areas that could be improved to make it easier or safer to walk?

Suggestions received for improving areas to make it easier or safer to walk included:

- Pavement upkeep / replacement of flagstones
- Better signage (the junction of Milford Lane and Budshead Road was mentioned as a specific location)
- Encouraging cyclists (especially young cyclists) to use a bell to advance warn pedestrians when they will be passing them, as many areas of footways are shared use and often pedestrians are unaware of cyclists until they have passed them. It was suggested that providing school children who cycle with a free bell for their bikes may act as an incentive.

Qu. Would a map of the local area encourage you to walk more?

7 out of 32 respondents answered this question with two respondents saying that a map would encourage them to walk more, but 5 respondents saying that it would not encourage them.

CYCLING

Qu. Do you think more local cycling facilities are needed?

Only one respondent answered this question, however, they did respond that they thought more local cycling facilities were needed. A respondent commented that marked areas for cycling were needed. There are currently some marked cycle lanes in Whitleigh, and the Strategic Cycle Network identifies a circular route following the periphery of Whitleigh.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Qu. Are the bus stops in the right place?

Once again only one respondent answered this question, however, they were happy that the bus stops were in the right places. A survey was carried out by Plymouth Citybus in conjunction with PCC consultation asking whether the bus route through Whitleigh should be changed to a one way service. The response to this survey was a clear “keep it as it is”. It would seem that residents are reasonably satisfied with the current bus service.

Qu. Do the operators provide you with information that is easy to understand?

Two respondents answered this question, one answered yes, and one answered no. It remains unclear, therefore, as to whether the bus companies provide understandable information in the area or not.

MAP SUGGESTIONS

Residents were also asked to write or draw their comments on a map of Whitleigh provided in a consultation leaflet. All of the comments received are listed below.

- Resurface of Budshead Road
- Remove some of the chicanes - they present hazards where none existed before
- 30 mph limit Budshead Road, 20 mph limit all other roads
- Speed bumps near St Peter's RC School are needed
- Crossing patrol for Woodfield Primary School
- Zebra crossing to the doctor's surgery near Whitleigh Green is needed
- No. 46/47 is needed to return for hospital and St Budeaux Clinic to and from Whitleigh
- Create more off road parking as at the end of Lancaster Gardens (use the grassed areas!)
- Make all roads one way
- Make all roads 20 mph
- Put in chicanes / sleeping policemen
- Take away layby [at Whitleigh Green] to allow you to see the road when leaving the shops - Motorhome has been [parked] there for more than 10 weeks
- If you cannot do the layby then make a road out of the Green. To make a road out of the Green make [Trowbridge Close] the way in one way
- Make [Shrewsbury Road] one way

OTHER CONSULTATION EVENTS

During recent consultation events carried out in Whitleigh, including Playground Sessions and neighbourhood meetings, PCC officers spoke to residents about the scheme and collated their comments. Through these events residents have suggested the following:

- There is a need for pedestrian crossings, especially between the doctor's surgery and Whitleigh Green and outside the schools.
- There is a need for cycle parking at Whitleigh Green.








- In some areas buses are finding it difficult to pass each other due to parked cars.
- Some people have suggested introducing one ways on roads in Whitleigh such as Taunton Avenue and Lancaster Gardens.
- There are concerns about speeding traffic especially on Taunton Avenue, Budshead Road, Shrewsbury Road and Brentford Avenue.
- Issues with parking have been raised including concerns about poor visibility when exiting Whitleigh Green due to vehicles parked in the lay-by.
- There is a need to address potholes, particularly on Taunton Avenue and Budshead Road.

These comments are recorded on the attached map.

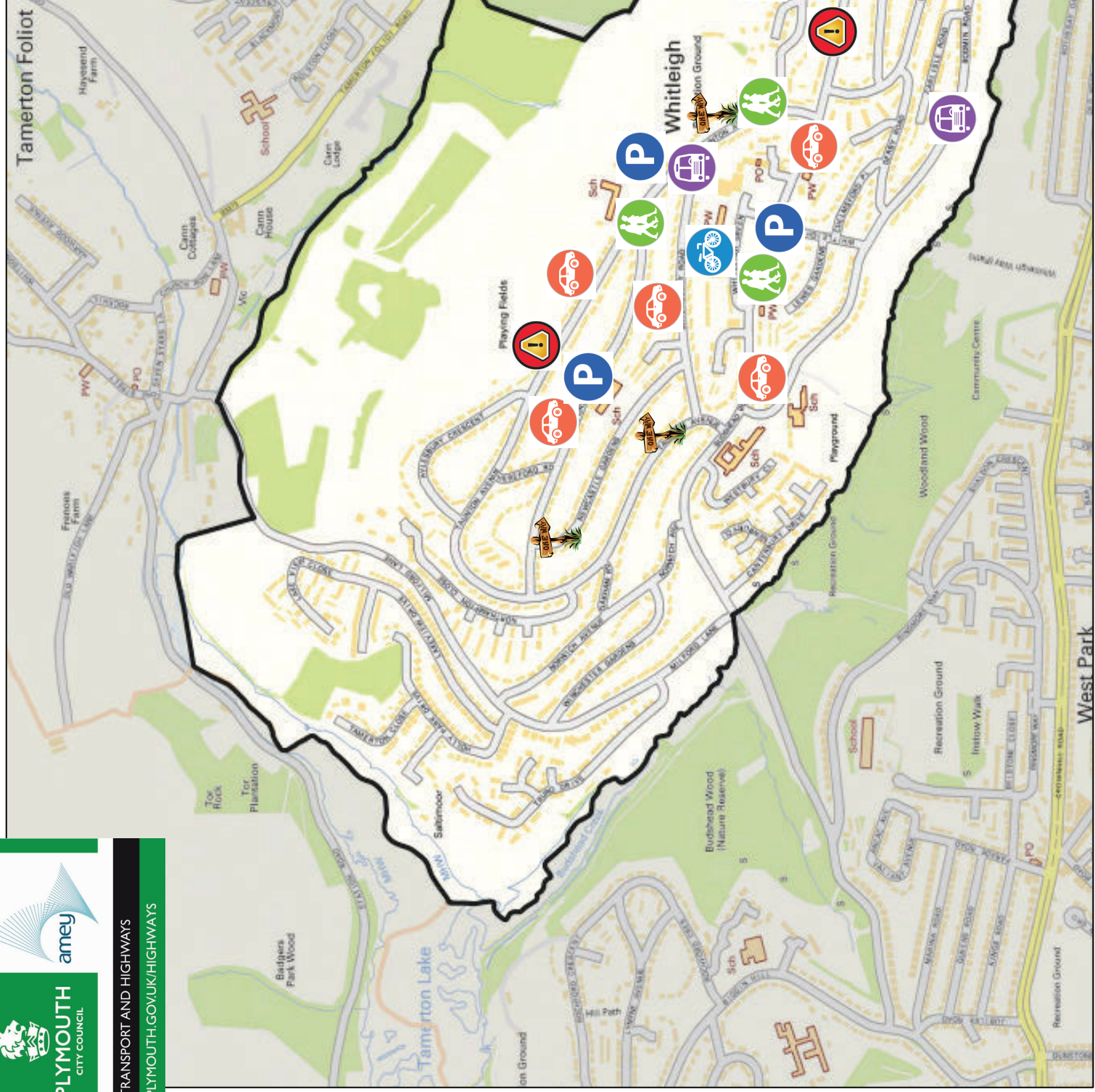
4.0 NEXT STEPS

In conjunction with the consultation activities a cycling, public transport, speed and walking audit were undertaken in Whitleigh. The latter activity was carried out by the Local Access Forum on behalf of the Council. These audits, and the consultation responses, will be used to develop a programme for Whitleigh which will be presented to the Portfolio Holder for Transport in the coming weeks for consideration prior to commencement of the works.

During recent consultation Whiteleigh residents have suggested that:-

-  There is a need for pedestrian crossings, especially between the doctor's surgery and Whiteleigh Green and outside the schools.
-  There is a need for cycle parking at Whiteleigh Green.
-  In some areas buses are finding it difficult to pass each other due to parked cars.
-  Some people have suggested introducing one way on roads in Whiteleigh such as Taunton Avenue and Lancaster Gardens.
-  There are concerns about speeding traffic especially on Taunton Avenue, Budshead Road, Shrewsbury Road and Brentford Avenue.
-  Issues with parking have been raised including concerns about poor visibility when exiting Whiteleigh Green due to vehicles parked in the lay-by.
-  There is a need to address potholes, particularly on Taunton Avenue and Budshead Road.

Do you agree with these comments?



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Stepping Stones to Nature Report - Year 2 July 2010 – June 2011

Zoe Goss, Project Coordinator

In our second year of delivery we have made excellent progress towards breaking down both physical and perceptual barriers to using green space.

Key to this success has been:

- Embedding the learning from the first year into our delivery
- Building on relationships with committed partners to deliver more in-depth work
- Broadening our partnerships to have a wider impact
- Working with the project's legacy in mind, building knowledge and capacity of organisations and participants to use green space independently

However, we recognise that the project has limited time and capacity. Although vital, the project's contribution to health is only one piece in the jigsaw puzzle. As well as working with residents to develop care and ownership of local spaces, the final 2 years will also focus on in-depth work with a select group of partners to ensure they have the skills, knowledge and confidence to become agents of change within their own organisations and communities.

Year 2 achievements include:

£74k worth of capital works to improve access to 5 natural spaces in the city.

£184k worth of additional funding for access improvements secured from Forestry Commission, S106 contributions and Plymouth Community Homes

£100k additional funding secured from Arts Council for SS2N sites Years 3 and 4 through our partnership with social enterprise 'Take a Part'

609 days of BTCV and Groundwork volunteer time (valued at £30k towards improving site access)

5 social work and 1 community development student placements supported

408 adults, 957 children (under 16) and 82 young people with improved opportunities to experience the natural environment by taking part in 47 events, workshops and activities on site with local residents, 11 schools, 5 children's centres and 5 community based organisations

830 people volunteering to care for natural environments through setting up 3 new Friends Groups, partnership with Groundwork and BTCV and involvement of local schools in litter picks

43 partners involved in the project from community, voluntary, public and private sectors

Integration of Love Parks Week 2011 with Plymouth's high profile Summer Festival supported by the City Centre Company

Report on outcome 1: Natural spaces are easier to get in and around

1.1 Physical improvements to sites

Breaking down the physical barriers to access by installing paths, information boards and bridges has been a big part of the project. Capital works have been delivered on 5 sites this year. The majority of the work has been done by Groundwork and BTCV's volunteers; and has helped them to build skills, employability and improve health.

All improvements have been designed and decided upon through consultation with local residents, organisations and stakeholders.

Woodland Wood

Created circular routes: Additional 1.7km of high quality path, buggy friendly and usable in all weathers; 2 benches, installed with pupils from Sir John Hunt Community Sports College.

Improved physical links between adjacent neighbourhoods of Whitleigh and Honicknowle: Installed 2 bridges across the stream; Installed interpretation boards designed with help from local residents (adults and children) at a family community day.

Community feedback has been extremely positive. Groundwork has been approached numerous times by local users to thank them for the work and there is a noticeable increase in usage by dog walkers, families, 3 local schools and 1 children's centre.

'It was much easier to go for a walk than I thought, new paths have made using buggies a lot easier' **Parent, Whitleigh Children's Centre**

'Really like our new, clean wood...this area really needed better places to play so it's good to see things finally happening' **Parent, West Park**

Ham Woods

Improved physical links between North Prospect neighbourhood and All Saints Academy after consultation with pupils about routes to school through the woods: Installation of 3 bridges; Started a 1.2km path upgrade from east to west for completion in September 2011.

We continue to engage with the wider regeneration process in North Prospect to ensure that Ham Woods is seen as a key green space asset and that physical links to the site are taken into account during improvements.

BTCV are receiving a lot of positive feedback from local users of the woods about the improvements.

'I have spoken to a lot of people this week regarding the work in the woods and they have asked me to say thank you and keep up the good work' **Police Community Support Officer Dave Ryland, Ham**

Southway Valley LNR

Creating circular routes: Groundwork volunteers have started work to create a circular path in the north of the site which is close to two local schools and a children's centre. A schedule is in place to upgrade other paths throughout the site, install seating, tree dens and playful sculptures throughout the site. This will be completed by October 2011.

'Would like an outdoor classroom circle with a fire beside' **Snowy Owl, 2nd Southway Brownies**

'I want a picnic area' **Child, 11**

'Information boards, eg what you might see naturewise each month' **local resident**

Efford Valley

The popularity of the natural play area installed last year meant the route from the main path became muddy and hard to use. This year at the request of local families, we installed a buggy friendly path to reach the play features.

'On a recent visit I was really impressed with what I saw: the new paths, the forest school, the natural play area, the interpretation panels and the wild flower meadow. Already this area is providing a greatly improved resource for locals and wildlife' **Jeremy Sabel, Nature Conservation Officer, Plymouth City Council**

Forder Valley

The improvements last year have made a huge impact in the use of the reserve. Installation of the path and dipping platform around the pond enabled the Open Air Laboratories to use Forder Valley as a key site this year for water quality surveying with local schools and volunteers.

'The use of Forder Valley has been made possible through the SS2N partnership and we will continue to deliver activities here. The pond is teeming with life and scores very highly on the OPAL water survey!' **Alison Smith, OPAL Scientist**

1.2 What we have learnt about physical improvements

Capital improvements help to engage people Visible improvements have enabled us to build both interest and trust from residents who are pleased to see something actually happening. This seems to make them much more likely to join a get involved and/or join a Friends Group to develop the capacity for community involvement/ownership in the longer term.

Simple, good quality interventions = Sustainable and impactful The most successful interventions seem to have been the most simple. For example, feedback has shown that installing a good quality path make a huge difference to people coming out and using the sites. When well designed and constructed, these simple interventions should not be undervalued. They are likely to have a longer term impact and represent better value for money than perhaps more eye catching items such as play equipment / sculptures.

Standard specifications for capital improvements Learning from what worked in Year 1, we have been working with PCC Parks Services to develop a standard specification document for contractors that demonstrates high quality, durability and accessibility for all. This will be completed in September 2011 and adopted for regular use.

Working together = Better service Bringing different Council departments together with the voluntary sector to deliver the improvements has meant an overall improved service. *'I get a lot more calls from the Parks Services now as they realise how the Transport and Highways Service can help them work with contractors'* **Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer, Plymouth City Council**

Bringing different stakeholders together has led to widening the impact of the project *'I met BTCV for the first time at an SS2N Forder Valley stakeholder meeting and was impressed with their work there. We have now asked them to plant some wildflower areas with our residents'* **Community Officer, Sutton Housing**

Increased use of sites has also included anti-social behaviour and we have had several incidents of theft, graffiti and fires. We are working closely with local police, Plymouth City Council's youth services and residents to ensure that crime is reported and increase levels of ownership within local communities. We have put aside some capital budget for each site to manage this. PCC Parks Services is working on improving their customer service response rate to ensure that damage is repaired as quickly as possible. In addition, we are exploring options for external funding working in partnership with the community and voluntary sector.

'It's a good idea to be doing these works as long as they don't get vandalised. It really annoys me when we [volunteers] do all the hard work to make things better and people trash it. It would be great to see more volunteers. I'm doing what the government want me to do. I'm looking after my local area. Coming out volunteering is great for me. I'm out in the fresh air meeting new people, making new friends. I get to use my experience and knowledge and share it with the team. I think it's brilliant, the work being done for the project. It's making it easier for people to get into the nature reserves and it's giving me and the team better skills that will help us to get back into work.' **Gordon Burrell, Volunteer, Groundwork South West**

'Volunteering with Groundwork has helped build my self-esteem and confidence as an individual. I've learnt of new places of nature in and around Plymouth of which I can take my family to for walks at weekends. It's lifted my depression that I have suffered over many years by having a reason to get up in the mornings and enabled me to form routine within my life. I love the work we do and appreciate the easy access we are creating for members of the public, due to my son having cerebral palsy, I'm now able to easily push his wheelchair through the woods so he can enjoy his environment around him in nature.' **Laura Cole, Volunteer, Groundwork South West**

Year 3: Working towards a sustainable legacy

At this mid term point, after nearly 2 years of delivery, we are learning what works and where we can achieve maximum impact to sustain improvements beyond the life of the project. Plans for Year 3 include:

Improving physical access

- Complete access and play improvements to Ham Woods, Southway Valley and Kinterbury Creek with support from Groundwork and BTCV
- Designate additional Public Rights of Way on above sites
- Identify final site/s for improvement

Improving access to information

- Coordinate and deliver range of activities during Love Parks Week 2011 as part of the Plymouth Summer Festival to raise awareness of Plymouth as a green and blue city
- Support Parks Department to upgrade website information on natural spaces
- Continue to publicise project activities in local media
- Coordinate at least 1 communications working group meeting
- Create quarterly SS2N project e-newsletter

Building confidence of local people to use natural spaces

- Build confidence of residents and stakeholders to use local spaces through series of positive activities on all SS2N sites (Forder, Woodland, Efford, Ham, Southway, Kinterbury Creek)
- Continue to support development of Friends Groups to build capacity of local involvement and ownership for the above sites
- Continue to deliver series of 'mini-projects' with target groups in priority neighbourhoods with partner organisations (including next steps with National Trust, TVAONB, Dartmoor)
- Work with local schools to develop orienteering and nature trails on SS2N sites

Improve awareness of links between health and green space

- Continue to develop walking for health across the city
- Deliver research project with YMCA, NHS and Plymouth University to evidence the impact and the sustainability of a woodland walking group in Ham Woods
- Work with DNPA and NHS on a health promotion campaign for Dartmoor

Organisational Change

- Continue to collate evidence for research project on organisational change
- Set up a Partner Networking group to bring together new partners and identify training needs

A full report for Year 2 will be available on our website by 20 September 2011.

www.plymouth.gov.uk/steppingstones Contact: zoe.goss@plymouth.gov.uk

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Plymouth Green Infrastructure Project
Briefing paper for the Local Access Forum – August 2011

The Plymouth Green Infrastructure Project

The Plymouth Green Infrastructure (GI) project is a proactive response to Plymouth's growth agenda and provides a co-ordinated, cross-boundary approach to managing and enhancing the natural assets of Plymouth and its surrounding countryside. It provides an agreed understanding of the aspirations and priorities for a network of strategic green and blue space projects that build upon the significant opportunities that the area has as a result of its rich natural environment.

Plymouth's Green Infrastructure will consist of a network of high quality green and blue spaces that deliver the natural services required to allow the City and hinterland to grow sustainably, and provide a good quality of life for all.

The growth agenda will be utilised as a positive mechanism for enhancing the area's outstanding natural assets, and a co-ordinated approach to delivery will achieve a healthy, functional and robust natural environment that delivers significant environmental, social, and economic benefits for current and future generations.

Green Infrastructure differs from conventional approaches to green space planning because it is planned strategically, delivered in a co-ordinated manner, and considers multiple functions and benefits. It will work with the proposed growth of the City to ensure that the natural environment and the services it can provide are fully embedded in the development of the City and surrounding areas. It will be regarded as of equal importance to the grey infrastructure required to serve the City.

The project is funded by Plymouth City Council, South Hams District Council, Natural England, Forestry Commission and National Trust. To help facilitate delivery of the project an officer has been employed by Natural England and embedded within the Planning Services department of PCC.

What does the project aim to achieve?

The Green Infrastructure project identifies the strategic interventions that need to be delivered by 2021 to allow the City to grow sustainably, by creating new, enhancing existing, and successfully linking GI assets. The project has developed a Delivery Plan that provides details on key themes, individual projects, and network enhancements that have been identified by stakeholders as key to the delivery of a robust and effective GI network. Collectively and when delivered in a co-ordinated manner, these projects will deliver the natural services required by the City and surrounding area.

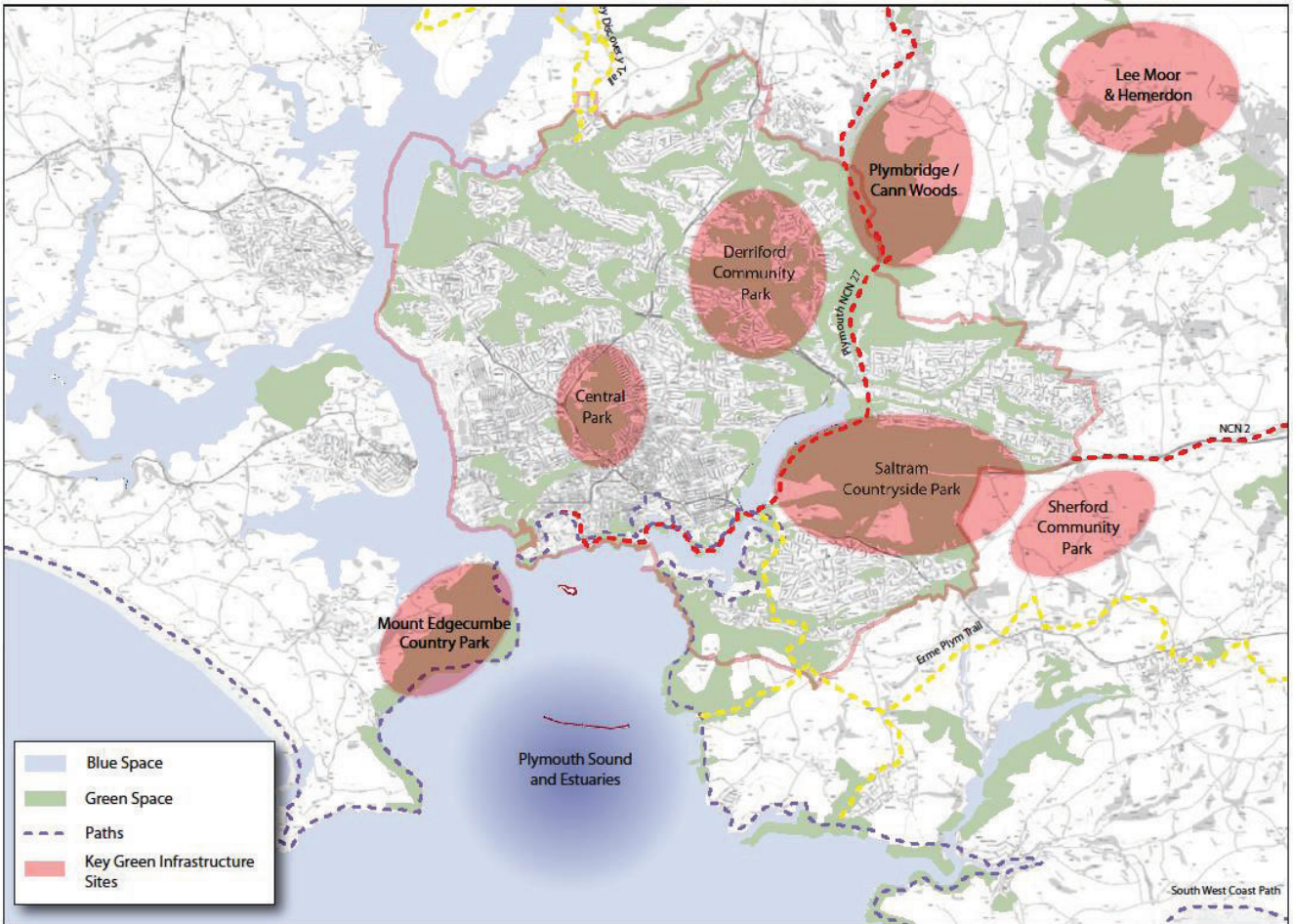
The benefits the project aims to deliver include:

- A high quality network of green and blue spaces that stretch from the City Centre to the rural hinterland and link the City with its marine environment;
- Residents and workers regularly utilising green and blue spaces as sustainable transport routes for walking, cycling and water transport;
- Community engagement with and ownership of the Green Infrastructure assets;
- A healthy and robust natural environment that benefits people and wildlife;
- Natural spaces people want to visit and enjoy because of the health and well-being benefits they deliver;
- A new appreciation of the important role the natural environment plays in the function and quality of the City;
- A mechanism to help the City adapt to and mitigate climate change.

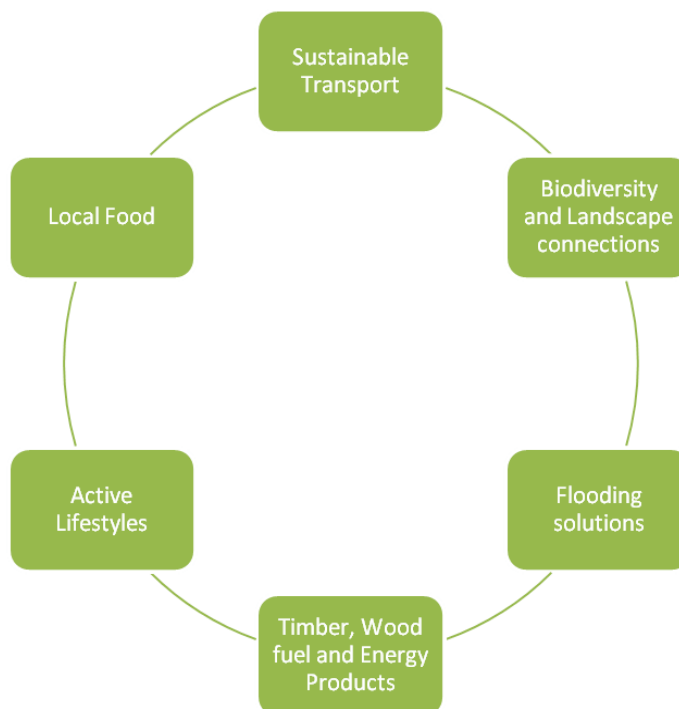
How will the Project achieve these aims?

The identification of agreed priorities for the natural environment in and around Plymouth enables a coordinated and proactive approach to delivery. There are 14 GI priorities, these include geographic and theme projects as detailed below.

Map 3 – Site Specific Green Infrastructure Projects (for illustrative purposes only)



Theme projects



Delivery of the GI Network

The delivery of the GI projects will happen in parallel with the growth of the City. It is expected that it will take at least 10 years to begin delivery on all aspects of the Plan dependant on the growth rate of the City. A number of mechanisms will be used to deliver the strategic priorities including, direct delivery of new GI assets (i.e. this will happen at Sherford), developer contributions towards the delivery of GI assets, partnership approaches to resourcing delivery of new Parks, such as at Saltram and community delivery of projects.

Resources to fund this work will also come from a number of sources including developers, agri-environment and woodland grants, lottery funding, and funding from partner organisations. It is also expected that to ensure these assets are managed to a high quality in the future they will need to generate revenue through commissions from the health and education sector and the development of revenue generating assets such as education centres and cafes.

Plymouth GI Project – Current Position

The Plymouth Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan that identifies the key priorities is now complete and has been adopted by Plymouth City Council and South Hams District Council and has been endorsed by 17 other organisations involved in the management or use of natural spaces. The project and its partners are now concentrating on delivering the strategic priorities. Not all the projects can begin at once so in the next year the following projects will provide the focus:

Saltram Countryside Park

The Masterplan for the Countryside Park is now complete after a 9 month consultation and development period. You can find the final Masterplan on the website at: www.plymouth.gov.uk/saltrammasterplan . The Masterplan identified specific actions across the Park to deliver the aspirations for a high quality natural space that enhances the exceptional wildlife, landscape and historic assets of the site, provides a key recreational resource and maintains the viability of farming in the area.

The project is now in the process of securing funding to take forward the projects identified within the Masterplan. This includes the development of a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid that will help deliver aspects of the Masterplan as well as improvements in the wider Plym Valley.

Central Park

The Masterplan for Central Park is now also complete after an extensive consultation period; the Masterplan can be found at www.plymouth.gov.uk/centralparkmasterplan. Plymouth City Council is the lead for this project and is currently developing a delivery plan that provides details on how the enhancements are to be funded and delivered.

Plym Bridge Woods and Cann Woods

The National Trust is leading work to develop a new adventurous cycling hub within Plymbridge Woods. This project has received funding from the Rural Development Programme for England as part of project that covers the South West. The planning application for the cycle hub has been submitted.

The Forestry Commission are also starting to develop a new forest plan for Cann Woods after large areas had to be cleared because of the outbreak of Phytophthora (fungus like disease that kills trees) in the Larch trees.

Both these areas will form part of the HLF bid mentioned above.

Derriford and Sherford Community Parks

The delivery of both of these Parks is linked to the adjacent developments and the GI project will be working closely with the planning officers and developers to ensure the delivery of both Parks are secured.

Community Engagement – Stepping Stones to Nature

Stepping Stones to Nature has now been running two years and was established to help remove the physical and perceptual barriers to accessing natural spaces to ensure everyone had the opportunity to enjoy the health and well being benefits associated with accessing the outdoors. It forms part of the Green Infrastructure project to ensure that communities are fully engaged with natural space improvements and can be involved with the design and delivery of projects. In the next year the project will focus on key GI network sites including Ham Woods and Kinterbury Creek. More detail on the project can be found at www.plymouth.gov.uk/steppingstones

Local Access Forum Involvement in the GI Project

The GI project aims to encourage the increased use and appreciation of natural spaces and access to these sites is key to achieving this aim. There should therefore be close links between the GI project and the LAF particular as projects move into the delivery phase. The LAF has commented on the Saltram Countryside Park Masterplan and has been invited to become part of the stakeholder forum for the Park. As other projects progress it is hoped similar links can be established. If the LAF has other ideas on how to develop better links with the GI project we would be very interested in hearing them.

Kathryn Deeney

Plymouth Green Infrastructure Officer

Kathryn.deeney@naturalengland.org.uk

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BEST ACHIEVING
COUNCIL OF THE YEAR



TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK/HIGHWAYS

Ross Johnston
Plymouth Local Access Forum
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Plymouth Transport and Highways

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Plymouth PL1 2AA

T 01752 668000
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E ltip@plymouth.gov.uk
www.plymouth.gov.uk/highways

Please ask for: Sunita Mills

Date June 2 2011

My Ref LTP/consdata/let

Your Ref

Dear Mr Johnston

Plymouth's Third Local Transport Plan: Consultation Feedback

Thank you for taking the time to respond to the consultation for Plymouth's draft third Local Transport Plan on behalf of the Local Access Forum. The feedback we received has been helpful in shaping the final document which was adopted on April 11 2011.

We reviewed and considered all the comments and information received, and amendments were made to the plan where we felt there was a good case for change. The final Local Transport Plan and Implementation Plan (LTP3) are available to view at: www.plymouth.gov.uk/ltip2011-2026. A hard is available at local libraries across Plymouth and at First Stop Planning desk, Civic Centre.

In this letter we would like to take the opportunity to make specific responses to some of the points you raised. A record of all the issues, responses and changes made to LTP3 can be found on our website at: www.plymouth.gov.uk/ltip2011-2026consultation

The draft LTP3 included a commitment to formalise public rights of way as an ongoing programme of work, and this commitment has been further clarified in the final strategy. The Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan has been completed and is due to be published this summer.

The task of developing a network of primary routes for pedestrians is important and will be undertaken in order to inform implementation plans throughout the LTP3 period. It will enable our aspirations for pedestrians to be achieved, but is not the aspiration in itself.

We would disagree with your comment about the draft LTP3 being bereft of reference to walking – sustainable travel is a priority for the lifetime of the plan. Public rights of way are seen as part of the wider walking and cycling infrastructure and would not be referenced separately.

The LTP3 identifies the importance of encouraging sustainable tourism, and also makes reference to the Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan which covers an area that extends beyond the city's boundary.

Plymouth Transport and Highways is a partnership between Plymouth City Council and Amey

As we are not aware of evidence to suggest that people coming to Plymouth as a walking destination is of particular economic importance, the LTP does not detail this any further.

In your response you suggested that there should be a free number to ring or an email address to report problems with pedestrian footways. Plymouth Transport and Highways has an email address and telephone number which can be used to report defects and problems with pavements and footways.

Tel: 01752 668000 (24hrs)

Email: plymouth.watchment@amey.co.uk

You can also report highway problems online by visiting www.plymouth.gov.uk/highwaysform

We accept to your comment about the low levels of usage of Ivybridge rail park and ride. However, we understand that this is due to the limited number of services that connect to Plymouth during the peak travel periods, rather than because the platform length is inadequate.

The poor gateway to the city that Bretonside provides is a well known concern to the public and the Council. However, significant investment in Bretonside is unlikely to occur, while uncertainty remains about the future use of the site. That said, the bus station has recently been repainted in bright colours, which has improved its appearance considerably.

We believe the LTP3 fully recognises the many impacts of noise pollution, and sets out a clear intention to identify and address noise pollution problems arising from transport in the city. Speed limits on the Parkway are within the remit of the Highways Agency rather than Plymouth City Council. However, we will work with the Highways Agency to understand if there are measures that could be implemented to reduce the disturbance from noise.

We would once again like to extend our thanks to the LAF for their contribution to the consultation process.

Yours faithfully

Sunita Mills
Transport Strategy and Spatial Development Controller
Plymouth Transport and Highways

BEST ACHIEVING
COUNCIL OF THE YEAR



Mr R Johnston
Secretary to Plymouth Local Access Forum
Floor 1, Civic Centre
Plymouth
PLI 2AA

Finance, Assets and Efficiencies
Department for Corporate Support

Plymouth City Council
Civic Centre
Plymouth PLI 2AA

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www.plymouth.gov.uk

Please ask for: Ian Gillhespy

Date 13 July

My Ref IG011et

Your Ref

Dear Mr Johnston

Re: Notices of Statutory Land Transfer for Ridgeway School and Coombe Dean School

Thank you for your letter of 13 April following the Plymouth Local Access Forum Members meeting of 28 March 2011. I respond to the formal advice as follows.

Ridgeway School

The Council proposes to exclude the public right of way from the lease to be granted to the Ridgeway Academy Trust.

Coombe Dean School

As a minimum the Council will follow proposal 2 in that the footpath will remain as a permissive footpath and be excluded from the lease with Coombe Dean Academy Trust.

Discussions are ongoing in relation to the adoption and dedication of the Coombe Dean School footpath as a public right of way.

I trust this response is sufficient for the Forum.

Yours sincerely

Ian Gillhespy
Senior Valuation Surveyor (Corporate)
Corporate Property

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PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

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30 June 2011

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 has been made aware of ongoing difficulties in boat owners launching and recovering boats and other water craft in the Mount Batten Area. One of the two public slips serving the peninsula had not been cleaned for some months and was seaweed covered, dangerous and a safety hazard and was the direct cause of injuries to at least one individual. We understand that the failure to clean the slip was through an oversight by the PCC Cleansing Department. They have been made aware of the problem and are addressing it. Incomprehensibly, having been told of the problem by the PCC official responsible for slipways, they initially deemed the slip to be acceptable and chose not to clean it. The official had already deemed it dangerous and closed it on 16th May pending cleaning.

Difficulties have been reported with other Plymouth public slips and it is important that these are cleaned regularly, to match the seasonal prolific weed growth and at the appropriate times to match low water springs when the slips are exposed.

Following these reports, a member of the LAF investigated what information was available on-line relating to access to the seas around Plymouth. He focussed on access from public slipways, pontoons and steps rather than from the many private marinas. On-line access is a prime source of information to most visitors. There is a web page relating to public access to the sea and rivers within the boundaries of Plymouth. It can be viewed at:

<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/leisureandtourism/maritimeservices/landingstagesandslipways.htm>

At first glance, it appears to be clear and concise, albeit lacking in substance. There are good links to Google maps where Plymouth slips and pontoons are identified on the map. However he found major errors and omissions in its content. It is out of date, incomplete and lacking in useful information. It could of course be a reason why Cleansing Department did not clean one of the Mount Batten public slips as that slip is not identified as a slip on the linking Google map. It is important to note that Mount

Batten Peninsula is now by far the most popular area for visiting boat owners to access the seas around Plymouth.

It is widely acknowledged that the Waterfront is Plymouth's Unique Selling Point and this year much play is being made of the America's Cup using Plymouth in September for one of the heats for this prestigious event. It is likely that there will be an influx of visitors, with many boat users amongst them. To find the information on access to the sea provided to the public, via the PCC web site, so lacking in accuracy and content is inexcusable and in the opinion of the LAF should be corrected, improved and updated as a matter of urgency..

Rather than simply criticise the lack of content, that obviously needs correcting immediately, members of the LAF, who are experienced long time users of the Plymouth slipways, are willing to assist and work with PCC officials and other maritime agencies in updating the web page. The intention would be initially to correct the errors and omissions as soon as possible and in the longer term to provide an online resource that will give useful information of the attributes of the main public slips and other access points available to the public.

We have a Unique Selling Point with Plymouth Sound its harbours and rivers, PCC must make sure that it is marketed in an effective way.

Yours Sincerely,

Ross Johnston
Secretary to Plymouth Local Access Forum



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23 August 2011

Mr Paul Barnard
Planning Department
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PL1 2AA

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 Barnard,

I am writing on behalf of the Plymouth Local Access Forum.

For sometime we have been struggling to get a forward grip on planning issues. All too often, I'm afraid, we are able only to react to published planning requests.

The forum feel it would be most beneficial were we able to be more pro-active. (With much building works in progress many convenient paths are disappearing, including some cycle ways). We would like to discuss our role in helping to preserve open spaces, footpaths and public rights of way for Plymouth.

We have many questions we would like to ask of the planners, but more specifically, how can we get involved as a statutory Committee and especially in relation to the proposed changes to the planning process.

We understand some of the complexities of process but would be obliged if a member of the Planning Directorate would liaise with us and come and talk at one of our regular meetings.

Yours Sincerely

Mr. Ian Stewart
Vice-Chair of the Plymouth Local Access Forum

cc. Anthony Payne, Director for Development and Regeneration

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