

Plymouth Local Access Forum

Monday 12 March 2012

PRESENT:

Mr Fairchild, in the Chair.

Mr Stewart, Vice Chair.

Mr Attrill, Mr Curno, Mr Emery, Councillor K Foster, Mr Goddard, Mr Harvey, Mrs Hitchens, Mr Pawley, Mr Skinner, Mrs Stewart and Councillor Wheeler.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Churchill and Mrs Roberts.

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

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

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interest was made by a member in accordance with the Code of Conduct –

Name	Subject	Reason	Interest
Mr Pawley	South West Coast Path Brochure (minute 57 refers)	Is the Plymouth local representative for the South West Coast Path	Personal

54. MINUTES

It was commented by members that the resolution for minute 36. Chair's Urgent Business which stated 'Agreed that a copy of the email be circulated to all members' had not been completed.

Agreed that –

- (1) the LAF Secretary would send a copy of the email to all members as agreed at the meeting on 12 December 2011;
- (2) minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2011 are approved.

55. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

Order of Business

The order of business on the agenda was amended as set out below in the minutes.

56. **TRACKING RESOLUTIONS**

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

- (1) 12.12.11 - minute 38 - this should remain an outstanding resolution as no update had been provided;
- (2) 12.12.11 – minute 45 – that no answer to the Barrier Busting consultation response had been provided by the Planning Department and the LAF Secretary should pursue an answer and report back to the next meeting.

57. **SOUTH WEST COAST PATH BROCHURE**

Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer provided members with a draft copy of the South West Coast Path booklet and informed members that –

- (a) the republication of the booklet had been agreed following the Rights of Way Improvement Plan working group's recommendation;
- (b) the new booklet was very different to the original South West Coast Path walking guide and had made many improvements including:
 - more detailed maps;
 - a modernised layout;
 - enhanced photography;
 - new information;
 - suggestions of additional areas for exploration such as Royal William Yard and Devil's Point;
- (c) copies of the brochure would be available to the public at no cost. It was hoped that the brochure would be launched in public venues from Easter 2012.

It was agreed that Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer email a copy of the South West Coast Path brochure to all LAF members.

58. **STATUTORY LAND TRANSFER UPDATE**

Members received a report on the Notice of Statutory Land Transfer for Ridgeway School and Coombe Dean School.

It was commented by members that the update on Coombe Dean School did not detail what was happening with the footpath linking Charnhill Way and Furzehatt

Avenue and this was a major concern. It was felt that this footpath should be established as a public right of way.

Agreed that Mr John Emery, LAF member would provide a written response and list of questions to the LAF Secretary who would then use this to formally respond to Mr Ian Gillhespy, Senior Valuation Surveyor (Corporate Estates Team).

59. **DEFINITIVE MAP UPDATE**

Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer presented a report on the Definitive Map. Members were informed that –

- (a) the Definitive Map and Statement would be republished in 2012;
- (b) it was hoped that online mapping would be available in the Summer of 2012.

Following comments by members it was reported that –

- (c) the Definitive Map was updated approximately every five years and the council were now working with 2010 maps;
- (d) the applications waiting to go through a Modification Order process were contained in a list of priority and it was hoped that Hooe Lake slipway, Hooe Road and Widewell School would be completed in 2012 – 2013;
- (e) the Rights of Way Improvement Plan statement of actions included a priority system for Modification Orders, although the structure of this system was yet to be explored;
- (f) the Government's Penfold Review would look into providing a consultation document giving options for reducing the duplication between rights of way consents and the planning system; these proposals would be part of a future wider consultation package of rights of way reforms;
- (g) the council had established a number of footpaths as public rights of way that were located in woodland areas; this was partly in response to the LAF originally recommending that the council identify quick wins in adding footpaths to the Definitive Map.

Agreed that Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer would email a copy of a map of all the woodlands in which paths had been created under the Stepping Stones 2 Nature scheme within Plymouth to all LAF members.

60. **POSITION STATEMENTS**

Members discussed the possibility of creating and agreeing position statements and commented that –

- (a) the Devon Countryside Access Forum (DCAF) had created and used many different position statements;
- (b) the Sherford development could potentially offer an opportunity for the PLAF to work in partnership with the DCAF.

Agreed that Ross Johnston, LAF Secretary will liaise with the DCAF Secretary and establish the subjects and matters that DCAF have position statements for and report back to the next meeting.

61. **LAF REPRESENTATIVES NOMINATED TO OTHER BODIES**

Ross Johnston, LAF Secretary submitted a report on LAF representatives nominated to outside bodies.

Ray Fairchild, Chair informed members that the next meeting of the Saltram Countryside Park Stakeholder Forum was scheduled for April.

John Skinner, LAF member provided an update on the Plym Valley Advisory Group. Members were informed that –

- (a) the Plym Valley Advisory Group met on 29 February 2012 and was chaired by Kat Deeney, Nature Conservation Officer;
- (b) the group had met to discuss proposals for the Plym Valley Cycle Trail and café;
- (c) the group's next meeting was scheduled for 26 March 2012.

It was commented by members that the table of nominations contained in the report should be more comprehensive.

It was agreed that –

- (1) Mr John Skinner, LAF member would email a copy of the Plym Valley Advisory Group minutes from 29 February 2012 to the LAF Secretary for distribution to all LAF members;
- (2) any future report about LAF representatives nominated to represent the LAF is to be more comprehensive and cover not only nominations to outside bodies but also to include membership of working groups and any member nominations where a member represents the LAF such as the Huddle Champion.

62. **PLANNING AUTHORITY UPDATE**

Peter Ford, Head of Development Management and Hannah Sloggett, Community Planning and Partnership Coordinator were in attendance to provide members with

a presentation on the Planning Authority, its processes and procedures and changes to future legislation.

Following questions from members it was reported that –

- (a) the Localism Act would potentially provide many new challenges to the Planning Department including changes to consultation requirements and encouraging community groups to become more involved in planning processes, through having more powers such as a 'community right to buy' scheme;
- (b) the Localism Act contained a section that allowed neighbourhood plans to use community assets, which could present a number of challenges to landowners, although this part of the Act would not come into effect until Autumn 2012;
- (c) members of the public and community groups could identify footpaths on planning applications when reviewing the weekly lists, however, a potential improvement to identifying footpaths not included on the Definitive Map when determining a planning application could include more consultation with the PROW Officer and using GIS constraints mapping;
- (d) the LAF could assist in the identification of footpaths and improvements to consultation processes on planning applications by developing and operating a position statement, that could possibly recommend consultation on unrecorded footpaths.

It was commented by members that –

- (e) the Planning Department should take into consideration Ramblers maps when considering planning applications;
- (f) the Public Rights of Way Officer should be an automatic consultee on all planning applications that involve either a right of way or unrecorded footpath.

Ray Fairchild, Chair thanked Peter Ford, Head of Development Management and Hannah Sloggett, Community Planning and Partnership Coordinator for their attendance and informative presentation.

Agreed that –

- (1) a copy of the presentation slides be sent via email to all LAF members;
- (2) Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer and Peter Ford, Head of Development Management would work together to recognise improvements in identifying PROW and potential footpaths in the pre-application process for planning applications and report back to a

future meeting.

63. **CONSULTATIONS**

a) Derriford Community Park Masterplan

Members discussed the Derriford Community Park Masterplan consultation and agreed that all individuals who wished to respond to the consultation would send their responses to the LAF Secretary. The LAF Secretary would collate all responses and order the information into one response which will be the LAFs response to the Derriford Community Park consultation.

64. **WORKING GROUPS**

a) Annual Report Working Group

The Forum noted the report of the working group.

65. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members noted their work programme and agreed that the following items be added to the work programme for the municipal year 2012 – 2013:

- public slipways and landing stages update;
- Planning Authority update;
- Derriford Community Park;
- Sherford Development update;
- South West Coast Path updates;
- Plymouth City Council owned parks and green spaces;
- Coombe Dean School update;
- Plym Valley Cycle Trail update;
- access to Drakes Island.

66. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Forum noted its correspondence.

67. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed that the next meeting of the Forum is held at 10.30am on Monday 18 June 2012.

68. **ISSUES ARISING FROM FORUM MEMBERS**

Agreed that the LAF Secretary will email an up to date contact list to all LAF members.