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PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

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When calling or telephoning please ask for: **Lynn Young**

PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

DATE: MONDAY 17 MARCH 2014

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 Harvey,

Ms Hitchens, Mr Pawley, Mrs Rodgers, Mr Skinner, 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 16 December 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 - 8)

To monitor progress on previous resolutions.

6. CATTEWATER RAIL SPUR SITE VISIT (Pages 9 - 12)

The Forum will receive an update from the site visit of 21 January 2014.

7. FEEDBACK FROM NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The Chair will provide an update from the LAF National Conference in Bristol on 4 February 2014.

8. HUDDLE HOT TOPICS (Pages 13 - 16)

To discuss any issues arising from the January and February editions of Huddle Hot Topics.

9. DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER UPDATE (TO FOLLOW)

The Forum will receive an update on the Definitive Map Modification Order from the Public Rights of Way Officer.

10. DEFINITIVE MAP UPDATE (TO FOLLOW)

The Forum will receive an update on the Definitive Map from the Public Rights of Way Officer.

11. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 17 - 18)

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

12. CORRESPONDENCE (Pages 19 - 22)

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

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be confirmed following confirmation of the programme of Council meetings at the Full Council Meeting on 31 March 2014.

14. 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 16 December 2013

PRESENT:

Mr Fairchild, in the Chair.

Mr Stewart, Vice Chair.

Mr Attrill, Mr Curno, Councillor Fox, Mr Harvey, Ms Hitchens, Mr Pawley, Mr Skinner and Councillor Wheeler.

Apologies for absence: Mr Emery, Councillor Foster and Mr Goddard.

Also in attendance: Mark Owen (South West Coast Path National Trail Officer), Ross Johnston and Lynn Young (Democratic Support Officers).

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.

30. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Name	Subject	Reason	Interest
Mr Pawley	Proposed South West Coast Path Management Structure and Process (minute 34 refers)	Is the Plymouth local representative for the South West Coast Path	Personal

31. MINUTES

Agreed that the minutes of 2 September 2013 are approved.

32. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

33. TRACKING RESOLUTIONS

The Forum noted its tracking resolutions. It was agreed that the LAF Secretary would –

- contact Kat Deeney, Green Infrastructure Team Leader, to remind her that reports regarding the Local Nature Partnership and the Derriford Community Park were required for the next meeting;
- ascertain from Kat Deeney, Green Infrastructure Team Leader, whether the Forum members were able to assist with any project for the Local Nature Partnership;
- contact Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer, to remind him that updates on the co-operative Way and the Definitive Map were required for the next meeting.

34. **PROPOSED SOUTH WEST COAST PATH MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND PROCESS**

The Forum received a presentation from Mark Owen, South West Coast Path National Trail Officer. Members were informed that –

- (a) the South West Coast Path measured 630 miles;
- (b) the record for completing the path was 14 days, 14 hours and 44 minutes;
- (c) the majority of people spent 10+ years completing the path;
- (d) the path encompassed two World Heritage sites and five Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty;
- (e) 81% of walkers of the South West Coast Path were ‘social’ walkers;
- (f) walking the South West Coast Path was the most popular activity after shopping (according to ‘Visit Cornwall’ statistics);
- (g) 6.2m people walked the South West Coast Path every year, spending £389m (mainly in small businesses), which helped to sustain 8985 (full time equivalent) jobs;
- (h) £2.1m of investment from the EU and Defra had enabled improvements to be made to the South West Coast Path;
- (i) the economic value of the South West Coast Path increased by 10.4% during 2010-2011;
- (j) the number of visitors to the South West Coast Path increased year on year;
- (k) 29 sites along the South West Coast Path had been improved using money received from the EU;
- (l) there had been 160 small scale improvements along the South

West Coast Path during 2013;

- (m) the Great South West Walk, organised by the South West Coast Path Association, had raised £250,000+, which had increased to £640,000+ with matched funding;
- (n) there were 86 map information boards located in campsites and other holiday locations, which listed information on walks in the surrounding area. These locations also held a supply of leaflets and maps about the South West Coast Path;
- (o) farm information boards had been produced to provide information about farms along the South West Coast Path;
- (p) there were 500+ walks available on the South West Coast Path website. The walks were designed to appeal to everyone;
- (q) seven new guidebooks in the series 'Walks Along the South West Coast Path' had been published;
- (r) an APP for smartphones was now available for the South West Coast Path, and plaques containing the QR (Quick Response) code had been placed on a selection of finger posts along the path.

Following member's questions it was reported that –

- (s) Mark Owen had considered placing plaques containing the QR code on finger posts in the Plymouth area.

Under this item, Mark Owen provided members with an update on the National Trail Review – South West Coast Path Proposals & Implications. Members were informed that –

- (t) Natural England had started a review in 2009, and maintenance funding had now been allocated to a national formula;
- (u) funding had been set for three years to enable forward planning;
- (v) Natural England funding needed a 3:1 local match (Highway Authorities or National Trust);
- (w) the maintenance budget for 2013-14 was now £612,000 (approx. 30% reduction from 2009-2010), and did not include a contingency for cliff falls and other exceptional events (of which there had been 37 in the last month);
- (x) it was proposed to formally discontinue the existing management structure (South West Coast Path Forum, Strategic & Practical Managements groups) and replace it with a new structure. The key components parts of this new structure were -

- Regional Stakeholder Group;
- Delivery Management Group;
- Local Liaison Group;
- SWCP Team.

Mark Owen subsequently spoke on the development of the South West Coast Path. Members were advised that –

- (y) the South West Coast Path was designated as the UK's favourite walk, ranked as one of the world's greatest walks, and had made the coast of the south west the UK's best year-round walking destination;
- (z) the South West Coast Path had good attributes to encourage people to visit the area – views, climate, travel times, accommodation, wildlife and heritage;
- (aa) there was potential to market Plymouth as 'the UK's best city for walking breaks' due to various factors, including the city's unique naval heritage and variety of countryside on offer;
- (bb) a range of projects were being developed along the South West Coast Path, including 'Walkers are Welcome' towns and Walking Festivals;
- (cc) the South West Coast Path was investigating the possibility of introducing an apprenticeship scheme which would provide extra manpower to complete repairs to the path;
- (dd) the South West Coast Path employed a Commercial Liaison Officer (whose post was soon to terminate) who encouraged businesses and other organisations to get involved in projects which were very local to them, which they could relate to, and which their customers would benefit from;
- (ee) a 'Great South West Walks' event was planned for 20-28 September 2014. This event was currently at the planning stage;
- (ff) it was hoped that improvements to the South West Coast Path would improve the tourist trade and ensure that the region's heritage was better maintained, identified and recorded.

Following members' questions it was reported that –

- (ii) of the 37 coastal erosions that had occurred in the past month, most had been fixed, although some were considered to be long term projects.

Ray Fairchild, Chair, thanked Mark Owen for his presentation, and looked forward to working with him in the future.

35. **COOPERATIVE WAY BROCHURE**

Agreed that this item is deferred until the Forum's next meeting.

36. **LOCAL ACCESS FORUM (LAF) ANNUAL REVIEW FORM: APRIL 2012 TO MARCH 2013**

Members discussed the Local Access Forum (LAF) Annual Review Form: April 2012 to March 2013, which had been submitted to Natural England.

Ray Fairchild, Chair, pointed out that he had completed sections 1-7 of the form (with the assistance of David Pawley and John Emery). Section 8 had been completed by Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer.

After a lengthy discussion, members expressed their displeasure at the comments in section 8, and pointed out that they did not accept the criticisms of LAF that had been made.

It was agreed that Ian Stewart, Vice Chair, would write to Natural England to express the Forum's displeasure at the comments contained in section 8, to advise that they did not accept these comments, and to express regret that he did not have the opportunity to discuss the comments with Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer.

37. **PATHS FOR COMMUNITIES UPDATE - SEPTEMBER 2013**

Members discussed the Paths for Communities Update – September 2013, along with the Autumn 2013 edition of the Paths for Communities e-newsletter. Members noted that –

- (a) not all of the funding sources listed in the e-newsletter were available to Plymouth City Council;
- (b) the Stepping Stones to Nature project (SS2N) was involved in sourcing funding for footpaths, along with other projects;
- (c) Mark Owen, South West Coast Path National Trail Officer, had sourced the funding required to build the steps at the Royal William Yard.

Councillor Fox left the meeting at the end of this item.

38. **WORKING GROUPS**

There were no reports from the Forum's working groups. It was agreed to set up a working group to visit the disused railway line between Laira Bridge and Cattedown Wharves before the Forum's next meeting.

39. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The Forum reviewed its work programme and agreed that a site visit to the disused railway line between Laira Bridge and Cattedown Wharves is organised before the Forum's next meeting.

Mr Attrill left the meeting at the end of this item.

40. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Forum noted its correspondence and agreed that a further letter is sent to Mr Gillhespy, thanking him for his response and asking for a further update to his earlier letter.

41. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed that the next meeting of the Forum is held at 10.30am on Monday 17 March 2014.

42. **ISSUES ARISING FROM FORUM MEMBERS**



Bob Harvey, LAF member, raised the issue of the possibility of him becoming a member of the South Devon AONB Partnership. It was agreed that Ray Fairchild, Chair, would contact Hilary Winter of Natural England (South West) to discuss this matter further.

PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

TRACKING RESOLUTIONS

Date / Minute number	Resolution	Explanation / Minute	Action	Progress
16.12.13 Minute 33 (1)	Kat Deeney, Green Infrastructure Team Leader, to be reminded that reports regarding the Local Nature Partnership and the Derriford Community Park were required for the next meeting.		Lynn Young	E-mailed Kat Deeney on 20 December 2013. No response received. E-mailed Kat Deeney on 21 February 2014.
16.12.13 Minute 33 (2)	ascertain from Kat Deeney, Green Infrastructure Team Leader, whether the Forum members were able to assist with any project for the Local Nature Partnership.		Lynn Young	E-mailed Kat Deeney on 20 December 2013. No response received.
16.12.13 Minute 33 (3)	contact Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer, to remind him that update on the Co-operative Way and the Definitive Map were required for the next meeting.		Lynn Young	E-mailed Robin Pearce on 20 December 2013. No response received.
16.12.13	agreed that Ian Stewart, Vice Chair, would write to Natural England to express the Forum's displeasure at the comments contained in section 8, to advise that they did not accept these		Ian Stewart	

	comments, and to express regret that he did not have the opportunity to discuss the comments with Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer.			
16.12.13 Minute 38	<u>agreed</u> to set up a working group to visit the discussed railway line between Laira Bridge and Cattedown Wharves before the Forum's next meeting.		Lynn Young	A Doodle account was created to seek the most appropriate date for all members and following the responses the site visit was arranged for 21 January 2014 at 10 am.
16.12.13 Minute 39	agreed that a site visit to the disused railway line between Laira Bridge and Cattedown Wharves is organised before the Forum's next meeting.		Lynn Young	A Doodle account was created to seek the most appropriate date for all members and following the responses the site visit was arranged for 21 January 2014 at 10 am.
16.12.13 Minute 40	<u>agreed</u> that a further letter is sent to Mr Gillhespy, thanking him for his response and asking for a further update to his earlier letter.		Lynn Young	Letter sent to Mr Gillhespy on 18 February 2014.
16.12.13 Minute 42	<u>agreed</u> that Ray Fairchild, Chair, would contact Hilary Winter of Natural England (South West) to discuss this matter further.		Ray Fairchild	

-  = Complete resolution
-  = Outstanding resolution

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NOTES OF
PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM. SITE VISIT 21st JANUARY 2014.

LAIRA BRIDGE TO FUEL DEPOT CATTEDOWN.

LOOKING AT SINGLE RAIL TRACK FOR POSSIBLE USE AS
FOOTPATH / CYCLE TRACK.

We met at the GO car park at 1000hrs.

We walked from GO car park to Laira Bridge where we viewed new cycle track site, due to start 20th January 2014.

We then walked the road to Coxside Fuel Depot.

The existing rail track ends just past the Scrap Metal Depot, and is permanently fenced.

Where the rail track is removed the fencing consists of permanent and temporary fencing.

The existing siding goes under the main road at Laira Bridge.

The single line siding would make a suitable path for South West Coast Path and a Cycle Track.

ATTENDEES

JOHN, IAN, BOB, PAT, RAY and DAVE P

Attached Location Map

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Huddle Hot Topics January 2014

This is the first of a monthly briefing sheet to let you know the key topics on Huddle.

Top news

The Deregulation Bill has now been published. There are clauses in it affecting rights of way – clauses 13-19 and Schedule 6. There's no comment yet on Huddle but progress on the Bill can be seen on <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2013-14/deregulation.html>

The Bill follows the Stakeholder Working Group report and the Defra consultation on "Improvements to the policy and legal and framework for public rights of way."

Other news

- **Not-for-Profit Organisation linked to a LAF**

This theme has had a couple of posts during the month. The last post from a County Council Officer stated. "I'm looking to see if a local environmental charity that administers grants (including for access) might want to work to set up a resident/visitor giving scheme that brings in money for community access/PRoW projects.

Interestingly a South Devon hotel has just entered a scheme with the National Trust whereby a £1 voluntary contribution is added to guest bills. Money is being used to support new walking routes in the vicinity. Are there possibilities to extend this type of initiative to public rights of way maintenance and Rights of Way Improvement Plan schemes?

- **Paths in Crisis**

The Ramblers report has sparked a discussion thread. The latest entry comments on the value of Parish Council involvement and also 'adopt a path' schemes. The success of particular groups such as the Mid Cotswolds Trails and Tracks groups in raising money to restore and maintain paths is mentioned. This was a project driven by horse-riders but no reason why other groups could not achieve success in this area.

- **Integrating the Highway Records – The Local Street Gazette**

A technical commentary has been posted on the Local Street Gazette and the Definitive Map and the problems of describing and defining some entries on the LSG. Some highways may not be maintainable at public expense but may still have rights for pedestrians, cyclists, walkers or vehicle users. GeoPlace, the public sector limited liability partnership between the Local Government Association and the Ordnance Survey which has responsibility for the National Street Gazette is looking into some of the difficulties of categorising routes for on-line coding.

For more details contact your LAF Huddle members or let me know if you require any e-mail attachments of specific items.

Hilary Winter, Regional Coordinator, SW LAFs. E-mail: hilary.winter@devon.gov.uk

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HUDDLE Hot Topics

February 2014

Key items on Huddle

Please speak to your Huddle representative or ask me if you require more information.

Network Rail Crossing Closures

There have been a number of discussion items about Network Rail and crossing closures, some of which involve public rights of way. It's definitely an area to keep an eye on, particularly to ensure there is adequate discussion and that less mobile people are adequately considered in any diversion proposals.

<http://www.networkrail.co.uk/transparency/level-crossings/>

Photographs

A new section on Huddle has been added with Natural England photos (free to use) and links to websites with free images – useful for publications.

National Report to Defra on LAFs

This is now on Huddle, together with the individual regional reports.

Completing the highway record

There is a lengthy post about a logical way forward for completing the highway record. In brief, Peter McKay suggests that:

1. LAFs should ensure that the Local Street Gazetteer is available on-line, for public inspection and completed in accordance with the legislation – a strong recommendation but not a requirement.
2. “The second logical requirement is for Surveying Authorities to be allowed adequate time to make use of the proposed improved procedures, to make any corrections to the highway records that they are aware of as identified in a highway record Evidence Base and/or addressed in the RoWIP, to bring the highway records up to an acceptable and legally compliant standard.”
3. “The third logical step is to encourage parishes, the public and other user groups to inspect the highway records and to make representations regarding errors and omissions.” Cross-boundary routes given different status is an issue in some areas.

With all the above proposals, the suggestion is that LAFs should approach the Secretary of State advising where there is inadequate time to inspect and complete the statutory highway record to a satisfactory standard and to resolve anomalies before the cut-off date in 2026. Mr McKay suggests that the Deregulation Bill will not impact on the process for compiling the Local Street Gazetteer (List of Streets). He also states “Local Access Forums should take care that they do not ultimately get blamed for lost ways through failing to provide appropriate formal advice on these matters.”

No doubt there will be more posts on this matter. My recommendation is to clarify the position and discuss with the public rights of way section in your area.

National Conference presentations and workshop notes will be on Huddle after the Durham event in March.

SW LAFs/HW

Feb 2014

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**PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

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18 February 2014

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: **Miss Lynn Young**

Dear Mr Gillhespy,

At the meeting of the Local Access Forum on 16 December 2013 under the agenda item 'Correspondence' the Forum discussed your letter of 6 November 2013.

The Forum have noted the comments of your letter, and would like to express their thanks for your reply.

The Forum are still awaiting a response to points 2, 4 and 6 of their original letter as stated below -

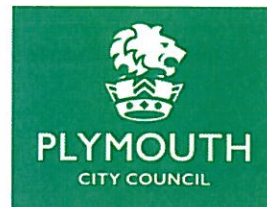
2. The designation of the footpath as a public right of way on the Definitive Map and statement or as a footpath on the Highway Register.
4. How the footpath would be protected or maintained.
6. In defining the footpath what costs would be incurred and how will these costs be met and by whom.

Please provide a response to the points above at your earliest convenience.

Yours Sincerely,

Ray Fairchild,
Chair of the Plymouth Local Access Forum

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Mr R Fairchild
Chair Plymouth Local Access Forum
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Economic Development

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www.plymouth.gov.uk

Please ask for: Ian Gillhespy

Date: 6 November 2013

My Ref: IG02let(E4181)

Your Ref:

Dear Mr Fairchild

Coombe Dean School – Footpath from Charnhill Way to Furzehatt Avenue, Elburton

Firstly I apologise for having not responded to previous correspondence from the Plymouth Local Access Forum.

In respect of the letter of 1 October 2013 I reply as follows;

1. The current status of the footpath is unadopted highway.
2. I am in contact with Plymouth Transport and Highways regarding the potential and process to designate the footpath as a Public Right of Way or Highway Maintainable at Public Expense.
3. The footpath remains in Plymouth City Council's ownership.
4. Please see point 2. above.
5. The footpath is already fenced along the boundary with Coombe Dean School and there are boundary features to the residential properties nos. 46 Charnhill Way and 13-21 (odds) Furzehatt Avenue.
6. Please see point 2. above.
7. Currently responsibility for maintenance of the footpath sits with Plymouth City Council's Corporate Property section.

I will advise further in due course in respect of points 2.,4. and 6.

I trust this initial response updates the Plymouth Local Access Forum in respect of this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'I. Gillhespy', written in a cursive style.

Mr I Gillhespy
Valuation Surveyor
Land and Property Team