



**PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS  
FORUM**

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6 September 2012

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

**PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

**DATE: MONDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**TIME: 10.30AM**

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

**Committee Members–**

Mr Fairchild, in the Chair

Mr Stewart, Vice Chair

Mr Attrill, Mr Curno, Mr Emery, Cllr K Foster, Mr Goddard, Mr Harvey, Mrs Hitchens, Mr Pawley, Mrs Rodgers, Mr Skinner, Mrs Stewart, Cllr J Taylor 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 18 June 2012.

### **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. CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND (CPRE) UPDATE**

Bob Harvey, LAF member, will provide a verbal update on the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) update.

### **7. SOUTH WEST COAST PATH UPDATE**

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

### **8. HUDDLE UPDATE**

To discuss Huddle and agree two further Huddle Champions.

### **9. WORKING GROUPS**

To agree any working groups for items on this agenda.

#### **(a.) UNRECORDED FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP**

To receive an update on the Unrecorded Footpaths Working Group.

**10. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 11 - 12)**

To receive the Forum's Work Programme for 2012 - 2013.

**11. CORRESPONDENCE (Pages 13 - 22)**

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

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at 10:30am on Monday 17 December 2012 at the Council House, Armada Way, Plymouth.

**13. 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 18 June 2012

### PRESENT:

Mr Fairchild, in the Chair.

Mr Stewart, Vice Chair.

Mr Attrill, Mr Curno, Mr Emery, Councillor K Foster, Mr Harvey, Ms Hitchens, Mr Pawley and Councillor George Wheeler.

Apologies for absence: Mr Skinner, Mrs Stewart and Councillor Jon Taylor.

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 12.40 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 Chair and Ian Stewart is appointed as Vice-Chair for the Plymouth Local Access Forum for the forthcoming year.

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Interest</b>
Mr Pawley	Public Slipways (minute 8 refers)	Is the Plymouth local representative for the South West Coast Path	Personal
Mr Curno	Public Slipways (minute 8 refers)	Is a representative of the Royal Yachting Association	Personal

### 3. MINUTES

Members reviewed the minutes and commented that –

- (a) the brochure for the South West Coast Path would now be published by the end of June 2012;
- (b) Barton Road, a route for walkers on the South West Coast Path, was due to be closed to the public for approximately two months due to major development works. Walkers would be re-routed for the period of closure;

- (c) unfortunately, the funding streams for the steps at Royal William Yard had been unsuccessful, meaning that the steps would be put on hold until further funding had been secured.

Agreed that –

- (1) a South West Coast Path update would be included as a standing agenda item for all future meetings;
- (2) that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2012 are confirmed as a correct record.

4. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair announced, disappointedly, that Bethan Roberts had recently resigned from her role on the Local Access Forum.

Agreed that the LAF Secretary would write a letter to Bethan Roberts thanking her for her service and to wish her well in the future.

5. **TRACKING RESOLUTIONS**

The Forum noted its tracking resolutions and agreed that –

- (1) the first item regarding site visits would not be deleted and that the LAF Secretary in consultation with the Public Rights of Way Officer would seek to establish a future site visit to include visits to:
- the Venn Estate, Hartley;
  - a Stepping Stones to Nature site;
  - the steps at Royal William Yard;
- (2) the LAF Secretary would further request the results of the Barrier Busting consultation.

6. **ANNUAL REVISION OF THE LAF TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Forum noted and agreed its Terms of Reference.

7. **PUBLIC SLIPWAYS AND LANDING STAGES**

Dave Curno and Dave Pawley, LAF members, provided the Forum with an update on public slipways and landing stages. The Forum were informed that –

- (a) the public slipways section of the website had still not been updated despite information and webpage layout being provided to the Parking Department last year;

- (b) the website could be improved by providing links to high quality websites with up-to-date information such as those maintained by the Tamar Estuaries Consultative Forum;
- (c) cleaning and maintenance of slipways had significantly improved since the issue was raised, however, due to the equipment used by the cleaning contractor there was now an issue of degradation on some of the slipways.

Agreed that –

- (1) Councillor Wheeler would liaise with Dave Curno and Dave Pawley so that he could raise the issue of out of date slipways information on the website at the Maritime Liaison Committee;
- (2) Dave Pawley, LAF member, would draft a letter to the Parking Department requesting that the information on the website be updated.

8. **PLANNING AUTHORITY UPDATE AND POSITION STATEMENT**

The Forum received a report from the Public Rights of Way Officer providing an update on the Planning Authority and a draft position statement on planning applications dealing with potential rights of way.

It was commented by members that –

- (a) the position statement would be a useful tool for the Forum and offered a solution to the frequent issue of development on informal footpaths;
- (b) the decision of the Planning Authority not to add a further GIS layer onto the constraints map was regretted;
- (c) the review of planning applications by the Public Rights of Way Officer was a significant improvement on the current system of determining whether there were any potential public rights of way contained in planning applications;
- (d) establishing footpaths as Public Rights of Way was the easiest way to allow Planning Officers to deal with the issue of footpaths. The forum should be proactively encouraging users of footpaths to apply to the Council for an order to make the footpath into a Public Right of Way.

Agreed that the draft position statement included in the report is adopted by the Local Access Forum for its use when responding or commenting on any future planning applications.

9. **IMPROVEMENTS TO THE POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

The Forum was informed that the Ramblers Association had provided a very detailed response to this consultation.

Members commented that –

- (a) they were concerned about the amount of consultation requests coming from central government and, in particular, the size of documents that were being produced;
- (b) to allow LAFs the ability to respond appropriately to consultations from central government that Natural England should attempt to produce summary documents for LAFs on such issues.

Agreed that –

- (1) the Forum would not provide a formal response to the consultation on the improvements to the policy and legal framework for Public Rights of Way;
- (2) Ray Fairchild, Chair, would request, at the next LAF Regional meeting, that Natural England provide summary reports for LAFs highlighting areas of importance in response to major consultation documents.

10. **WORKING GROUPS**

The Forum received a report on potential working groups from the Public Rights of Way Officer.

It was commented by members that –

- (a) a working group looking into the complex issue of unrecorded footpaths on council owned land was a good idea and could assist the forum in tackling this difficult issue;
- (b) requesting that footpaths in City Council owned parks be adopted as Public Rights of Way was potentially allowing quick wins in terms of adding footpaths on to the Definitive Map;
- (b) although identifying footpaths as Public Rights of Way in parks was positive step forward there were concerns that this could have implications for cyclists using these paths.

Agreed that –

- (1) Ian Stewart, Vice Chair, would draft a letter to Parks Services outlining the Forum's views on Public Rights of Way within City



Council owned parks;

- (2) the Greenspace Manager is invited to a future meeting to respond to the LAF letter, in (1) above, and to address the forum in the context of the LAF work programme;
- (3) all Forum members are invited to a working group to discuss and agree a position statement on unrecorded footpaths not on council owned land.

11. **WORK PROGRAMME**

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

- a progress update on the cycle path at Laira Bridge;
- an update on unrecorded Public Rights of Way;
- an update on the Access Whitleigh project;
- an update on the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).

12. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Forum noted its correspondence.

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed that the next meeting of the Forum is held at 10.30am on Monday 17 September 2012.

14. **ISSUES ARISING FROM FORUM MEMBERS**

There were no issues raised by Forum members.

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## PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

### TRACKING RESOLUTIONS

Date / Minute number	Resolution	Explanation / Minute	Action	Progress	Target date
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.	Robin Pearce	The site visit was proposed for 12 March but due to there not being enough confirmations for the site visit proposed it was not financially viable for us to run the visit. Members should suggest further site visits in the future. This has become a further minute on 18.6.12.	
12.12.11 Minute 45 and 18.6.12 Minute 5	Agreed that the proposed response is formally submitted to the planning department from the LAF in response to the Barrier Busting consultation.	Members were keen to respond to the consultation and agreed to use the proposed response from John Emery.	Ross Johnston	<p>Consultation response was submitted on 23 December 2011. Awaiting response to the consultation from the Planning Department.</p> <p>Following meeting on 18.6.12 it was agreed that the LAF Secretary would further request the results of the Barrier Busting consultation.</p> <p>Received a copy of the Barrier Busting Consultation and emailed panel members on 6 September 2012.</p>	<p>1 January 2012</p> <p>17 September 2012</p>
18.6.12 Minute 3	Agreed that a South West Coast Path update would be	Members requested that the South West Coast Path have a	Ross Johnston	This has been added on to the work programme as a	17 September 2012

	included as a standing agenda item for all future meetings.	standing item as members were keen to receive updates at each meeting.		standing item.	
18.6.12 Minute 4	Agreed that the first item regarding site visits would not be deleted and that the LAF Secretary in consultation with the Public Rights of Way Officer would seek to establish a future site.	Members requested that a further site visit be arranged to visit a number of identified sites	Ross Johnston/ Robin Pearce	A site visit has yet to be arranged, however, the LAF Secretary and PROW Officer would seek to arrange a visit before the LAF meeting on 17 December 2012.	
18.6.12 Minute 4	Agreed that the LAF Secretary would write a letter to Bethan Roberts thanking her for her service and to wish her well in the future.	In response to Bethan Roberts resignation members wished to write a letter thanking Bethan for her time given to the LAF	Ross Johnston	A letter was sent on 26.6.12 – included in 17.9.12 agenda under correspondence item.	
18.6.12 Minute 7	Agreed that Dave Pawley, LAF member, would draft a letter to the Parking Department requesting that the information on the website be updated.	Members were disappointed that information provided to Parking Department had not been included in changes to website.	Dave Pawley/ Ross Johnston	A letter was sent to Anthony Payne, Director for Place on 26.6.12 – included in 17.9.12 agenda under correspondence item.	
18.6.12 Minute 10 (1)	Agreed that Ian Stewart, Vice Chair, would draft a letter to Parks Services outlining the Forum's views on Public Rights of Way within City Council owned parks;	Members agreed that requesting parks to adopt paths as PROW in council owned parks was a good idea.	Ross Johnston	A letter was sent to Gareth Harrison-Poole, Greenspace Manager on 26.6.12 – included in 17.9.12 agenda under correspondence item.	
18.6.12 Minute 10 (2)	Agreed the Greenspace Manager is invited to a future meeting to respond to the	Members wished to ask for the Greenspace Manager to provide an update to the	Ross Johnston	This invite was included in the letter sent on 26.6.12	

	LAF letter, in (1) above, and to address the forum in the context of the LAF work programme;	Committee at a future meeting.			
18.6.12 Minute 10 (3)	Agreed that all Forum members are invited to a working group to discuss and agree a position statement on unrecorded footpaths on council owned land.	Members felt that this was a good idea and could help the forum find a solution to a long standing problem.	Ross Johnston	The working group was set up for 27 July 2012.	



= Complete resolution



= Outstanding resolution

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26 June 2012

Miss Bethan Roberts  
Commonwood Cottage  
Riverford  
Plymouth  
Devon  
PL6 7LJ

**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 Miss Roberts,

I write in response to your email of resignation dated 17 June 2012.

At the Local Access Forum meeting held on 18 June 2012, your resignation was announced by Ray Fairchild, Chair. Members of the Forum wish to express their thanks for the time you have given and the vital contribution you have made to the work of the Local Access Forum.

Once again many thanks.

Yours Sincerely,

Ross Johnston,  
Secretary of the Plymouth Local Access Forum

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26 June 2012

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,

On 30 June 2011 the Local Access Forum contacted you about public slipways in Plymouth and their lack of cleaning. We were pleased to note that since then the cleaning of the slips has improved significantly. In that letter we mentioned the lack of useful information on your webpage relating to public slipways. We offered to assist Maritime Services by producing slipway related information suitable for web page access that will be of use to recreational users of those slipways and to visitors.

This offer was taken up by yourselves. We liaised with members of your staff and the LAF duly produced a page of information for each of ten public slipways serving the needs of recreational users. In addition, we provided you with grid references for the vast majority of slipways, steps and pontoons in the area, both public and commercial. This was passed to your staff prior to them attending a LAF meeting in December last year.

Since then we have heard nothing, The slipway related data on your webpage remains as it was, with circular links giving no information on the slips other than their names and where they are on a google map. Even that basic information remains incorrect for the Mount Batten slips with the google tag pointing to the one private slip in the area, rather than two tags to the actual public slip locations.

We are disappointed with the apparent lack of progress on this and we remain keen to see the information links on your website. We appreciate that your staff are busy and that the actual updating work has to be done by PCC IT support services. We do have members who have experience of web page design and, once again, we are prepared to offer assistance with the production of the pages, should yourselves or IT Support Services wish us to do so.

Finally, returning to the condition of the slips, although we are pleased with the cleanliness of the slips, we have noticed that some of the most popular slips are beginning to show degradation of the slip's surface, particularly where there are joins in the surface concrete. The two Mount Batten slips could be patched up relatively easily and inexpensively at the moment. The longer these are left the worse they

will become and therefore we recommend that these slips are checked and repaired before they degrade further.

We look forward to hearing from you on these matters.

Yours Sincerely,

Ross Johnston  
Secretary, Plymouth Local Access Forum



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26 June 2012

Gareth Harrison - Poole  
Greenspace Manager  
Plymouth City Council  
Central Park depot  
90 – 92 Outland Road  
Plymouth

**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 Harrison-Poole,

At the recent meeting of the Local Access Forum on 18 June 2012 the issue of footpaths within City Council owned parks was discussed. The Forum agreed that:

- (1) a letter would be written to Parks Services outlining the Forum's views on Public Rights of Way within City Council owned parks;
- (2) the Greenspace Manager is invited to a future meeting to respond to the LAF letter to address the forum in the context of the LAF work programme and in response to the forum's request.

The views of the forum are that the Council owns a considerable amount of greenspace, most particularly in the form of parks. Throughout these parks are a series of well trodden and well used pathways, there is free entry to all these sites and the general public is being advised that exercise (in the open air) is of increasing importance for general well-being.

Most of the pathways are only permissive in nature and it is, therefore, the LAFs recommendation that these paths in the city council owned parks are all adopted as Public Rights Of Way in a single request. This would satisfy all users and save the Council a considerable workload.

In response to this letter could you please, firstly, endeavour to pursue the request of the Local Access Forum to adopt all footpaths in City Council owned parks as Public Rights of Way, and, secondly, could you please attend a future meeting of the Local Access Forum to discuss this important issue.

The Forum would like to invite you to its meeting on 17 September 2012 at 10:30am, or if you are unable to attend this meeting then the 17 December 2012.

Yours Sincerely,

Ian Stewart,  
Vice-Chair of the Plymouth Local Access Forum



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**3 August 2012**

Mark Evans,  
Case Officer, Planning and Regeneration,  
Place Directorate,  
Civic Centre,  
Floor 9,  
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**

### **Planning Application 12/01112/FUL – Plot A1, Brunel Way, Millbay. Plymouth**

Plymouth Local Access Forum has noted the planning application received from English Cities Fund to develop part of the eastern side of Millbay Docks. This, we understand, is the first formal proposed development for this area since the acceptance in 2007 of Plymouth's Core Strategy Document.

We note that Trinity Pier, still a working pier, will remain accessible via the road, described as a military right of way in the application, along the east side of the docks. The application acknowledges this and the plans accommodate this access to Trinity Pier and also a walkway for public use along the side of the both East Quay and Clyde Quay. For many years the greater part of the land to the east of the aforementioned quays has resembled a waste land, conveying an image of neglect in a prime area of Plymouth, to all who see it. At last this is a positive step forward in the use of that land and doubtless it will be the first of a number of other, co-ordinated applications to regenerate the area, in keeping with the core strategy document.

A particularly pleasing feature to the LAF, of the development, is the proposed waterfront walkway linking to a pedestrian only access up to West Hoe Road. The current Plymouth waterfront walkway in the area is currently behind the stone wall along West Hoe Road, and then along Millbay Road and Durnford Street to Devils Point. This proposed new walkway will significantly improve the present waterfront walkway along to Millbay Road and we hope that in the fullness of time the rest of the route to Devils Point can be brought closer to the Plymouth waterfront than it is now.

The LAF supports the provision of the walkway in the application and recommends the relocation of the current waterfront walkway to this new route as soon as is practicably possible.

The prestigious SWCP National Trail through the City follows the Plymouth Waterfront walkway. The LAF is aware that the organisations responsible for that path will also seek relocation of SWCP to this proposed new route when it is completed. To further enhance the proposed waterside walkway we recommend that the SWCP and its related artwork in the area should be relocated to the proposed new route and that any plans for the area accommodate the provision for the relocation of this artwork.

Yours Sincerely,

Ray Fairchild,  
Chair of the Plymouth Local Access Forum





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17 August 2012

Ray Fairchild, Chair of the PLAF

Mr Rob Heard,  
Planning consents  
By Email

My Ref: LAF/RF

Your Ref:

Dear Mr. Heard

**PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

Re: Planning Application 12/01180/FUL

The LAF notes that there is a waterfront walkway planned with this proposal to redevelop Boston's Yard, a pleasing feature. We also note there is a pedestrian / cycle path access planned into the development from the Old Wharf Road to the east. Both are welcomed paths but in our opinion there are access issues associated with both that needs redressing. before planning consents are granted.

The proposed waterfront walkway terminates at a stone wall at the southern end and also comes to a dead end at the northern end. There is seemingly no planned access to the old lane, known as Baylys' Road a few metres to the north of the development. For many years this was the only access into Boston's Yard.

At the south west end we consider that this waterfront walkway should merge with the waterfront walkway that currently exists, around the Old Wharf development, immediately to the south. We understand the waterfront path through the Old Wharf development is on land owned by PCC Parks department. It follows there should be no insurmountable issues with linking the two together. This would then provide a pleasant continuous waterside path around both developments linking up and into the path running along the line of the old railway to the roundabout near Morrisons supermarket. It is feasible that the SWCP NT could offer this loop from the trail currently linking from the east of Hooe Lake to Park Road as a optional extension to the trail, as it has done at Sutton Harbour and Devil's Point.

Access into the development is planned to be along the Old Wharf Road and this will be the only vehicular access into both sites. We acknowledge that this road does have a pavement however it could still prove hazardous for pedestrians and cyclists, taking into consideration the traffic likely and the narrowness of that road. A far better, shorter and safer access route for pedestrians / cyclists

would be along Baylys' Road from Park Road Oreston into the northern end of the waterfront walkway. We are aware that Baylys' Road is in private ownership although it has for many years been the access road into Boston's Yard. It is currently gated and locked. If pedestrian / cycle access can be negotiated, it would be a far better and safer access route. We recommend that attempts be made to negotiate such an access path with the owner of Baylys' Road. The proposed development should cater for the possibility of such access at some point in the future, with provision made for linking directly into the waterfront pathway at the north west extremity of the development.

The other possible pedestrian access into both sites is from the west, via a footbridge across the entrance to Hooe Lake, along the line of the rail bridge that was once there. The large support pillars are still in place and the LAF notes that the PCC Labour Administration 2012 Manifesto indicates it is an aim of that party to see such a bridge in place during their administration. We feel this footbridge should be constructed as a matter of urgency, bearing in mind the developments already in place and proposed on both sides of the lake entrance. Such a footbridge would provide easy access to the shops, public transport and primary school at Hooe. It would also reduce the amount of vehicular traffic into and from the developments and through Oreston.

Once this bridge is in place then the prestigious SWCP National Trail can be re-routed to provide a much better linking route from Turnchapel to Oreston. We are well aware that this has long been an aspiration of the supporters of that National Trail. It is now the time to realise that long held desire for such a footbridge and improvement to the SWCP through the City

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Ray Fairchild

Chair, Plymouth Local Access Forum