



**PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS  
FORUM**

Floor 1  
Civic Centre  
Plymouth  
PL1 2AA

Tel: 01752 307990

Fax: 01752 304819

Email: [laf@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:laf@plymouth.gov.uk)

Web: [www.plymouth.gov.uk/laf](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/laf)

7 December 2012

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

**PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

**DATE: MONDAY 17 DECEMBER 2012**

**TIME: 10.30 AM**

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

**Committee Members–**

Mr Fairchild, in the Chair

Mr Stewart, Vice Chair

Mr Attrill, Mr Curno, Mr Emery, Cllr K Foster, Cllr Fox, Mr Goddard, Mr Harvey,  
Ms Hitchens, Mr Pawley, Mrs Rodgers, Mr Skinner, Mrs Stewart 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 17 September 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. ANNUAL REPORT 2011 - 2012**

To agree the annual report pro forma to be submitted to Natural England.

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

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

### **8. HUDDLE UPDATE**

Hilary Winter, South West Regional LAF Coordinator, will provide a presentation on Huddle.

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

**(Pages 11 - 14)**

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

### **10. GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE BILL UPDATE**

**(Pages 15 - 16)**

The Forum will receive an update on the Growth and Infrastructure Bill.

**11. WORKING GROUPS**

To agree any working groups for items on this agenda.

(a.) **UNRECORDED PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

To receive an update on the Unrecorded Public Rights of Way Working Group.

**12. WORK PROGRAMME**

**(Pages 17 - 18)**

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

**13. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held at 10:30am on Monday 18 March 2013 at the Council House, Plymouth.

**15. ISSUES ARISING FROM FORUM MEMBERS**

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

This page is intentionally left blank

## Plymouth Local Access Forum

Monday 17 September 2012

### PRESENT:

Mr Fairchild, in the Chair.

Mr Stewart, Vice Chair.

Mr Attrill, Mr Curno, Mr Emery, Mr Harvey, Mrs Hitchens, Mr Pawley and Councillor J Taylor.

Apologies for absence: Councillor K Foster, Mrs Rodgers, Mr Skinner, Mrs Stewart and Councillor Wheeler.

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 12.45 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.*

### 15. 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	South West Coast Path Update (minute 20 refers)	Is the Plymouth local representative for the South West Coast Path	Personal

### 16. MINUTES

Members reviewed the minutes and commented that –

- (a) the brochure for the South West Coast Path was an excellent publication;
- (b) the issue of out of date public slipways information on the council's website had still not been resolved.

Agreed that –

- (1) Dave Curno, LAF member, would raise the issue of out of date public slipways information on the council's website at the Port of Plymouth Marine Liaison Committee (PPMLC);
- (2) that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2012 are confirmed as a correct record.

17. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

Bob Harvey, LAF member, informed members that the Government were seeking feedback on the recommendations arising from the report published by the Independent Panel on Forestry.

Agreed that Bob Harvey, LAF member, would draft a letter to the Government in response to the Independent Panel on Forestry's report and its recommendations.

18. **TRACKING RESOLUTIONS**

The Public Rights of Way Officer informed the Forum that –

- (a) a site visit had been difficult to organise and that if members wished they could visit a Stepping Stones to Nature site at Ham Woods as part of a celebration day event being held on 29 September 2012;
- (2) the Co-operative Way, a local walk way, would be subject to an improved brochure publication in the near future, similar to that of the recently published South West Coast Path brochure.

The Forum noted its tracking resolutions and agreed that –

- (1) the Public Rights of Way Officer would send via email an invitation for all members to attend the celebration event in Ham Woods, which would deal with the outstanding issue of organising a site visit;
- (2) the LAF wished to be consulted as part of publishing an improved brochure for the Co-operative Way;
- (3) Zoe Goss, Stepping Stones to Nature Co-ordinator would be invited to attend the March meeting of the LAF to provide an update on SS2N sites.

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

Bob Harvey, LAF member, gave a presentation on the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and informed members that –

- (a) he had recently become the Chair of the Plymouth and South Hams district of the CPRE;
- (b) the CPRE was formed in 1926 with two main aims, firstly, to unite green groups with similar interests such as preserving the beauty and nature of local areas and secondly, to introduce rural planning;
- (c) at present the CPRE were campaigning for beautiful and living countryside, working to protect, promote and enhance the country's towns and countryside to make them better places to

live, work and enjoy, and to ensure the countryside was protected for now and future generations;

- (d) to achieve its aims, CPRE engaged well with the public and challenged the government to embrace the best future for the countryside by using two publications called 'A Manifesto for the Countryside' and 'Vision for the Countryside';
- (e) the LAF was an advisory body providing statutory advice and the CPRE generated a lot of publicity and were a well-resourced organisation and it was believed that by working closer together the CPRE and LAF's could have a stronger voice.

All LAF members agreed that working more collaboratively with the CPRE could improve communications and provide significantly more weight when responding to government consultations and any other forms of correspondence.

Agreed that –

- (1) Bob Harvey, as Chair of the CPRE, would raise the issue of the LAF becoming more involved in the Plymouth and South Hams district of the CPRE and report back to the next LAF meeting;
- (2) Bob Harvey would add the LAF members' email addresses to the CPRE distribution list to ensure that all members receive minutes of CPRE meetings.

20. **SOUTH WEST COAST PATH UPDATE**

Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer, informed the Forum that –

- (a) the South West Coast Path brochure, published in July 2012, had become an extremely popular publication, with requests for the brochure being received from as far afield as Australia, Canada and the USA;
- (b) the Plymouth Waterfront Partnership had been promoting the booklet and described the council publication as a 'key piece of tourism literature';
- (c) in 2013 the South West Coast Path Association would be celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by completing a coastal walk of the South West Coast Path in its entirety; Robin Pearce had volunteered to lead the coast path walk through Plymouth;
- (d) the funding for steps to be developed at Royal William Yard had now completely fallen through, however, the Council and Urban Splash, Royal William Yard developers, were still keen for the steps to be developed and were seeking ways to ensure this happened;

- (e) the Forum had recently responded on two planning applications (12/01112/FUL – Plot A1, Brunel Way, Millbay and 12/01180/FUL – Boston's Yard) which could see further improvements to the South West Coast Path.

21. **HUDDLE UPDATE**

The LAF Secretary provided a verbal update on Huddle and it was agreed that –

- (1) Ian Stewart, Vice-Chair, is appointed as the LAFs fourth member to have access to Huddle;
- (2) Hilary Winter, Regional Secretary, is invited to attend the next LAF meeting to provide an overview of Huddle to the Forum and a training session to the members who can access Huddle.

22. **WORKING GROUPS**

a) **UNRECORDED FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP**

Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer, informed the Forum that –

- (a) a recent working group was held, which included a training session on addressing the problem of the 800 plus unrecorded footpaths within Plymouth;
- (b) the working group would continue to meet on an ad-hoc basis to provide advice to the Council on how to best record some of the unrecorded footpaths;
- (c) new footpaths were often adopted as part of the planning process;
- (d) recent announcements on potential government policy changes on determining footpaths had been encouraging, but more detail was required to fully understand the potential impact.

Agreed that the Unrecorded Footpaths Working Group is scheduled to meet in early November.

23. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The forum noted the work programme for 2012 – 2013 and agreed that –

- (1) the LAF Secretary would seek a response on the Forum's letter regarding to Coombe Dean School and an update provided at the next meeting;
- (2) Patricia Hitchens, LAF member, would monitor progress against the Derriford and Seaton Area Action Plan and inform the Forum as and when required.



24. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The LAF Secretary informed the Forum that Gareth Harrison-Poole, Greenspace Manager, had confirmed, following receiving the forum's letter on 26 June 2012, that he would attend the next LAF meeting on 17 December 2012.

The Forum noted its correspondence.

25. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

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

26. **ISSUES ARISING FROM FORUM MEMBERS**

Members of the Forum raised issues regarding –

- (a) a planning application for Plymstock Quarry, The Ride, Plymouth 12/01171/REM which contained a proposed development of Morley Park;
- (b) the government's proposal to favour shared use highways, between pedestrians and cyclists.

This page is intentionally left blank

## PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

### TRACKING RESOLUTIONS

Date / Minute number	Resolution	Explanation / Minute	Action	Progress
18.6.12 Minute 4	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.  This item was agreed to be removed and members invited to attend the celebration event in Ham Woods.
17.9.12 Minute 17	that Bob Harvey, LAF member, would draft a letter to the Government in response to the Independent Panel on Forestry's report and its recommendations.		Bob Harvey	
17.9.12 Minute 18	the Public Rights of Way Officer would send via email an invitation for all members to attend the celebration event in Ham Woods, which would deal with the outstanding issue of organising a site visit;		Robin Pearce	Emailed sent to all members on 18 September 2012.
17.9.12 Minute 18	the LAF wished to be consulted as part of		Robin Pearce	Added to the Forum's work programme.

	publishing an improved brochure for the Co-operative Way;			
17.9.12 Minute 18	Zoe Goss, Stepping Stones to Nature Co-ordinator would be invited to attend the March meeting of the LAF to provide an update on SS2N sites.		Zoe Goss	Added to the Forum's work programme.
17.9.12 Minute 20	Bob Harvey, as Chair of the CPRE, would raise the issue of the LAF becoming more involved in the Plymouth and South Hams district of the CPRE and report back to the next LAF meeting;		Bob Harvey	Added to the agenda for the next meeting on 17 December 2012.
17.9.12 Minute 20	Bob Harvey would add the LAF members' email addresses to the CPRE distribution list to ensure that all members receive minutes of CPRE meetings.		Bob Harvey	
17.9.12 Minute 21	Hilary Winter, Regional Secretary, is invited to attend the next LAF meeting to provide an overview of Huddle to the Forum and a training session to the members who can access Huddle.		Ross Johnston	Hilary has been invited and a Huddle update has been included on the agenda.

17.9.12 Minute 22	<u>Agreed</u> that the Unrecorded Footpaths Working Group is scheduled to meet in early November.			The working group met on 20.11.12. An update will be provided at the Forum's meeting on 17.12.12.
17.9.12 Minute 23	the LAF Secretary would seek a response on the Forum's letter regarding to Coombe Dean School and an update provided at the next meeting;			Emails were sent to Ian Gillhespy on 6.11.12 and 4.12.12 – no response had been received.



= Complete resolution



= Outstanding resolution

This page is intentionally left blank

# PLAF BRIEFING NOTE

17 December 2012 – Agenda Item 9 – SWCP Update

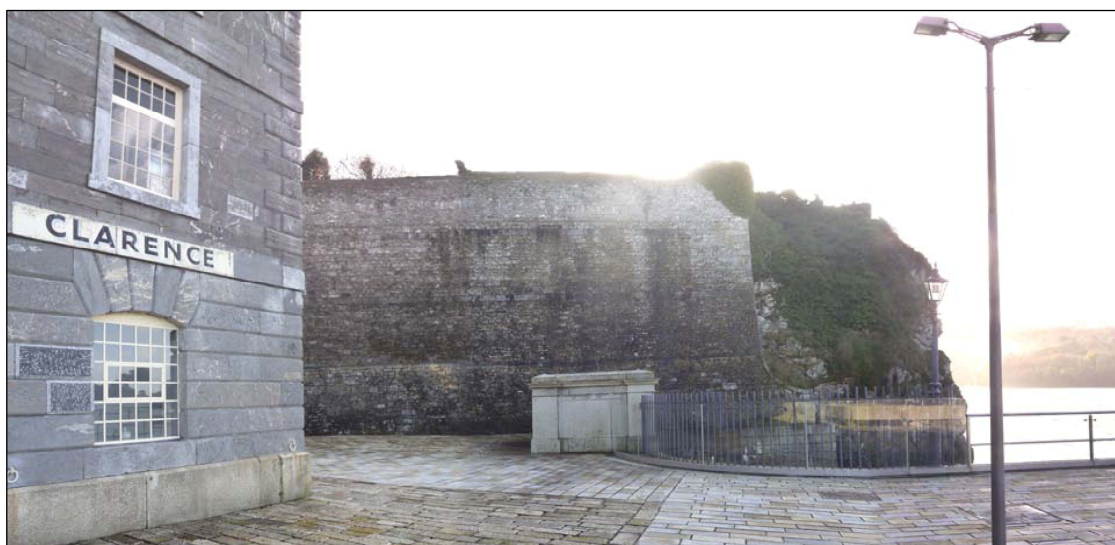


## 1. Introduction

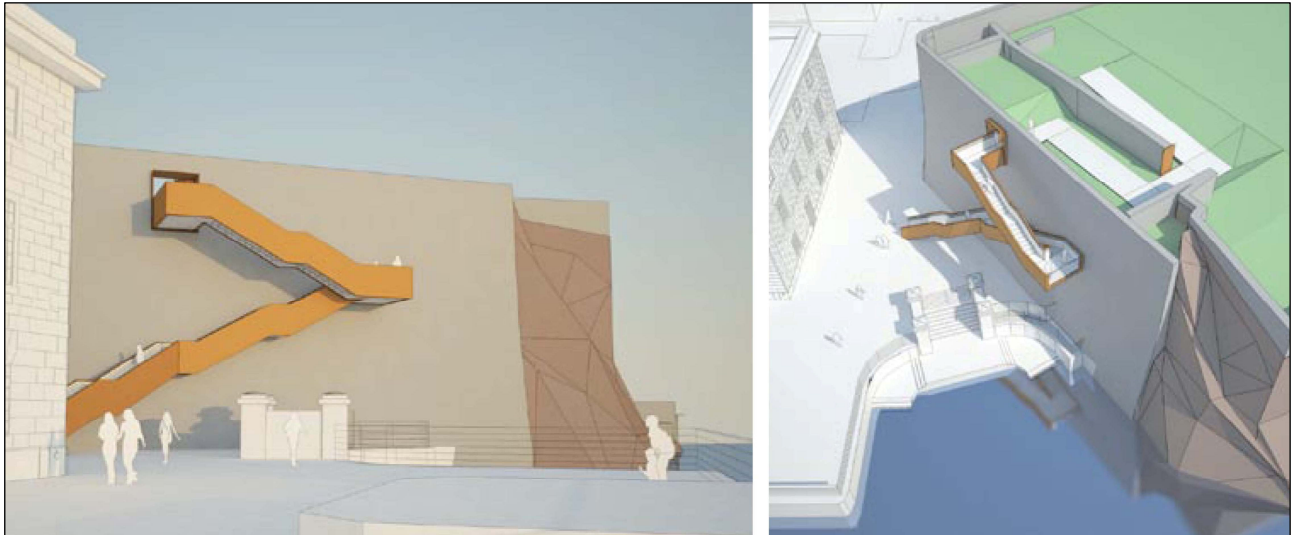
- 1.1 This report provides the Forum with an update on matters relating to the South West Coast Path.

## 2. Royal William Yard Coast Path Link

- 2.1 Plymouth City Council has been awarded a grant of £237,000 by Natural England to re-route the South West Coast Path (SWCP) through Devil's Point Park to connect this area to the nationally important Grade I Listed Royal William Yard (RWY). Delivering the important link between RWY and the Park will involve constructing a stairway into the Yard that will enable the SWCP to be connected all the way around the peninsula on which the Park and the RWY are situated. Providing this complete route around the peninsula will deliver a long held aspiration to connect these two popular features, enable communities to be directly linked to the attractions within RWY and enable greater use of the Park.



- 2.2 Constructing the staircase and re-routing the SWCP around the headland will enable better use of the outstanding natural and historical assets of both the Park and the Yard and promote the economic and cultural vitality of the area. It will also provide a stunning new visitor attraction for the SWCP that will enhance the visitor experience within this part of Plymouth. The multiple benefits that would result from the delivery of the project are the reason that Natural England have offered to fund the works as part of their role to improve and promote a network of National Trails.
- 2.3 The total cost of delivering the new coast path link is £250k. The £237k offered by Natural England will be met by additional funding provided by the SWCP Association (£10k) and the Friends of Devils Point Park (£3K). The Council has also put forward £15k towards improvements to Devils Point Park itself.



- 2.4 Planning Permission has already be granted for the steps which Urban Splash will be implementing. A condition of the grant is that the work is completed in the 2012/13 financial year.



**3. SWCPA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Walk**

- 3.1 The South West Coast Path Association is organising a fundraising event to mark their 40th anniversary next Spring. Their aim is to raise funds for small but significant improvement projects, over and above general maintenance of the path.
- 3.2 The event, which takes place next April/May, encompasses a series of walks along the coast path which has been broken down into 56 legs and will be done in relay to cover the entire 630 mile path. This will culminate with both relays meeting at Land's End on 7th May 2013 where a birthday party will take place. The walks start at Poole on 3rd April, with the North coast relay starting at Minehead on 16th April. Each leg will be guided by local experts, rangers and path wardens, who are all assisting the SWCPA with this event.
- 3.3 Walkers will be asked to raise a minimum sponsorship of £50 each which will be combined with grants, corporate sponsorship and match funding and it is expected that £250,000 will be raised. This money will be spent on a series of improvement projects which will be spread along the route of the entire path. These projects have all been selected to enhance the experience and enjoyment of walkers using the path and walkers taking part will be able to allocate their sponsorship towards their favorite projects.
- 3.4 The walk through Plymouth will take place on Sunday 21 April 2013 and will encompass the 9.5 miles between Jennycliff and Admirals Hard. The walk is split into a 6 mile section between Jennycliff and the Barbican in the morning and a further 3.5 mile section from the Barbican to Admirals Hard in the afternoon.
- 3.5 All participants are required to register for each walk by filling in a registration form and sending it to the SWCPA with their registration fee of £10 per person. Registration can also be completed online with registration fee paid by a credit card via the website at [www.greatsouthwestwalk.co.uk](http://www.greatsouthwestwalk.co.uk). The registration fee covers the cost of a T shirt that each participant will hopefully wear, insurance and also the cost of transport to take the participants from the meeting point outside the Royal William Yard, Stonehouse to the actual walk start point. LAF Members who wish to support this event can find sponsor forms available for download from the website above by following links on the site to the fund raising page.

This page is intentionally left blank

# PLAF BRIEFING NOTE

17 December 2012 – Agenda Item 10 – Growth and Infrastructure Bill



## I. Introduction

- I.1 At the Forums request this report provides an update on the forthcoming Growth and Infrastructure Bill and its impact upon public rights of way.
- I.2 The bill is currently being reviewed by the Public Bill Committee who are expected to report to the House of Commons on 6 December 2012. The bill has not yet received Royal Assent and is unlikely to do so until well into the new year. It may well be amended in that time.
- I.3 In essence however the bill proposes what the government see as minor, simple and non-contentious legislative change relating to the relationship between development and public rights of way. The bill proposes that s.257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 be amended to remove the current constraint that a diversion or extinguishment Order which is needed to enable the implementation of planning permission can only be made after planning permission has been granted. Instead an application for planning permission and an application to divert or extinguish the public highway as part of that permission can be considered together.
- I.4 A further more minor change is to alter s.31(6) Highways Act 1980 which enables a landowner to deposit a plan and statement prevent new public rights accruing. The proposed amendment will extend the period between declarations to 20 years, prescribing the form of such deposits and allow a local authority to make a small charge for administrative costs. This change is designed to align the rights of way deposits with new provisions being introduced relating to Town or Village Greens.

This page is intentionally left blank



