



**PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS
FORUM**

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1 December 2011

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

PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

DATE: MONDAY 12 DECEMBER 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, Cllr Churchill, Mr Curno, Mr Emery, Cllr Foster, Mr Goddard, Ms Hitchens,
Mr Pawley, Mr Roberts, Mr Rodgers, Mr Skinner, Mrs Stephens and Cllr 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.

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 - 6)

The Forum will be asked to confirm the minutes of the 12 September 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 7 - 10)

To monitor progress on previous resolutions.

6. NATURAL ENGLAND UPDATE

The Forum will receive an update on Natural England from Dot Isgrove, Regional Co-ordinator.

7. RIDGEWAY SCHOOL EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER

To receive a verbal update on the Ridgeway School Extinguishment Order from the Public Rights of Way Officer.

8. WHITLEIGH: SAFER AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL PROJECT UPDATE (Pages 11 - 22)

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

9. LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIPS (Pages 23 - 26)

To receive an update on Local Nature Partnerships.

10. RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN FUNDING (Pages 27 - 28)

The Forum will receive an update from the Public Rights of Way Officer on Rights of Way Improvement Plan funding.

11. PUBLIC SLIPWAYS UPDATE

The Forum will receive a verbal update on public slipways.

12. SOUTH WEST COAST PATH UPDATE (Pages 29 - 30)

The Forum will receive an update on the South West Coast Path.

13. PLANNING CONSULTATION - BARRIER BUSTING

To respond to the following consultation

<http://plymouth-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/planning/survey/barrier>.

14. HUDDLE (Pages 31 - 36)

To discuss Huddle and agree a Huddle Champion.

15. ANNUAL REPORTING 2011 - 2012 (Pages 37 - 40)

The Forum will discuss the new mechanism for annual reporting 2011 – 2012.

16. WORKING GROUPS

To agree any working groups for items on this agenda.

(a.) PLYM VALLEY CYCLE TRAIL WORKING GROUP

17. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 41 - 42)

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

18. CORRESPONDENCE (Pages 43 - 44)

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

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 10:30am on 12 March 2012 at the Council House, Armada Way, Plymouth.

20. ISSUES ARISING FROM FORUM MEMBERS

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

Plymouth Local Access Forum

Monday 12 September 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 Skinner and Councillor Wheeler.

Apologies for absence: Mr Curno, Mr Pawley, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Rodgers and Mrs Stephens.

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 1.35 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.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Name	Subject	Reason	Interest
Councillor Churchill	Chair's Urgent Business – Plym Valley Cycle Trail (minute 20 refers)	Member of Planning Committee	Personal
Councillor Wheeler	Chair's Urgent Business – Plym Valley Cycle Trail (minute 20 refers)	Member of Planning Committee	Personal

19. MINUTES

Agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2011 are approved.

20. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

Plym Valley Cycle Trail

Ray Fairchild, Chair of the LAF informed members that the National Trust had recently made an application to the Planning Authority for a Plym Valley Cycle Trail. It was commented by members that –

- (a) in principle the idea of a cycle trail was supported, however, Forum

members were concerned about the proposed location due to issues about car parking and current users;

- (b) the application demonstrated that the National Trust was becoming more receptive to the needs of the wider public audience, which was encouraging;
- (c) consultation on the cycle trail had been minimal and as such the Forum felt that the consultation deadline on the planning application should be extended.

Agreed that –

- (1) Ian Stewart, Vice-Chair would draft a letter to the Planning department in response to the Plym Valley Cycle Trail planning consultation deadline asking for the deadline to be extended for the Forum to make comments following a site visit;
- (2) the LAF Secretary would seek to organise a working group on the Plym Valley Cycle Trail by 23 September 2011 and invite all Forum members to attend;
- (3) a copy of John Emery's email on the Plym Valley Cycle Trail be emailed to all Forum Members.

21. **TRACKING RESOLUTIONS**

Members noted their tracking resolutions.

22. **REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Agreed the terms of reference is approved.

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

The Forum considered the 2010-2011 draft annual report and commented that it was pleasing to see statistics on public rights of way being included in the annual report at section 4.10, however, the statistics recorded could be improved to make them clearer and more comparable.

Agreed that –

- (1) the PROW Officer would write a statement to be included under the statistics at 4.10 informing the reader as legal process in progress;
- (2) subject to (1) being complete the 2010 - 2011 annual report is approved for publication.

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

Members noted the report.

Agreed to invite Rosie Dale, Major Schemes Officer to attend the Forum's next meeting on 12 December 2011 to provide an update on the Whitleigh: Safer and Sustainable Travel project.

25. **STEPPING STONES TO NATURE PROJECT UPDATE**

Zoe Goss, Project Coordinator provided an update about the Stepping Stones to Nature Project in Plymouth and informed members that –

- (a) the project, which was close to concluding its second year of a four year project, had achieved excellent progress in engaging people positively in using green space;
- (b) as part of positively engaging people in using green space the project had coordinated events at a number of green spaces across the city including –
 - Woodland wood;
 - Ham woods;
 - Southway Valley LNR;
 - Efford Valley;
 - Forder Valley;
- (c) the project had delivered a number of capital improvements within woodlands to provide visible physical improvements which had encouraged increased participation;
- (d) the project had delivered many successes in its first two years and would continue to strive forward in years three and four developing on the already successful improvements to improving access to woodlands and information and by building confidence of people using green spaces.

Agreed to distribute to all Forum members the Stepping Stones to Nature Project Annual Report for year two.

26. **PLYMOUTH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

Members received a report on the Plymouth Green Infrastructure Project.

Agreed that –

- (1) the LAF Secretary would seek to find out how many Forum members could be nominated to sit on the Saltram Countryside Park Stakeholder Forum. Subject to three members being allowed the Forum nominated Ray Fairchild, Chair, Ian Stewart, Vice-Chair and John Skinner;
- (2) a list of Forum Members nominated to sit out on other bodies be provided at a future meeting.

27. **NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION**

Forum members received a consultation request on the National Planning Policy Framework.

It was agreed not to respond to the consultation as a Forum but members were minded that they could respond to the consultation as individuals.

28. **RECRUITMENT TO THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY DEPARTMENT**

Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way (PROW) Officer provided members with an update on recruitment to the PROW department. Members were informed that –

- (a) the University of Plymouth were receptive to the idea of providing an intern to the PROW department;
- (b) due to a staff restructure and the implementation of the Accommodation Strategy the idea of recruiting an intern had been put on hold;
- (c) the intern employed would suitably be a student of geography or similar subject and be available for a year's work experience in order to assist with the backlog of footpaths awaiting to be added to the definitive map.

Forum members commented that they felt that recruiting an intern was intrinsic to the expediency of footpaths becoming defined as PROW.

Agreed that –

- (1) a letter be written by Ray Fairchild, Chair, in consultation with the LAF Secretary and PROW Officer, to the Chief Executive of Plymouth City Council identifying the need for the recruitment of a University Intern at the earliest opportunity;
- (2) an updated list of Forum members contact details be distributed to all members via email.

29. **WORKING GROUPS**

a) **RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN WORKING GROUP**

The Forum was informed that a recent working group undertook to look into the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) – work programme priorities and that the working group recommended that the ROWIP should spend the money from the Local Transport Plan on revising the South West Coast Path Walking Guide and improving historic trails in Plymouth.

The PROW Officer, who also attended the working group, gave an update on the recommendations made by the working group. Members were informed that –

- (a) the work on revising the South West Coast Path Walking Guide had been commissioned and that 10,000 books would be produced and be available free of charge to members of the public;
- (b) only one of the five historic footpaths would have been improved using the money allocated, however, subsequently more money had become available and now all five historic footpaths could be improved;
- (c) in order to improve all historic footpaths the PROW Officer needed to be aware of what improvements were required and requested for a volunteer to undertake the research.

Agreed that Ray Fairchild, Chair would walk two of the five historic paths in Plymouth and report back on what improvements are required to the PROW Officer.

30. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members noted their work programme and agreed that –

- (a) the following items be added to the work programme:
 - South West Coast Path update – 12 December 2011;
 - Public slipways update – 12 December 2011;
 - Eastern Corridor Development update – 12 December 2011;
 - MVV Umwelt Incinerator – 12 March 2012;
- (b) a site visit be organised within the next six weeks to look at three separate woodland sites that have had significant improvements made to them through the Stepping Stones to Nature project;
- (c) the recent Planning Authority consultation be included on the agenda

for the next Forum meeting and be emailed to all members for consideration.

31. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Forum noted their correspondence and agreed that in response to the letter received on 13 July 2011 from Ian Gillhespy, Senior Valuation Surveyor, he be invited to the next meeting of the Forum to provide an update on Statutory Land Transfers for Ridgeway School and Coombe Dean School.

32. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

33. **ISSUES ARISING FROM FORUM MEMBERS**

Following issues raised Members were provided with an update on the following –

- (a) Ridgeway School Extinguishment Order;
- (b) the Royal William Yard;
- (c) the South West Coast Path;
- (d) city wide signage for footpaths.

PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

TRACKING RESOLUTIONS

Date / Minute number	Resolution	Explanation / Minute	Action	Progress	Target date
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
12.09.11 Minute 20	Ian Stewart, Vice-Chair would draft a letter to the Planning department in response to the Plym Valley Cycle Trail planning consultation deadline asking for the deadline to be extended for the Forum to make comments following a site visit;	This was discussed during Chair's Urgent Business as part of the issue on the recent Planning Application for the Plym Valley Cycle Trail.	Ian Stewart	The letter was received by the Forum Secretary on 12 September 2011 and sent to Paul Barnard, Head of Planning, Anthony Payne, Director for Development and Regeneration and Adam Williams, Planning Case Officer.	13 September 2011
12.09.11 Minute 20	the LAF Secretary would seek to organise a working group on the Plym Valley Cycle Trail by 23 September 2011 and invite all Forum members to attend;	As above.	Ross Johnston	Working Group met on 23 September and reported findings to the Secretary in a letter which was sent to the Planning Department on 29 September 2011.	23 September 2011
12.09.11 Minute 20	a copy of John Emery's email on the Plym Valley Cycle Trail be emailed to all Forum Members.	As above.	Ross Johnston	Email sent to Forum members on 12 September 2011.	23 September 2011

12.09.11 Minute 23	the PROW Officer would write a statement to be included under the statistics at 4.10 informing the reader as to why no footpaths were recorded;	This was discussed following the review and discussion of the LAF Annual report 2010-2011.	Robin Pearce	A table and statement was added to the annual report.	End of September
12.09.11 Minute 23	subject to (1) being complete the 2010 - 2011 annual report is approved for publication.	This was discussed following the review and discussion of the LAF Annual report 2010-2011.	Ross Johnston	The Annual report was emailed to Natural England on 1 December 2011.	End of September
12.09.11 Minute 24	to invite Rosie Dale, Major Schemes Officer to attend the Forum's next meeting on 12 December 2011 to provide an update on the Whitleigh: Safer and Sustainable Travel project.	Members wished to have a further update on the Whitleigh: Safer and Sustainable Travel project following the next consultation.	Rosie Dale	Rosie Dale invited to attend and confirmed her attendance by email on 2 November 2011.	12 December 2011
12.09.11 Minute 25	to distribute to all Forum members the Stepping Stones to Nature Project Annual Report for year two.	Following the update provided by Zoe Goss on the Stepping Stones to Nature Project members wished to see the annual report from year 2.	Zoe Goss	Report emailed to all members on 29 September 2011.	End of September
12.09.11 Minute 26	the LAF Secretary would seek to find out how many Forum members could be nominated to sit on the Saltram Countryside Park Stakeholder Forum. Subject to three members being allowed the Forum	After reviewing the report on the Green Infrastructure Project members wished to nominate 3 LAF members to sit on the Saltram Countryside Park Stakeholder Forum.	Ross Johnston	Kat Deeney confirmed that the LAF could have three members and emailed Kat Deeney the three nominated LAF members to sit on the Saltram Countryside Park Stakeholder Forum on 29 September 2011.	End of September

	nominated Ray Fairchild, Chair, Ian Stewart, Vice-Chair and John Skinner.				
12.09.11 Minute 26	a list of Forum Members nominated to sit out on other bodies be provided at a future meeting.	John Emery raised that he wished to see a list of which members had been nominated by the LAF to sit on other bodies.	Ross Johnston	Members will receive this information at the meeting on 12 March 2012.	12 March 2011
12.09.11 Minute 28	a letter be written by Ray Fairchild, Chair, in consultation with the LAF Secretary and PROW Officer, to the Chief Executive of Plymouth City Council identifying the need for the recruitment of a University Intern at the earliest opportunity;	Following the update on recruitment to the PROW department members felt that they should write a formal letter stating the need to recruit to the department.	Ray Fairchild	Emailed request to Ray Fairchild on 22 November 2011.	End of September
12.09.11 Minute 28	an updated list of Forum members contact details be distributed to all members via email.	As there had been some recent changes to Forum membership it was requested to have an up to date contact list.	Ross Johnston	Sent to all members on 29 September 2011.	End of September
12.09.11 Minute 30	a site visit be organised within the next six weeks to look at three separate woodland sites that have had significant improvements made to them through the Stepping Stones to Nature project;	Members wished to see some recent improvements that happened within the city's green spaces.		Unable to identify a suitable date and will be discussed at the LAF meeting on 12 December 2011.	End of October

12.09.11 Minute 30	the recent Planning Authority consultation be included on the agenda for the next Forum meeting and be emailed to all members for consideration.	Members were informed about a consultation and wished to discuss it at a formal meeting.	Ross Johnston	A consultation link was emailed to all members on 24 October 2011 and added to the agenda under item 'Planning Consultation – Barrier Busting'.	12 December 2011
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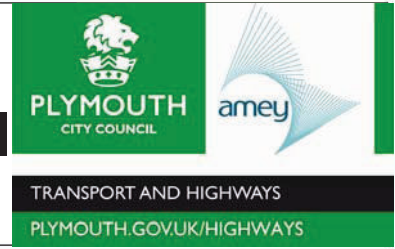
= Complete resolution



= Outstanding resolution

WHITLEIGH: SAFER AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL 2011

Consultation Report and Scheme Programme



CONTENTS PAGE

SECTION	PAGE NUMBER
Introduction	3
Summary of results	3
Methodology	4
Results	5
Proposed programme	8

Tables:-

TITLE	PAGE NUMBER
Table 3.1. Consultation undertaken in Whitleigh	4
Table 5.1: Proposed engineering programme for WHITLEIGH: Safer and Sustainable Travel	9
Table 5.2 Proposed behavioural change measures	11

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Whitleigh Safer and Sustainable Travel programme is intended to promote walking; cycling and bus travel in the local community on safer roads.

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 the Council is looking at piloting a new approach to road safety in the community. The programme looks at making improvements on an area wide level, rather than implementing smaller, isolated schemes and measures. The scheme also looks to minimize the amount of traditional road safety features, such as speed humps, in order to reduce street clutter and improve the urban environment.

In partnership with the Whitleigh community, Neighbourhood Regeneration Team, the Police, local schools and health teams, the Council would like to encourage more children to walk and cycle to school, improve bus satisfaction and make the roads safer for everyone.

The WHITLEIGH: Safer and Sustainable 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 as part of the City's third Local Transport Plan

(<http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage/transportandroads/policyandplanning/ltp/ltp2011-2026.htm>) subject to assessment of outcomes.

Historically 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. The Council 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.

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 reports on the consultation activities and sets out the proposed programme for the scheme.

As part of the initiative between March 2011 and May 2011 local residents were asked to share their views on road safety, speeding 'hot spots' and ways of helping more people to walk, cycle and travel by bus in the local area. The comments and ideas received have been used to develop a community-led programme of improvements. The programme will be delivered by Plymouth Transport and Highways, the partnership between Plymouth City Council and Amey LG.

2.0 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

To inform the forthcoming WHITLEIGH: Safer and Sustainable Travel Programme, a series of consultation activities were undertaken to understand what the residents of Whitleigh feel is needed to encourage greater use of sustainable transport and improve road safety in the local area. The consultation programme was supported by four audits of Whitleigh. The audits considered barriers and opportunities to road safety, walking, cycling and public transport in the local community.

The results show that:-

- Many residents in Whitleigh believe that reducing speed in the community is a good idea; although there is a desire amongst stakeholders and residents that Budshead Road remains a 30mph road with lower speed limits being introduced in the surrounding residential roads.
- There was some support for traditional speed reduction measures, such as speed cushions, whereas other people wanted some of the existing measures, i.e. chicanes, removed. Issues

with traditional traffic calming measures were also reported by stakeholders including local public transport providers.

- Overall the community is happy with cycling facilities in the area although it is felt that cycle storage could be improved on Whitleigh Green; this comment was echoed in the cycle audit.
- Some improvements are needed to encourage walking in the local area and there is support for the introduction of some formal pedestrian crossings, especially between the doctor's surgery and Whitleigh Green and near some of the schools.
- The majority of residents believe that the bus stops are in the right locations. However, there is a mixed opinion about whether the information provided by the bus operators is appropriate.
- A number of residents suggested making some or all of the roads in Whitleigh, including Lancaster Gardens, one way.
- Parking problems were a common theme in the consultation responses with a lack of parking in some areas and inappropriate parking in other areas often being reported.
- There is a need to look at potholes and pavements in some areas

3.0 METHODOLOGY

Between February 2011 and July 2011 the Council engaged in a number of activities to understand barriers and opportunities to safe and sustainable travel in Whitleigh. The activities included: a walking¹, cycling, public transport and road safety audit as well as public engagement and consultation events as detailed in table 3.1. For members of the public unable to attend consultation sessions participation in WHITLEIGH: Safer and Sustainable Travel was possible by; downloading a consultation leaflet and dropping it off at one of three deposit points, emailing the Council's Public Transport Team or reporting an issue through 'Plymouth on a map.'

Table 3.1. Consultation undertaken in Whitleigh

Consultation Activity	Dates
Woodfield Primary School Playground Surgery	15 March 2011
Whitleigh Primary School Playground Surgery	17 March 2011
Whitleigh Green	16 March 2011
Whitleigh Neighbourhood Meeting	23 March 2011 and 20 July 2011
Whitleigh Green Fitness Festival	7 April 2011
Leaflet consultation	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, the Albemarle pub, local businesses/ facilities and online. Some house to house leaflet drops were also made in the Whitleigh area.

¹ The walking audit was undertaken by members of the Plymouth Local Access Forum

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Leaflet Consultation

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

4.1.1 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”.

4.1.2 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 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 2 respondents saying that a map would encourage them to walk more, but 5 respondents saying that it would not.

4.1.3 Cycling

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

2 people answered this question. One person felt that more local cycling facilities were needed. A second person commented that marked areas for cycling were needed.

4.1.4 Public transport

Qu. Are the bus stops in the right place?

One person answered this question. They were happy that the bus stops were in the right places.

A survey was carried out by Plymouth Citybus in conjunction with Council 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, I answered yes, and I answered no. It remains unclear, therefore, as to whether the bus companies provide understandable information in the area or not.

4.1.5 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 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
- [A] crossing patrol for Woodfield Primary School [is needed]
- 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 lay-by [at Whitleigh Green] to allow you to see the road when leaving the shops and if you cannot do the lay-by then make [the] road out of the Green [Trowbridge Close] the way in and one way
- Make [Shrewsbury Road] one way

4.2 Other consultation events

During the consultation period Council Officers spoke to residents and Members about the proposed scheme and collated their comments. A summary of the community feedback is included below:

- There is a need for pedestrian crossings, especially near community facilities.
- 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 bus stops are thought to be in the wrong location due to their proximity to junctions.
- 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.

4.3 Cycle audit

The cycle audit for Whitleigh considered the barriers and opportunities for cycling in Whitleigh and measures which could be introduced, both physical and behavioural, to overcome the barriers and maximise the opportunities for cycling to and from five trip attractors in the local area (the four schools and Whitleigh Green).

The recommendations of the report are:-

- Concentrate [on] encouraging a modal shift towards more walking and public transport use within Whitleigh - Prevailing road conditions and steep gradients throughout the area are why opportunities for cycling in Whitleigh are thought to be limited.
- Convert Whitleigh Way to shared use. This will require revisions to the connection with Crownhill Road.
- Provide a suitable controlled crossing point where Whitleigh Road meets Crownhill Road
- Introduce on-carriageway measures for cyclists along Budshead Road eastwards from its junction with Tamerton Foliot Road to link with the off-carriageway routes on Tavistock Road
- Consider introducing a cycle audit process for all planning applications that require a change to the highway. Provide suitable training if necessary
- Consider promoting active recreation for the local community by the creation of mountain bike tracks.

4.4 Walking audit

The Local Access Forum undertook a walking audit of Whitleigh. The audit reviewed the practicality of walking in the local community, official Rights of Way in the area (drawing on the review of the 1988 Ramblers' Map) and possible leisure routes to complement the walking group delivered by the NHS as part of the *Walking for health project*.

(<http://www.wfh.naturalengland.org.uk/>).

The audit identified that:-

- Some of the alleyways and pathways need more frequent maintenance and better lighting to make walking more attractive in Whitleigh.
- There are potential leisure routes in and around Whitleigh, many of which have wayfinders marking the path but which may need more local publicity. Additional leisure routes have also been identified.
- A number of Public Rights of Way have already been registered. However, further potential routes have been identified.

4.4 Public transport audit

The public transport audit reviewed all the bus stops in the Whitleigh locality and considered the infrastructure and information available at each stop. The key findings of the public transport audit were:-

- A number of bus stops could benefit from hard-standings and bus borders. These measures would improve the waiting environment of the stops, bus passengers currently have to stand

on the grass when waiting for a bus, and increase the accessibility of public transport for people with restricted mobility and / or pushchairs.

- Information at the bus stops was not always available
- Parked cars in some areas make it difficult for buses to access bus stops.

5.0 PROPOSED PROGRAMME

WHITLEIGH: Safer and Sustainable Travel is intended to; improve road safety, encourage and enable greater levels of walking, cycling and bus use amongst Whitleigh residents and improve the quality of life of the community.

Using the feedback from members of the public and key stakeholders a programme has been developed which will reduce average traffic speeds, make it easier and safer for people to cross the road and encourage people to travel sustainably to and from Whitleigh. Table 5.1 summarise the key engineering components of the programme, all of which will be delivered by March 2012. However, WHITLEIGH: Safer and Sustainable Travel embodies a move away from traditional engineering and a move towards a holistic programme combining both engineering and behavioural change measures; the latter elements of the scheme is described in table 5.2 . The scheme is focussed on the northern part of the Whitleigh in recognition of the extensive traffic calming which has already been introduced to the south of Budshead Road. This decision has been made in order to maximise the funding available and ensure that all of the Whitleigh community can enjoy safer and sustainable travel.

Table 5.1: Proposed engineering programme for WHITLEIGH: Safer and Sustainable Travel

SCHEME		DELIVERABLES				
Title	Description	Walking	Cycling	Public Transport	Road Safety	
Budshead Road – lay-by modification	Removal of the lay-by which borders Whiteleigh Green.	Y – Improving visibility along Budshead Road, through the removal of the lay-by will make it safer for pedestrians to cross the road using the two existing traffic islands	Y- Removal of the lay-by will remove the conflict between cyclists on the highway and vehicles using the lay-by.	Nil- The removal of the lay-by will have no impact on buses.	Y – The removal of lay-by on Budshead Road will improve visibility for traffic exiting Whiteleigh Green. At present vehicles parked in the lay-by create a hazard for vehicles exiting the Whiteleigh Green car park.	
Targeted bus build outs	Introduction of a number of built out kerbs at popular bus stops on Taunton Avenue.	Y- The bus build outs will narrow the road in certain locations reducing the distance pedestrians have to cross from one side of the road to the other.	N – Bus build outs will create a ‘pinch point’ in the road which means that the gap between cyclists and cars will be reduced at certain points. However, the number of build outs will be limited and cars should not overtake cyclists in these areas.	Y – Bus build outs will overcome the problem of buses not being able to access bus stops due to parked cars.	Y- When buses are stopped at the build outs they will act as mobile traffic calming effectively reducing traffic speeds on Taunton Avenue, an area of particular concern to local residents. Reducing the width of the road will also improve pedestrian safety and by targeting high demand bus stops the pedestrian crossing improvements will be delivered in areas where people want to cross the road.	
Gateway treatments designed to reduce the ambient traffic speed in Whiteleigh	Introduction of gateway signage – similar to ‘Welcome to our village’ signs on Budshead Rd to advise motorists that they are travelling into a local community and	Y – The gateway signs will change the look and feel of Whiteleigh and will encourage through and local traffic to slow down when travelling in Whiteleigh	Y – Cyclists will benefit from the lower ambient road speeds and it is envisaged that more people will feel safe enough to cycle. The scheme also benefits from	Nil – The gateway treatments will not impede bus services.	Y - Reducing traffic speeds will reduce both the likelihood and severity of any traffic collisions should they occur.	

SCHEME		DELIVERABLES				
Title	Description	Walking	Cycling	Public Transport	Road Safety	
	physical gateways (incorporating features such as vegetation, kerb realignments and 20 mph roundels on the road) on each of the northern spurs coming off Budshead Road.		minimal changes to the highway; traditional calming can disadvantage cyclists through creating carriageway pinch points.			
School crossing improvements outside Woodfield Primary School	The scheme will introduce a build out at the entrance to Woodfield School.	Y –The proposed build out will narrow the carriageway outside the school making it easier and safer for children and their families to cross the road.	N – Bus build outs will create a ‘pinch point’ in the road which means that the gap between cyclists and cars will be reduced at certain points. However, the number of build outs will be limited and cars should not overtake cyclists in these areas.	Nil- The build out will not impede bus services.	Y – At the start and end of the school day inappropriate parking alongside high pedestrian footfall makes the area outside the primary school a conflict site between motorists and children; a situation which has been exacerbated through the long term absence of a school crossing patrol. The proposed build out will narrow the carriageway outside the school making it easier and safer for children and their families to cross the road.	
Gateway improvements on Lancaster Gardens	‘School Keep Clear’ markings will be introduced on Lancaster Gardens outside the main entrances to the Wood View Learning Campus	Y- Improving the visibility at the Campus entrance will make it easier for children and their families to cross the road.	Y- Improving the visibility at the Campus entrance will make it safer for children on bikes to enter and leave the site.	Nil- no service buses operate via Lancaster Gardens.	Y- Through removing parked cars from the vicinity of the school gate visibility will be improved thereby improving road safety	

Table 5.2 Proposed behavioural change measures

Theme	Measures to be introduced / undertaken
Reducing road speeds in Whiteleigh and making sure that the lower speeds are adhered to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We will explore the introduction of Community Speed Watch in Whiteleigh in partnership with the local community and Devon and Cornwall Police. ▪ We will change the look and feel of roads in Whiteleigh so all road users know they are entering a residential area where '20's plenty' ▪ Mobile traffic calming will be introduced through the use of bus build outs
Encouraging greater levels of walking and cycling in the local area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promotion of leisure based walking routes in Whiteleigh via the web, community centres, Walking Group and better signage. ▪ Expansion of the Public Rights of Way in Whiteleigh. A number of potential walking routes have been identified in Whiteleigh by the walking audit. As part of the LoveLIFE (www.heraldlovelife.co.uk) initiative we will look to register and promote some of these routes as PRoW. ▪ Promotion of the new sustainable transport map and cycling map for Plymouth ▪ Provision of cycle stands at Whiteleigh Green ▪ Promotion of adult and child cycle training
Enabling greater bus use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upgrading and consolidating information at bus stops through partnership working with local bus companies

The effectiveness of WHITLEIGH: Safer and Sustainable Travel in: improving safety, encouraging sustainable travel, improving the urban environment, encouraging healthy lifestyles and improving 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 will be assessed following the completion of the scheme.

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Local Nature Partnership Capacity Building

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Plymouth Green Infrastructure (GI) Partnership hosted by Plymouth City Council has recently been awarded funds from DEFRA to develop consensus on environmental priorities among key stakeholders in the sub-region with a view to developing a [Local Nature Partnership](#) (LNP). Funding is provided up to the point at which any LNP becomes a reality through applying for formal recognition by central government in summer 2012. This forms part of a suite of proposals launched in June 2011 in the [Natural Environment White Paper](#).
- 1.2 The overall purpose of LNPs is to bring a diverse range of individuals, businesses and organisations together to work in a strategic way to create a vision and plan of action of how the natural environment can be taken into account in decision making at a local level.
- 1.3 DEFRA's vision for LNPs is that they will demonstrate leadership and raise awareness about the vital services and benefits which a healthy natural environment brings for people, communities and the local economy. Whilst Plymouth already has several successful environmental partnerships, the LNP philosophy is to broadcast the range of benefits that the natural environment provides into sectors not traditionally engaged by the environmental sector such as social services, health, business, the political sphere, the media and local communities. Plymouth City Council's Planning Services are clear that experience from existing environmental partnerships repeatedly demonstrates 'win-wins' that can result from closer collaboration between these sectors.
- 1.4 The task is therefore to bring together a wide range of stakeholders and determine the priorities and delivery mechanisms for a successful LNP. The Plymouth GI Partnership invites quotes from selected consultants to facilitate the engagement work that will be a major component in the development of the LNP. The work will have the aim of bringing together a broad range of sectors and build consensus around a more integrated and cross-cutting approach to delivering environmental benefits. Subject to the process herein, we will apply for formal recognition as a LNP by central government in summer 2012 and set up a partnership.

2. Key Tasks

- 2.1 The scope of work for the consultants is to design and deliver an iterative participatory dialogue that will enable the formation of a LNP with clearly defined objectives.
- 2.2 The consultation process must include the following steps:
 - Explore the need for creating a LNP in the Plymouth sub-region. This should include an investigation of the value of existing partnerships and determine the value of a new structure.
 - Build consensus on the 'win-wins'; projects and activities that could result from closer collaboration amongst environmental stakeholders and stakeholders beyond the environmental sector in the sub-region. Win-wins could include sharing of data/resources/funds, joint planning and delivery of environmental initiatives, promotional campaigns, joint funding

applications and institutional change. Whilst there must be a clear economic rationale that demonstrates value for money, this is not a cost saving exercise

- Build cross-sectoral consensus and sign-off on a Collaboration Plan which will provide an evidence base for the Plymouth Core Strategy Review scheduled for 2012
- Establish a clear formal relationship between the proposed LNP and both the proposed Plymouth Growth Board and the Plymouth Health and Well Being Board

2.3 The Collaboration Plan should detail clear and agreed:

- 'win-wins'
- mechanisms for governance in order to put the environment at the heart of Plymouth's growth agenda
- mechanisms to ensure a self-sustaining and financially solvent partnership
- communication to broadcast the 'win-wins' and ensure partnership can share learning with other partnerships looking to become LNPs

2.4 In building consensus towards an LNP, the consultants will be expected to:

- Budget for liaising with the Working Group (see section 4.1) to ensure that there is full discussion of the emerging proposals, and build in capacity to respond to any changes arising from such discussions
- Liaise with a wide range of stakeholders including statutory agencies, local authorities, the private sector, health, community organisations and charities (refer to Appendix for a list of stakeholders already identified).

3. Project Outputs

The consultant will be required to deliver the following outputs:

- A series of workshops with stakeholders among the environmental sector and beyond to establish opportunities for win-wins, value for money and innovative solutions to affect institutional change, collaboration and environmental planning and delivery
- A Collaboration Plan including governance, funding, administration and a communication plan. The Collaboration Plan must be developed with, and agreed by all key stakeholders within the Plymouth sub-region and should identify clear mechanisms to establish and maintain an LNP through a combination of cash and in kind contributions.
- Interim and final reports documenting the processes that stakeholders have been lead through, summarising the discussions held and learning outcomes.

5. Timetable

5.1 DEFRA have imposed very tight timescales for this project. The timetable below reflects this but we are willing to be as flexible as we can if the proposed activities and timescales seem unachievable. It is expected that the tender submission will provide more detail on the proposed timescales for gaining consensus and developing a Collaboration Plan including as a

minimum when draft reports will be submitted to the group, and when stakeholder consultation will take place.

- Return date for tender documents 9th November 2011
- Consultant Interviews w/b 14th November 2011
- Appointment of Consultant w/b 21st November 2011
- Consultant briefing meeting w/b 21st November 2011
- Engagement Strategy 15th December 2011
- Workshops and interim report 9th March 2012
- Collaboration Plan sign-off 30th March 2012
- Submission of Final report 11th May 2012

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PLAF BRIEFING NOTE

12 December 2011 – ROWIP Funding



1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides the Forum with an update on matters relating to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan Funding following on from the recommendations of the ROWIP working group. The working group identified two priorities those being the revision of the South West Coast Path booklet and formalisation of the 5 Historic Plymouth Trails.
- 1.2 The initial revenue investment of £10,000 has been increased to £17,000 in recognition of the deliverability and coherence of the business plans submitted. A further bid for additional funding has been submitted presenting two options to bring forward an additional 5 Plymouth Historic Trails on top of the original 5 walks.

2. South West Coast Path Republication

- 2.1 Fuel Communications LTD have been asked to work on the design and print aspects of the republication. 10,000 copies have already been paid for to take advantage of lower than average paper costs against an expected rise towards the end of the year. Design work is currently underway.
- 2.2 Consultation with key stakeholders is underway requesting suggestions as to changes that should be made. We are also in discussions with a local historian with a view to securing his input into improving and revising the local history aspects of the booklet.
- 2.3 Timescale as they stand today are consultation deadlines ending on 15 December, design works completed in January 2012 with publication February 2012 and launch March 2012.

3. Plymouth Historic Trails

- 3.1 The copyright holder for the 5 existing walks (The Hoe, The Barbican, Old Plymouth, City Centre and Coxside) has agreed to allow us access to the text and artwork used in the existing leaflets so that they can be redesigned internally into the corporate format so they can be placed on the PCC website. He has also been commissioned to design new higher quality bespoke mapping for inclusion within the leaflets. All the artwork for and locations of the original interpretation panels have also been purchased. It is hoped that the design work for the leaflets will take place in November/December 2011.

- 3.2 The next steps however depend largely on internal funding arrangements. The current plan is to stall the purchase and installation on the interpretation panels in favour of commissioning the research and design for an additional 5 walking routes (Stonehouse, Devonport, Plympton St Maurice, Plymstock Radford and Mount Batten). Next years ROWIP funding can then be used to cover the capital works for all ten trails. However a bid has been submitted for an additional £16,000 to bring that work forward to the 2011/12 financial year which if successful would allow all leaflets and interpretation panels for all 10 trails to be completed this financial year. This would tie in well with the Heralds' Love Life campaign which the council are keen to support. The Forum will be updated on the success of the application.

4. ROWIP Working Group

- 4.1 The ROWIP Working Group had indicated they planned to meet after the September meeting to agree priorities for subsequent years. As no further recommendations were received from the group the ROWIP funding for the 2012/13 financial year has been allocated towards the Plymouth Historic Trails project.
- 4.2 However if the additional funding discussed above is secured the 2012/13 ROWIP funding will become available and we would be receptive to suggestions for priorities for spend within the agreed ROWIP statement of actions. No allocation has yet been made for the 2013/14 financial year although the working group are invited to make recommendations if they wish to have an input bearing in mind that we aim to plan at least two years ahead. The working group may also be interested to know that there are still numerous funding streams that can be tapped into and the more projects that can be planned out the more likely it is that the money can be secured. The PLAF is well placed to advise officers on where it should be prioritising spend if it wishes to do so.

PLAF BRIEFING NOTE

12 December 2011 – SWCP Update



1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides the Forum with a general update on matters relating to the South West Coast Path as requested.

2. Jennycliff Closure

- 2.1 Funding for the works has now been approved by the Council's Capital Programme Board and Frederick Sherrell were awarded the development of detailed design drawings and a detailed spec for the stabilisation preferred option which was completed at the end of August. Can LTD have since been awarded the tender for the engineering works. We now only need to report the outcome of the tender process to the Capital Programme Board after which works can start. The next meeting of the Capital Programme board is the 4 December 2011. In the meantime Can LTD are in the process of agreeing a traffic management plan with Amey LG Ltd to close 1 lane of Staddon Road and applying for the required licenses to use part of the Jennycliff car park as site storage. The actual works are planned to commence early in the new year.

3. Royal William Yard

- 3.1 Plymouth City Council has now acquired the freehold interest in the site and has given consent for the South West Coast Path to be re-routed through the yard.
- 3.2 Urban Splash (lessee) has put the work for installing the steps out to tender so as to understand the total cost of the works required.
- 3.3 This now places the success of the project with the Friends of Devil Point Park (FODPP) who are in the process of submitting bids to various funding streams to secure the money needed. The South West Coast Path team have already secured 50% of the required funding – the success of the project now depends on whether or not FODPP can secure the remainder of the money.

4. Breakwater Road

- 4.1 The signage is now installed

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What is Huddle?

Huddle is an online network that allows users to connect, share and work together easily.

It is already used by a wide variety of organisations; from big companies such as Boots and Kia Cars, to local government such as Cheltenham Borough Council and charities including Plymouth Mind.

LAFs and Huddle

A workspace has been created on Huddle specifically for LAFs. This is an area for you to upload useful documents, start discussions with other LAFs, share information and best practice ideas. It allows you to work with others when a face to face meeting is not possible. You can make links with other LAFs that may have similar interests and priorities to yours but are the other side of the country!

The screenshot shows the Huddle workspace interface for 'NE - Local Access Forum'. The user is logged in as 'Jenny Parsons'. The interface includes a navigation menu with tabs for Overview, Whiteboards, Tasks, Discussions, Files, and People. The main content area is titled 'Workspace Overview' and contains a welcome message, instructions on how to use the workspace, and a calendar view. The calendar shows a 'HertsLAF Public Meeting' on Tuesday, September 20th. Below the calendar is a 'What's New' section with a table of recent items.

Workspace Overview

Welcome to the LAF workspace on Huddle.

This is an area where you can share information, good practice or ask advice on an issue facing your group.

There is an introductory video available to watch, it is only 17 minutes long and a great introduction to Huddle. You can access it [here](#).

Whiteboards can be created and edited by anyone and can be used similarly to an office notice board, as a place to gather and share information, web links, images and even links to files stored in Huddle.

The Files tab is where you would go to browse the online library of documents or to upload a new file. For step by step guides please see the [Training Whiteboard](#).

The calendar below displays upcoming meetings and events that might be of interest to you and your LAF, to add something to the calendar you will need to use the Tasks tab at the top of the screen – full instructions on the [Training Whiteboard](#).

My Calendar [Cal feed](#)

2 Week [view](#) [Today](#) [<](#) [>](#)

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
September 19	20 HertsLAF Public Meeting	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	October 1	2

What's New [RSS](#) [Show 10 items](#)

Title	Added By	Date Added
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Huddle is absolutely free for LAFs to use, there will be no cost incurred to LAFs or local authorities for the use of Huddle.

It is a really simple tool to use and full training will be provided to all who are interested in using it. Training will be provided by regional coordinators and ongoing support will be available from Natural England.

Huddle can be accessed from anywhere, all you need is a connection to the internet.

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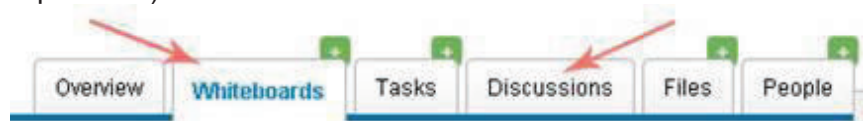
What can Huddle do for you?

The User Friendly Network site for Local Access Forums

Direct Contact with the Defra Minister Richard Benyon – the Minister has committed to hosting discussion events through Huddle so you can put your questions directly to him.

Links with other Forums – you can invite specific LAFs to join your discussion or see a whiteboard (this is a notice board where you can post links to interesting articles or information). This means you have a wider network than just your Region. Coastal LAFs can make links, Urban or Upland LAFs can establish their own groups to share similar issues. The possibilities are endless.

Advice - use the Discussion or Whiteboard Tabs to pose questions. Your answer may come from DEFRA, Natural England, a local authority or another LAF. Use the People Tab to find an expert to ask (each person who is registered on Huddle has a 'profile' in which they can let others know their skills and experience).



Collaborative working – use the File Tab to work on a document together, get the support of other LAFs to hone your work. Want to make a joint response with several LAFs then use the File Tab to work together.

Mentoring – need a bit of extra support with a tricky response, ask a LAF who has dealt with a similar issue to support you.

Keep up to date with new advice, guidance, legislation – use the Whiteboard Tab to post any information which you feel would be relevant and share it with other LAFs

Create an online central library - Upload your documents and presentations to the File Tab and create a central library of specialised information.

Access to information – save time by not reinventing the wheel – where you have a problem or situation, you can search for documents and read how other people have tackled a similar issue. Providing you with the opportunity to search, read, adapt and apply the knowledge to your own situation.

Check what's new – Check out the 'What's new' section for the latest discussions and file updates. We will be setting protocols to ensure that you only get alerted to things that may interest you so you shouldn't get unwanted automated emails.

Convenient – reduce your travelling needs as you can do all these amazing things from the comfort of your own home.

Reviewed and improved – Natural England will be monitoring its use and we have put together a small group of people including LAF members, Regional Coordinators and internal staff to listen to your feedback and make sure that it fulfils your needs.

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Role description for Huddle Champion

Huddle is a great way for LAFs to communicate with each other, with Natural England and with DEFRA.

Natural England will use Huddle to pass on information to LAFs such as consultations or potential funding streams that we become aware of.

Natural England currently has two workspace champions – Jenny Parsons and Rob Leek – for the LAF workspace, who will regularly check Huddle and respond where necessary or pass on information to colleagues.

We would like each LAF to nominate one person to be their Huddle Champion. This person can be a LAF member, the chair, officer or secretary. Other members of the LAF can be trained to use Huddle and have access to it alongside the Huddle Champion. The Huddle Champion could then feed comments or issues that the LAF would like Defra, NE or another LAF to comment on into Huddle and report back to their LAF any responses received.

Other tasks for the Champion are:

- Discuss with your LAF how the members would like to use huddle. You will be the main link between your LAF and huddle discussions/resources so you need to discuss this with your LAF. What are the contributions they want you to make on behalf of them, or are there issues they would like you to look out for on Huddle?
- Check Huddle on a regular basis and feedback anything that may be of use or interest to your LAF.
- Sharing documents, such as your annual report, or anything that demonstrates good practice that others across the country can benefit from, by loading relevant items onto huddle workspace.
- Contributing to any discussions already taking place on Huddle or starting new ones.

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Local Access Forum (LAF) Annual Report Proforma*** Reporting year***** Name of LAF***** Name of LAF secretary****Review of Current reporting year****Were you successful in meeting the achievements set out in your Annual Report or LAF work programme? Please provide supporting information.***** How many Open Access Restriction cases have you been informed about/involved with?**

*** Give up to three examples of advice given by your LAF to section 94 bodies:**

Give up to three examples where you have encountered difficulties; explain what mechanisms could be put in place to alleviate this issue:

Do you have any issues with recruitment of members from particular interest groups? Does this hinder your work in any way?

Comments from appointing authority

Forward Look

What are your priorities for next year (list up to 3)

***What support/training will you need to be able to deliver these priorities?**

Do you perceive any barriers to delivering your priorities?

Any other comments



PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Work Programme 2011/12

Proposed work programme	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A
Agenda Items											
Annual Revision of the Forum's Terms of Reference	13			12							
Plymouth Local Access Forum Annual Report	13			12							
Eastern Corridor Development update										12	
Whitleigh: Safer and Sustainable Travel Project				12			12				
South West Coast Path update	13						12				
Ridgeway School update	13						12				
Rights of Way Improvement Plan	13						12				
Access to Nature project update				12							
Green Infrastructure Plan				12							
Public slipways update							12				
Planning Authority engagement										12	
Local Nature Partnerships							12				
Natural England Update							12				
Statutory Land Transfer update										12	
HUDLLE							12				
Consultations (final date)											
National Planning Policy Framework Consultation					17						
Barrier Busting consultation								31			

Proposed work programme	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A
Potential Site Visits											
Local Nature Reserves											
Working Group Issues											
Access Whitleigh	13										
Rights of Way Improvement Plan – work programme priorities				12							
Plym Valley Cycle Trail							12				
Planning Application responses											
Plym Valley Cycle Trail				28							

**PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

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29 September 2011

Mr Paul Barnard
Planning Department
Development and Reperation
Floor 8
Civic Centre
Plymouth
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,

Re: Plym Valley Cycle Trail - Planning Application: 11/01254/FUL

I write further to my letter on 12 September 2011.

At the Local Access Fourm meeting on 12 September 2011, members discussed the proposal of the above development and after a lengthy discussion it was decided to arrange a site visit with James Pascoe the National Trust in order that members could receive answers from some of their queries.

Members met with Mr Pascoe on Friday 23 September 2011 at Plym Bridge and questioned him on the following issues –

- where the cafe would be sited;
- the height of the building;
- the use of sedum on the roof;
- toilet facilities;
- changing rooms;
- car parks and access;

Members also queried issues regarding the policing of the site and were advised that European funding would allow two extra wardens to be employed. It was emphasised to members that the trail was not to be constructed from new routes but existing overgrown paths, these would be resurfaced and vegetation cut back and brought into use.

It was commented by members that this development was similar to routes at Ashton Gate, Bristol and in Haldon Forest.

In conclusion members were satisfied with the planning application for a Plym Valley Cycle Trail and have no objections to make as a Forum.

Yours Sincerely

Ross Johnston
Secretary to the Plymouth Local Access Forum

cc. Adam Williams, Case Officer