



**PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS
FORUM**

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21 August 2013

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

PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

DATE: MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2013

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, Councillor K Foster, Councillor Fox, Mr Goddard, Mr Harvey, Ms Hitchens, Mr Pawley, Mrs Rodgers, Mr Skinner and Councillor Wheeler.

Members are invited to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business overleaf

Members are requested to sign the attendance list at the meeting.

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 June 2013.

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. SOUTH WEST COAST PATH UPDATE (Pages 11 - 12)

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

7. CO-OPERATIVE WAY BROCHURE (Pages 13 - 14)

To receive a written update from the Public Rights of Way Officer on the Co-operative Way brochure.

8. LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIPS REVIEW

To receive a presentation on the Local Nature Partnerships.

9. PLYM VALLEY CONNECTIONS PROJECT (Pages 15 - 18)

To receive a report on the Plym Valley Connections Project.

10. DEFINITIVE MAP UPDATE (Pages 19 - 20)

To receive a report providing a response to the Forum's resolution from 17 June 2013 on the Definitive Map.

11. WORKING GROUPS

To agree any working groups for items on this agenda.

12. WORK PROGRAMME

(Pages 21 - 22)

To receive the Forum's Work Programme for 2013 - 2014.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

(Pages 23 - 38)

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 16 December 2013 at the Council House, Plymouth.

15. 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 17 June 2013****PRESENT:**

Mr Fairchild, in the Chair.

Mr Stewart, Vice Chair.

Mr Attrill, Mr Emery, Councillor K Foster, Mr Harvey, Ms Hitchens, Mr Pawley, Mrs Rodgers, Mr Skinner and Councillor Wheeler.

Apologies for absence: Mr Curno and Councillor Fox.

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 12.30 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

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

Agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2013 are approved.

4. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

Dave Pawley informed members that Plymouth City Council along with many other organisations including the Environment Agency, Natural England, the National Trust and the Forestry Commission were part of a project called the Plym Valley Connections Project.

This project aimed to attract monies via Heritage Lottery Bid funding that would be used, if successful, to preserve the industrial and cultural heritage of the Plym Valley.

All organisations were working towards submitting a bid for the first stage of the bid process and it was requested that individuals and organisations interested in the project should send letters of support to Plymouth City Council, who were co-ordinating the bid process, which would be used to support the bid's first stage.

Agreed that –

- (1) the Forum writes a letter in support of the Plym Valley

Connections Project. Dave Pawley was nominated to provide the text for the letter;

- (2) the Plym Valley Connections Project is added to the Forum's work programme and Chris Coldwell, Senior Project Manager, is invited to attend the Forum's next meeting to provide an update on this project;
- (3) Chris Coldwell, Senior Project Manager, is invited to provide an update to the Forum on all other local projects that the Council is currently involved in with regards to transport, access or nature.

5. **TRACKING RESOLUTIONS**

The Forum noted its tracking resolutions document and commented that –

- (a) with regard Minute 50 (3) – 18.03.13, Bob Harvey, LAF member, had contacted Stephen Jenkinson and was attempting to organise a joint event with Torbay LAF that would discuss the issues of dogs and tress in urban environments;
- (b) with regard Minute 37 (2), the maps provided by the Public Rights of Way Officer, were helpful but when approved would not be available for public inspection on the Definitive Map, as the map only covered adopted footpaths pre 2006;
- (c) the Definitive Map should be available for public inspection from First Stop, Civic Centre along with information on footpaths that had been adopted or were subject to any orders since the date that the Definitive Map was last published.

In response to members comments it was reported that –

- (d) the most up to date published version of the Definitive Map was available for public inspection and that all First Stop staff had been trained and provided with a briefing note on how to deal with such a request;
- (e) the working copy of the Definitive Map, which contains footpaths adopted or subject to any orders since 2006, was not available for public inspection as it was a digital map and did not physically exist but that people who purchased extracts from the Definitive Map where also given a copy from the working copy map.

Agreed that the Public Rights of Way Officer would look for solutions which provided further information on changes to the PRow network to the public to be provided at the Forum's next meeting.

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

The Forum noted and agreed its Terms of Reference.

7. **PARKS AND GREEN SPACES UPDATE**

The Forum received a letter from the Parks and Greenspace Manager in relation to advice provided by the Forum on Parks and Green spaces. It was commented by members that –

- (a) the Forum's original letter on adopting footpaths in public parks as PROW was sent in June 2012 and this response should not have taken more than nine months to be provided;
- (b) the response does not adequately answer the advice and guidance provided in the Forum's original letter.

Agreed that –

- (1) the Forum provide a written response to the Parks and Green Spaces Manager's letter. If Forum Members had any comments for inclusion in the response letter then they should be provided to the LAF Secretary by Friday 28 June 2013;
- (2) the Parks and Greenspace Manager be invited to attend the Forum's next meeting on 2 September 2013 to discuss public footpaths within council owned parks and green spaces.

8. **CO-OPERATIVE WAY BROCHURE**

The Public Rights of Way Officer provided an update on the Co-operative Way Brochure and informed members that the brochure was progressing well and a further update would be provided at the Forum's next meeting.

9. **IMPACTS OF ASH-DIEBACK**

The Forum received and noted a report on the Impacts of Ash-Dieback. Members were informed that –

- (a) Ash Dieback, caused by the *chalara fraxinea* fungus, was a significant issue for the future of ash trees within the UK and at present was most prevalent in the South East of England;
- (b) there were many other tree diseases that threatened the UK's tree biodiversity including *Phytophthora ramorum*, a disease affecting larch trees, Oak Processionary Moth and Asian Longhorn Beetle;
- (c) the Government had devised a strategy to prevent the spread of Ash-Dieback across the UK.

Agreed that –

- (1) the Local Access Forum note the contents of the report;
- (2) the Local Access Forum note that further information on tree diseases and in particular ash-dieback can be found at <http://treedisease.co.uk/>;
- (3) the Local Access Forum note that the Government's Chalara Management Plan can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/chalara-management-plan>.

10. **LAF ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

The Forum noted the LAF Engagement Plan.

11. **WORKING GROUPS**

There were no reports from the Forum's working groups.

12. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members noted the work programme for 2013 – 2014 and agreed that the following items be added to the work programme:

- Plym Valley Connections Project update;
- an update on all projects that Plymouth City Council is involved in related to Transport, Access or Nature;
- Definitive Map update;
- all suggested items identified in the draft work programme;
- Plym Valley Cycle Trail as a potential site visit.

It was further agreed that a letter is sent to Plymouth City Council Officers requesting a response on the Forum's comments regarding Coombe Dean School.

13. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Forum noted its correspondence.

14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed that the next meeting of the Forum is held at 10.30am on Monday 2 September 2013.

15. **ISSUES ARISING FROM FORUM MEMBERS**

The following issues were raised by Forum members –

- (a) the opening of the steps at the Royal William Yard was taking place at 12 noon on Wednesday 19 June 2013;
- (b) the LAF Secretary should continue to provide planning application notifications and other LAF related emails to all members on a weekly basis;
- (c) an update on the Plym Valley Cycle Trail; this was progressing well with the car-park now completed, signage being erected and the trail hopefully being fully completed sometime in July/ August 2013
- (d) an update on the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE).

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PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

TRACKING RESOLUTIONS

Date / Minute number	Resolution	Explanation / Minute	Action	Progress
18.03.13 Minute 50 (3)	Bob Harvey would investigate the idea of inviting Stephen Jenkinson to provide a session on dogs to the Plymouth LAF and other local LAFs.		Bob Harvey	Bob is continuing to work on this, potentially as a joint-topic with trees in urban environments and will update the Forum when something has been organised.
17.06.13 Minute 4 (1)	the Forum writes a letter in support of the Plym Valley Connections Project. Dave Pawley was nominated to provide the text for the letter;	This resolution was in response to an update from Dave Pawley on Plymouth City Council, and other organisations, bid for Heritage Lottery Funding.	Dave Pawley	Letter sent to Mr Chris Coldwell on 8 July 2013.
17.06.13 Minute 4 (2)	the Plym Valley Connections Project is added to the Forum's work programme and Chris Coldwell, Senior Project Manager, is invited to attend the Forum's next meeting to provide an update on this project;	Members wished to have an update on the Heritage bid process and Plym Valley Connections Project.	Ross Johnston	This has been added to the work programme for 2 September 2013. An email was sent to Chris Colwell requesting the report and inviting him to the next LAF meeting on 23 July 2013.
17.06.13 Minute 4 (3)	Chris Coldwell, Senior Project Manager, is invited to provide an update to the Forum on all other local projects that the Council is currently involved in with	Members wished to have an update on all other projects that Plymouth City Council were involved in.	Ross Johnston	This has been added to the work programme for 2 September 2013. An email was sent to Chris Colwell requesting the report and inviting him to the next LAF meeting on 23 July 2013.

	regards to transport, access or nature.			
17.06.13 Minute 5	that the Public Rights of Way Officer would look for solutions which provided further information on changes to the PRow network to the public to be provided at the Forum's next meeting.	Members were concerned about the Definitive Map not being up-to-date.	Robin Pearce	Emailed request to Robin on 11 July 2013 and has been added to the work programme for 2 September 2013.
17.06.13 Minute 7 (1)	the Forum provide a written response to the Parks and Green Spaces Managers, letter. If Forum Members had any comments for inclusion in the response letter then they should be provided to the LAF Secretary by Friday 28 June 2013;	Members were concerned by the response they received from Gareth Harrison-Poole to the letter sent from the Forum on 26 June 2012.	Ross Johnston	Letter sent to Gareth Harrison-Poole on 11 July 2013.
17.06.13 Minute 7 (2)	the Parks and Greenspace Manager be invited to attend the Forum's next meeting on 2 September 2013 to discuss public footpaths within council owned parks and green spaces.	Members have asked Gareth Harrison-Poole to attend the Forum in September and December 2012 – both invites were turned down. Due to the Forum's concerns another invite was extended to Gareth Harrison-Poole to attend to discuss parks and green spaces within Plymouth.	Ross Johnston	Emailed request to Gareth Harrison-Poole on 23 July 2013 inviting him to attend the Forum's meeting on 2 September 2013.
17.06.13 Minute 12	that a letter is sent to Plymouth City Council Officers requesting a	Members were disappointed to still have not received a response from Ian Gillhespy with regard to	Ross Johnston	A letter was sent to Mr Gillhespy on 23 July 2013.

	response on the Forum's comments regarding Coombe Dean School.	Coombe Dean School and again requested that this be followed up.		
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= Complete resolution



= Outstanding resolution

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PLAF BRIEFING NOTE

2 September 2013 SWCP Update



1. Introduction

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

2 Officers Report

- 2.1 Officers have no new information to report to the PLAF.

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PLAF BRIEFING NOTE

2 September 2013 Co-operative Way Brochure



1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides the Forum with an update on matters relating to the republication of the Co-operative Way walking guide as requested by Members.

2 Officers Report

- 2.1 Work is well underway on the walking guide and copy text is with the designers. We would anticipate having a draft document to consult with PLAF Members on before the next meeting of the forum.

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Plym Valley HLF Bid – Briefing Note for Local Access Forum Meeting Monday 2nd September 2013

Introduction

This briefing provides a summary of the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund that has recently been submitted by Plymouth City Council on behalf of a Partnership of other organisations. The bid was submitted at the end of May and will be determined by October 2013 as part of a two stage grant application under the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership Programme.

Project Summary

The Plym Valley Connections Project is a partnership of local authorities, conservation organisations, land owners and community groups that have come together to coordinate and deliver enhancements to the Plym Valley. The key ambitions of the project are to protect the rich built and natural heritage of the valley, enhance the ability of the landscape to support biodiversity and maintain the distinct landscape character of the area. The project aims to increase public access to the landscape and re-connect Plymouth's communities with the history and heritage of the valley.

The partnership intends to submit a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for grant assistance of up to £2.3m to deliver enhancement projects over a 5 year period.

The partners include Plymouth City Council, South Hams Council, the National Trust, the Environment Agency, Devon Wildlife Trust and Natural England who will deliver the project by agreement.

Why is this project important?

Plymouth is embarking on a period of rapid expansion, with an intention to grow the population by 50,000 in the period to 2031. This significant population expansion offers a number of challenges and opportunities to providing a high quality of life for residents and encouraging visitors to the city.

Although Plymouth is a relatively 'green' city, with a large proportion of public green space, its residents have relatively limited access to rural and semi-natural landscapes. The barriers to access are partly due to the city's geographic location and partly due to physical, social, economic and cultural reasons.

The city lies in close proximity to some of the country's most celebrated landscapes, including Dartmoor, secluded river valleys and the coastline. However, access to these resources is primarily by private car with only limited access through public transport or walking and cycling. The socio-economic profile of the city means that many residents are prevented from enjoying these resources through not having access to private transport.

This project seeks to un-lock the physical, social and cultural barriers that prevent city residents from accessing the wider landscape and enjoying the range of benefits that outdoor activities can provide.

The Opportunity

The Plym Valley plays a hugely important part in the story of Plymouth and the partnership considers that it offers an excellent opportunity to develop a significant resource for residents and visitors alike. The rich history of the valley, coupled with the varied pattern of landscape and mosaic of habitats provides a range of interests to attract an equally diverse range of visitors. The social, cultural and industrial heritage of the valley can provide not only the physical infrastructure to open up the landscape but also the incentive to encourage new visitors to access the space.

Parts of the valley are already well used and during the summer key destinations such as Saltram House, Plym Bridge, Cadover Bridge and Plym Woods are busy with visitors. Many believe that these locations are at their full capacity and greater numbers of visitors could lead to degradation and a reduction in the quality of the visitor's experience, together with pressure on vulnerable heritage features. The key ambition of this project is to restore the valley's vulnerable heritage features, provide greater access to the wider valley to relieve pressure on these 'honey pot' sites and create a better network of recreational opportunities that appeal to a wider audience, through enhancing people's understanding of the valley's heritage .

Effective planning and the delivery of key enhancement projects will ensure that valley is able to adapt to meet the needs of the growing population and continue to function as a valuable resource for Plymouth and the surrounding communities.

Programme

If the bid is successful and the partnership receives funding from HLF, this is the approximate timeline for the project:

Submit Stage 1	End of May 2013
Decision	October 2013
Commence Development Stage	November 2013
Submit Stage 2	October 2014
Stage 2 Decision	April 2015
Delivery Team in place	July 2015
Activities commence	July 2015
Capital works start	October 2015
Project completion	March 2020

Public Consultation

As part of the Stage 1 bid, Plymouth City Council commissioned an online consultation map. The partnership is asking members of the public where they go in the valley, what

they enjoy doing and where they feel there are opportunities for improvements. These comments will continue to feed into the project and help shape the proposals that will be developed during Stage 2.

The website can be accessed through the link below and full video instructions are provided on the home page.

<http://plymvalleymap.org.uk/>

If you find any offensive or inappropriate comments please click the 'report' button under the comment which will alert Plymouth City Council to your concerns.

If you need further help or have any comments on the mapping system please contact: info@plymvalleymap.org.uk

Please help us to promote this exciting project and encourage everyone who uses or could use the valley add their comments and express their views.

Decision making

The Partnership proposes to make decisions by consensus among the main partners, receiving advice and taking on board consultation with a wide range of other organisations as detailed on the attached diagram. The Local Access Forum and constituent members will form part of these other organisations. In this way decision making is intended to be open, transparent and not led by the main partners.

Appendices

Plym Valley HLF Bid Boundary
Governance arrangements

Contact

Kat Deeney – Green Infrastructure Manager – Tel. Plymouth 304351 Email kathryn.deeney@plymouth.gov.uk

Tom Lowry – Urban Design Officer – Tel. Plymouth 305980 Email tom.lowry@plymouth.gov.uk

Chris Coldwell – Senior Project Manager – Tel Plymouth 305602 Email chris.coldwell@plymouth.gov.uk

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PLAF BRIEFING NOTE

2 September 2013 Definitive Map Update



1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides the Forum with an update on matters relating to the republication of the Definitive Map as requested by Members.

2 Officers Report

- 2.1 Officers have considered the recommendation of the PLAF with regard to the accessibility and usefulness of the Definitive Map and Statement and its availability in our First Stop reception area. We agree that we could take steps to make positive changes to the way we display and present this information.
- 2.2 We are pleased to note that the allegation that the Definitive Map was not available in First Stop was discovered to be incorrect and confirm the map continues to be available for public inspection and has been continuously since August 2006.
- 2.3 In considering the advice of the forum we believe we can actually make alternative improvements that will go above and beyond those suggested by the forum. We therefore propose to:
- Republish the Definitive Map to ensure the most up to date information is in the public domain.
 - Work with our software suppliers to put in place a quicker and more efficient way to republish to ensure future map updates can be carried out anticipating a 3 year update cycle.
 - Make digital copies of the Definitive Map available online as well as the usual paper copies available in First Stop and public libraries.

- Make all public notices for Orders available online increasing public access to them and, should the government implement their plan for greater freedom over how authorities advertise such Orders, allow us to more quickly stop placing public notices in local papers. This information could be retained online until the next republication meaning all legal notices for any issue are available for public inspection.
- Implement a public online register of Modification Order applications showing the route being claimed, details of the claimant and the stage in the process each application is currently at.
- Implement a similar public register for section 31(6) deposits.
- Should the authority implement suitable online mapping then this information will be moved onto this system.

2.4 It is impossible at this time to offer absolute timescales for the implementation of the above however we are meeting with the supplier of our software in October 2013 and their input will guide our progress.

2.5 We offer to report back to the PLAF with further details in 2 meetings time and report back at subsequent meetings as required.



PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Work Programme 2013/14

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	17										
Plymouth Local Access Forum Annual Report				2			16			17	
South West Coast Path update				2						17	
Derriford Community Park							16				
Parks and Green Spaces	17			2							
Plym Valley Cycle Trail update	17										
Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) update											
Whitleigh: Safer and Sustainable Travel Project update							16				
Co-operative Way Brochure	17			2							
Natural England update											
Impact of Ash-dieback in Plymouth (Tree diseases)	17										
Consultation on LAF Changes implemented							16				
Local Nature Partnerships				2							
Social Networks (LAF Promotion)							16				
Paths for Communities (P4C) Scheme							16				

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8 July 2012

Mr Chris Coldwell
Senior Project Manager
Plymouth City Council
Floor 11
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 Coldwell,

The Local Access Forum (LAF) meeting on 17 June 2013 received a brief summary outlining Plymouth City Council's collaborative bid for Heritage Lottery funding for their Plym Valley Connections project from members of the LAF who had attended recent meetings of the project community action group associated with the bid.

The LAF supports the bid and the initiatives outlined in the proposals, particularly the envisaged co-ordination of effort from a diverse range of organisation who are partners in the bid. Of particular interest to the LAF are the links from the areas of the Plym within the boundaries of the city reaching outside the city to the higher reaches of the Plym. We envisage the development of Plym trail close to the river from the Sound to the source of the Plym high on Dartmoor. We hope that local landowners can be encouraged to permit access along the banks of the Plym through their land to facilitate the development of such a trail.

The intention of developing intermediate access points to various points in the valley to encourage access to the valley from urban centres within Plymouth is welcomed. Centuries ago the Plym Valley industries were very important to Plymouth with transportation links in place from Dartmoor to the sea. Some of those links could possibly be redeveloped to give improved access from Plymouth to near those old industrial centres, thereby enabling city residents to better understand the heritage on their doorstep as well as introducing them to the wonderful landscape around them.

The LAF has a keen interest in the bid and any other projects that Plymouth City Council are involved in and members would like to invite you to attend their next meeting on Monday 2 September 2013 to update all members on the bid's aims and objectives and on its progress. In addition to the progress update on the Plym Valley Connections Project the Forum has identified in its work programme the need to be informed on any other projects that Plymouth City Council is co-ordinating or involved in. It is also requested that in your attendance you provide an update on any other projects that Plymouth

City Council are participating, focusing on the LAF's particular interest of projects which involve transport, access to the countryside, the sea, greenspaces and nature.

Could you please confirm that you will be able to attend the next meeting to provide the requested update or provide a suitable deputy to provide this update.

The LAF would like to wish the bid every success.

Yours Sincerely,

Ross Johnston,
Secretary of the Plymouth Local Access Forum



PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

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Web: www.plymouth.gov.uk/laf

11 July 2013

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,

Plymouth Local Access Forum on the 17th June 2013 considered the response to the advice offered to the Council last June on the need for public footpaths on Council owned land to be registered on the Definitive Map and Statement.

Members of the Forum were disappointed the advice offered had been rejected in favour of the status quo. It is also regrettable that misleading and inaccurate information should have been used in reaching this decision.

Funding is made available for public rights of way from a number of sources other than the £30,000 two year funding quoted. Public rights of way are an integral part of the Local Transport Plan and the annual financial settlement should reflect this. Funding to finance the running of the Access Forum is also received from government.

It is highly unlikely the Council would have the resources to record 100 public footpaths as public rights of way given its past record of recording only few public footpaths as public rights of way in the last seven years.

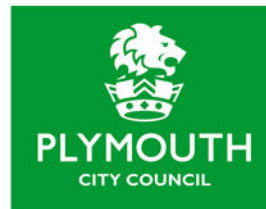
There is no evidence the “dedication of permanent public rights of way over council owned parks and green spaces” by the Transport Department in the last three years has been recorded on the definitive map and statements. The definitive map and statements has not been updated since first publication in 2006 and no revision is planned until 2014 and so failing to comply with statutory regulation requirement for the map to be continuously updated.

It is regrettable Environmental Services is not able to agree with council policies for the countryside to be opened up to more people and that the recording of public rights of way it would “result in a negative impact on both our green spaces and the quality of the PWW network.”

Plymouth Local Access Forum is an independent body administered by Plymouth City Council. The role of the forum is set out in the Terms of Reference, paragraph 2 Role and Responsibilities in the annual review in the agenda pack of the 17th June 2013 meeting. The advice offered by the Forum is made after many hours of work researching public footpaths and liaison with the Rights of Way Officer as to how the 800 known public footpaths should be recorded on the definitive map. It is therefore disappointing the Council has failed to implement the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and subsequent legislation on the need to record known public rights of way on the definitive map and statements.

Yours Sincerely,

Ray Fairchild,
Vice-Chair of the Plymouth Local Access Forum



Plymouth Local Access Forum
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Street Scene
Environmental Services

Plymouth City Council
Civic Centre
Plymouth PL1 2AA

T 01752 606034
E streetsceneservices@plymouth.gov.uk
www.plymouth.gov.uk

Please ask for: Gareth Harrison-Poole

Date 23 July 2013

My Ref

Your Ref

Dear Mr Fairchild

Thank you for your letter of 10 July 2013.

We are sorry that you disagree with our decision.

We feel that the projects we have put in place for the recording of public rights of way on council owned land represent the most cost effective and beneficial way forward in the current financial climate and they appear to us to be working well. This view is shared by the many local communities and user groups who have benefited from this work. We currently have a series of successful schemes carried out with the full backing of local people, users, ward councillors and stakeholders these include such sites as Ham Woods, Southway Valley, Woodland Woods, Efford Valley, Forder Valley, Radford Woods and Devil's Point Park.

The Definitive Map is a snap shot in time on the day it was published. It is not practical to republish it every time a change is made to it. However, because a change to the PRow network might not immediately be shown on the Definitive Map does not mean that change does not have legal effect.

In my previous response I stated that we identify sites, that we secure capital funding to carry out improvement works that are community led and that we have a robust history of creating new public rights of way on Council owned land. We continue to believe that the project you are suggesting would detract significantly from the benefits our project is delivering to local communities because it simply does not deliver the same level of benefit whilst absorbing all our available funding.

We are always grateful for your feedback and look forward to working with you in the future on other projects. However we have nothing further to add and consider this matter closed. I ask that if you have any further queries or any other issues regarding the authorities' obligations in terms of public rights of way then I ask you to direct them to the Council's Public Rights of Way Officer in our Transport Team. They can be contacted at prow@plymouth.gov.uk or on 01752 304233.

Yours Sincerely

Gareth Harrison-Poole
Environmental Services
Plymouth City Council



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23 July 2013

Ian Gillhespy
Senior Valuation Surveyor (Corporate Estates Team)
Corporate Services
Plymouth City Council
Civic Centre
Floor 13
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 Gillhespy,

At the meeting of the Local Access Forum on 17 June 2013 the issue of Coombe Dean school was discussed. The Forum agreed:

- that a letter is sent to Plymouth City Council Officers requesting a response on the Forum's comments regarding Coombe Dean School.

The Forum last wrote to you on 10 April 2012 (letter attached as Appendix 4) (all previous correspondence between you and the Forum is attached as appendices to this letter), where it was commented that the letter sent to the Forum on 12 March 2012 confirming the exclusion of land from long term lease for the footpath at Coombe Dean School failed to explain:

1. The status of the footpath.
2. The designation of the footpath as a public right of way on the Definitive Map and statement or as a footpath on the Highway Register.
3. Confirmation that the footpath would remain in the ownership of Plymouth City Council.
4. How the footpath would be protected or maintained.
5. Whether the footpath would be fenced.
6. In defining the footpath what costs would be incurred and how will these costs be met and by whom.

7. Who would be responsible for the maintenance of the footpath

The Forum would like a response to this letter providing an answer on all seven points raised above. The Forum would like to receive a response to this letter by 20 August 2013, in time for its inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting on 2 September 2013 at 10:30am.

Yours Sincerely,

Ray Fairchild,
Chair of the Plymouth Local Access Forum

Encs:

Appendix 1 – Letter from the LAF of 13 April 2011

Appendix 2 – Letter from Mr Gillhespy of 13 July 2011

Appendix 3 – Letter from Mr Gillhespy of 1 March 2012

Appendix 4 – Letter from the LAF of 10 April 2012

**PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

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13 April 2011

Ian Gillhespy
Senior Valuation Surveyor
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 Gillhespy,

Plymouth Local Access Forum Members at a meeting held on 28 March 2011 received Notice of Statutory Land Transfer reports for Ridgeway School and Coombe Dean School. It was agreed by the Forum that they formally respond on the notice's for both schools.

The minute of the meeting is as follows –

Members received a report on the Notice of Statutory Land Transfer for Ridgeway School and Coombe Dean School. The PROW Officer informed members that –

- (a) a number of schools had applied for academy status; if granted these schools would no longer be in the control of the local authority;*
- (b) the local authority would need to lease land to the schools who were granted academy status which could impact on public rights of way and other highways issues;*
- (c) the two schools had presently been provided with temporary leases, with formal leases being consulted on and it was important that the land leases correctly incorporate all highway's issues.*

Members commented that –

- (d) before the Coombe Dean lease was finalised existing footpaths should be formally adopted as public rights of way and recorded on the definitive map;*

- (e) *if footpath's were not recorded on the definitive map then they should remain as permissive footpath's or not be included in the lease;*
- (f) *if the footpath's were not recorded and they were to be included in the lease then there should be conditions in the lease that ensure the school do not obstruct the footpath;*
- (g) *local resident's could also apply for the footpath's to be adopted as public rights of way;*
- (h) *the Ridgeway school extinguishment order was a separate issue and should not be considered with the notice of land transfer.*

Agreed that –

- (1) *the LAF Secretary in consultation with the Chair formally respond to Ian Gillhespy, Senior Valuation Surveyor on the notice of land transfer at Ridgeway School;*
- (2) *the LAF Secretary in consultation with the Chair formally respond to Ian Gillhespy, Senior Valuation Surveyor on the notice of land transfer at Coombe Dean.*

Ridgeway School response

The footpath running through the school is a legal public right of way and as such it is the local authorities obligation to maintain the footpath. It was noted that Ridgeway School had applied for an extinguishment order for this footpath in the past, however, this was considered to be a entirely separate issue by the Forum.

It was therefore agreed by the Forum that at present they had no comments to make regarding the Notice of Statutory Land Transfer at Ridgeway School but should a future extinguishment order be successful then the LAF would respond on both issues at that time.

Coombe Dean School

In respect of the Notice of Statutory Land Transfer at Coombe Dean School it was agreed by the Forum that when approving the lease of land the local authority should apply one of the following three proposals –

1. The footpath (in the diagram contained within the report marked blue as A – B) is understood to be the freehold of Plymouth City Council. It is felt by the Forum that the Council should therefore adopt and dedicate this footpath as a public right of way before the lease is agreed with Coombe Dean School;

2. If the Council are not prepared to dedicate the footpath as a public right of way then it was felt that the footpath should remain as a permissive footpath and be excluded from the lease with Coombe Dean School;
3. If neither of the above options are possible then the Council should include the footpath within the lease with Coombe Dean School but there should be conditions contained within the lease that prevents Coombe Dean School from obstructing the path in any way.

It was stated by the Local Access Forum that their preferred option for the lease with Coombe Dean School was proposal 1 above.

The Local Access Forum would like to request that an update on the lease's for both Ridgeway School and Coombe Dean School be provided at a future meeting. For your information the next meeting of the Forum is Monday 13 June 2011.

Yours Sincerely,

Ross Johnston
Secretary to Plymouth Local Access Forum

BEST ACHIEVING
COUNCIL OF THE YEAR



Mr R Johnston
Secretary to Plymouth Local Access Forum
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Please ask for: Ian Gillhespy

Date 13 July

My Ref IG011et

Your Ref

Dear Mr Johnston

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

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

Ridgeway School

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

Coombe Dean School

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

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

I trust this response is sufficient for the Forum.

Yours sincerely

Ian Gillhespy
Senior Valuation Surveyor (Corporate)
Corporate Property

**BEST ACHIEVING
COUNCIL OF THE YEAR**



Mr R Johnson
Secretary to Plymouth Access Forum
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Please ask for: Ian Gillhespy

Date 1 March 2012

My Ref IG02let

Your Ref

Dear Mr Johnston

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

I write by way of update to the Plymouth Local Access Forum in relation to the above matters.

Ridgeway School

The Ridgeway Academy Trust have been granted a Tenancy at Will of the School site pending completion of the long term lease both of which exclude Geasons Lane and Footpath No. 2 from Moorland Road to Geasons Lane.

Coombe Dean School

The Coombe Dean Academy Trust have been granted a Tenancy at Will of the School site pending completion of the long term lease both of which exclude the land to the north east corner of that School site which provides a footpath linking Charnhill Way to Furzehatt Avenue.

Yours sincerely

Ian Gillhespy
Senior Valuation Surveyor (Corporate Estates Team)
Corporate Property

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10 April 2012

Ian Gillhespy
Senior Valuation Surveyor (Corporate Estates Team)
Corporate Services
Plymouth City Council
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Floor 13
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 Gillhespy,

At the last meeting of the Local Access Forum on 12 March 2012 members discussed the updates provided on the Notice of Statutory Land Transfer for Ridgeway School and Coombe Dean School and 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).

The Forum indicated that they had no concerns with regard to the Ridgeway School update, however, there were a number of concerns raised in response to the update on Coombe Dean School.

The Forum has requested that a further written update is provided at the next meeting in June 2012 which addresses the concerns raised. It was felt that the concerns identified needed answering in order to prevent any long term problems with the footpath.

It was commented that the letter submitted to the Forum on 12 March 2012 confirming the exclusion of land from long term lease for the footpath at Coombe Dean School failed to explain:

1. The status of the footpath.
2. The designation of the footpath as a public right of way on the Definitive Map and statement or as a footpath on the Highway Register.
3. Confirmation that the footpath would remain in the ownership of Plymouth City Council.
4. How the footpath would be protected or maintained.
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6. In defining the footpath what costs would be incurred and how will these costs be met and by whom.
7. Who would be responsible for the maintenance of the footpath

Yours Sincerely,

Ross Johnston
Secretary to Plymouth Local Access Forum

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