



PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

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When calling or telephoning please ask for: **Helen Rickman**

PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Date: Monday 22 February 2016
Time: 10.30am
Place: Council House, Plymouth.

Committee Members–

Mr Fairchild, in the Chair
Mr Stewart, Vice Chair
Mr Attrill, Mr Curno, Councillor Sam Davey, Councillor Ken Foster, Mr Harvey, Mrs Hitchens,
Mr Pawley, Mr Skinner and Councillor Wheeler.

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

For further information on attending Council meetings and how to engage in the democratic process please follow this link - <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/accesstomeetings>

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 - 4)

The Forum will be asked to confirm the minutes of the 14 December 2015 Local Access Forum meeting.

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 5 - 8)

To monitor progress on previous resolutions.

6. WORKING GROUPS

To agree any working groups for items on this agenda as well as providing feedback on working groups undertaken since the last LAF meeting.

7. PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER - FORMER DOWNHAM SCHOOL SITE, HORN LANE, PLYMSTOCK

Forum Members will be provided with a verbal update on the Public Path Diversion Order – Former Downham School Site, Horn Lane, Plymstock.

8. DMMO APPLICATION, THE KLOOF, ST BUDEAUX

Forum Members will be provided with a verbal update on the DMMO Application, The Kloof, St Budeaux.

9. WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 9 - 10)

To receive the Forum's Work Programme for 2015 - 2016.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

**(Pages 11 -
12)**

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

- Response sent to the LAF regarding the closure of the Hoe for the MTV Crashes event.

11. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Dates of future meetings will be reported following confirmation of the programme of Council meetings at full Council on 20 May 2016.

12. 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 14 December 2015****PRESENT:**

Mr Fairchild, in the Chair.

Mr I Stewart, Vice Chair.

Mr Attrill, Mr Curno, Councillor Ken Foster, Mrs Hitchens, Councillor Morris (substitute for Councillor Wheeler), Mr Pawley and Mr Skinner.

Apologies for absence: Councillor Sam Davey, Councillor Wheeler and Mr Harvey.

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 11.45 am.

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.

34. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were made in accordance with the Code of Conduct –

Name	Subject	Reason	Interest
Mr Pawley	South West Coast Path	Representative for the South West Coast Path Association	Personal
Councillor Ken Foster	Public Path Division Order Application – Former Downham School Site, Horn Lane, Plymstock	Ward Councillor	Personal

35. **MINUTES**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2015 are confirmed as a correct record subject to the following amendments:

- Minute 20 (h) ‘...Mount Baton Ferry’ to read ‘Mount Batten Ferry’
- Minute 31 read that ‘Natural England was due to look at the Devon Coast Path at the end of the year; it was hoped that this would lead to a better path around Millbay Docks’ however Members clarified that two sections of the Devon Coast Path around Lyme Regis and King Weir would be looked at, and not the entire coast path.

36. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's Urgent Business.

37. **TRACKING RESOLUTIONS**

Members discussed the tracking resolutions document and updates were provided upon the following:

- (a) minute 43 from 15.12.14 meeting – the Chair had spoken to Rob Leek however it was not confirmed that Rob would be able to attend a future meeting;
- (b) minute 48 from 16.3.15 meeting –the Chair had not yet contacted the Dartmoor National Parks Authority;
- (c) minute 53 from 16.3.15 meeting – the Kloof Modification Order was due to go the Planning Committee on Thursday 17 December – Members had been previously advised of this and had been emailed the agenda;
- (d) minute 23 from 28.9.15 meeting – there were still a few mistakes on the map relating to the slipways information on the Council’s website however this was in hand;
- (e) minute 22 from 28.9.15 meeting – Mr Curno had asked the Green Infrastructure team to contact him with regards to green space designation however he had not received a reply;
- (f) minute 24 from 28.9.15 meeting – the Chair confirmed that he had sent a letter to Tracey Lee, Chief Executive of Plymouth City Council regarding the closure of Plymouth Hoe to public access however a reply had not yet been received. The Secretary would send a copy of the letter to Mr Skinner for his information.

38. **WORKING GROUPS**

An update was provided on two recent working groups namely the walk from Morrison’s to Beechfield Grove and the Plymouth Plan Part 2 session.

Members confirmed that the walk from Morrison’s to Beechfield Grove had been undertaken and that a fence had been installed; Members also looked at another path linking to Wrigley’s Field (Collins Park) which was in poor condition however they considered merited being classified as a public right of way in the future.

Agreed that –

- 1. Mr Pawley would write a letter to Plymouth City Council on behalf of the Forum requesting that the path in Wrigley’s Field is identified as a public right of way;
- 2. Liz Wells would circulate all responses to Forum Members, in relation to the Plymouth Plan Part 2, before being submitted as part of the consultation process.

39. **MODIFICATION ORDERS UPDATE**

Liz Wells, Public Rights of Way Officer, informed Forum Members that the Kloof Modification Order was due to be discussed at 17 December 2015 Planning Committee; Members had been emailed a copy of the agenda for their information.

40. **PUBLIC PATH DIVISION ORDER APPLICATION - FORMER DOWNHAM SCHOOL SITE, HORN LANE, PLYMSTOCK**

Members discussed the Public Path Division Order Application – Former Downham School Site. Members were advised that there had been an application for the diversion of a public right of way for this site; the applicant confirmed that it was necessary to divert the footpath in order for the development of 31 houses to take place. If the footpath was to remain in its current position it would be unsafe from a reduction of crime viewpoint.

41. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members noted the work programme and discussed priorities for the following year.

Agreed that the LAF Secretary would organise a working group in the New Year along the path linking Weston Park Road with Church Way as well as lesser known paths in Central Park.

42. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Chair advised Members that he had sent a letter to Tracey Lee, the Chief Executive of Plymouth City Council, regarding the closure of Plymouth Hoe to the public in July 2015 however had not yet received a response.

It was agreed that a copy of the letter would be sent to Mr Skinner for his information.

43. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed that the next meeting of the Local Access Forum would be held at 10.30am on Monday 22 February 2016 in the Council House.

44. **ISSUES ARISING FROM FORUM MEMBERS**

Mr Curno raised under this item that the Council was involved in running a Friends Forum that was in the process of setting up blue spaces as well as green spaces in and around Plymouth. Members were advised that the Friends Forum, which was soon to be Independent from the Council, was looking to hold an environmental festival.

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**PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
TRACKING RESOLUTIONS**

Date / Minute number	Resolution	Explanation / Minute	Action	Progress
15.12.14 Minute 43	<p><u>Agreed</u> that Bob Harvey would contact Hilary Winter (Regional LAF Co-ordinator) to determine if contact could be made with the local AONBs to ascertain their plans for the next 12 months, and to advise them that LAFs can advise them if required.</p>		Bob Harvey	<p>Bob Harvey updated Members at the 16 March 2015 LAF meeting and confirmed that he had not yet contacted local AONBs to ascertain their plans for the next 12 months.</p> <p><u>Update from 28 September meeting:</u> Mr Harvey advised Members that the Torbay LAF had recently received an informative presentation on AONBs by Tracey Brooks and questioned if she, or Kathy Fitzroy from Natural England could be invited to a future meeting of the LAF to provide an update. The Chair advised Members that he had recently spoken to Rob Leek who was helping to co-ordinate the Plymouth LAF; he would check if Rob was available to come to a future meeting of the LAF to provide an update on AONBs.</p> <p><u>Update from 14 December meeting:</u> The Chair had spoken to Rob Leek however a date had not yet been set for him attend a future LAF meeting.</p>

16.3.15 Minute 47	<u>Agreed</u> that – (2)the Chair would invite John Holmes to a future meeting of the Local Access Forum.	Chair’s Urgent Business	Ray Fairchild - Chair	At 8 June 2015 meeting it was updated that no contact had been made.
16.3.15 Minute 48	<u>Agreed</u> that the Chair would contact the Dartmoor National Parks Authority to invite a representative to a future LAF Meeting to advise Forum Members of the affect budgetary cuts was having upon the service.	Tracking Resolutions	Ray Fairchild - Chair	At 8 June 2015 LAF meeting it was updated that no contact had been made.
16.3.15 Minute 53	<u>Agreed</u> that – (1)Forum Members would be contacted advising them of when the modification orders were due to go to the Planning Committee;	Modification Orders Update	Robin Pearce – Public Rights of Way Officer	This is ongoing. <u>Update from September meeting:</u> Members were advised that Liz Wells (Public Rights of Way Officer) would be working to progress the remaining six applications and would provide an update at the next meeting. It was confirmed that the Kloof at St Budeaux and Elizabeth Cottage in Estover were the top priority orders.
16.3.15 Minute 55	Rosemary Starr (Smarter Choices Manager) confirmed that she would contact Kat Deeney (Natural Infrastructure Manager) with regards to the timing for the green spaces site allocation stage to ensure that all known green spaces were accounted for in the Plymouth Plan (Stage 2).	Working Groups	Rosemary Starr – Smarter Choices Manager	This is ongoing.
28.9.15 Minute 23	<u>Agreed</u> that Mr Pawley and Liz Wells would work with Mickey Goble (Pier Master) to correct errors on the slipways information contained on the Council’s website.	Waterways Exercise and Public Slipways Update	Liz Wells/ Mr Pawley/ Mickey Goble	This was ongoing. At 14 December meeting it was discussed that there were minor errors on the website however this was being dealt with.

28.9.15 Minute 24	<p><u>Agreed</u> that the Chair of the Local Access Forum would write a letter to Tracey Lee, Chief Executive of Plymouth City Council, requesting a response to the following questions linked to the closure of Plymouth Hoe to public access:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •What reason or justification is there for closing the Hoe in its entirety, such as was the case for the MTV Crashes event? •How a decision to close the Hoe is arrived at, that is, is it a delegated officer decision or is it a decision of the entire Council or one of its committees? •Whether any direct financial benefit is gained by the Council as a result of such closure 	Public Access to Plymouth Hoe	Chair/ Helen Rickman – LAF Secretary	<p>A letter was written, signed by the Chair and posted to Tracey Lee. A response has not yet been received.</p> <p><u>A response was forwarded to the Chair on 14 January 2016.</u></p>
14 December 2015 Minute 38	<p><u>Agreed</u> that Mr Pawley would write a letter to Plymouth City Council on behalf of the Forum requesting that the path in Wrigley's Field is identified as a public right of way.</p>	Working Groups		
14 December 2015 Minute 38	<p><u>Agreed</u> that Liz Wells would circulate all responses to Forum Members, in relation to the Plymouth Plan Part 2, before being submitted as part of the consultation process.</p>	Working Groups		
14 December 2015 Minute 41	<p><u>Agreed</u> that the LAF Secretary would organise a working group in the New Year along the path linking Weston Park Road with Church Way as well as lesser known paths in Central Park.</p>	Work Programme		The working group was arranged for Friday 29 January 2016.



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Complete resolution



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Outstanding resolution

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Mr Raymond Fairchild
 Chair of Plymouth Local Access Forum
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David Draffan
 Assistant Director for Economic
 Development

Plymouth City Council
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Please ask for: David Draffan

Date 14 January 2016

Dear Mr Fairchild

I am in receipt of your letter which you sent to the Chief Executive Tracy Lee asking the following questions:

- What reason or justification is there for closing the Hoe in its entirety, such as was the case for the MTV Crashes' event?
- How a decision to close the Hoe is arrived at, that is, is it a delegated officer decision or is it a decision of the entire Council or one of its committees?
- Whether any direct financial benefit is gained by the Council as a result of such closure.

Please find the answers to your questions below:

- **What reason or justification is there for closing the Hoe in its entirety, such as was the case for the MTV Crashes' event?**

Plymouth City Council holds a premises' licence to hold events where licensable activities take place on Plymouth Hoe. Through general consultation and dialogue with the enforcement agencies, such as the police and fire service, we were asked how we were going to control numbers attending the event in line with the Licensing Act to ensure public safety. It was anticipated, due to the nature of the event, that there would be a large attendance. An open event would have meant we would have not been able to control numbers or ensure we had the correct number of staff or welfare facilities on site to meet the licence or legislation.

Our risk assessment evidenced that the only safe way to control numbers was therefore to fence off the Hoe based on a safe capacity calculated in line with crowd dynamics and the number of exits needed to facilitate access and egress in an emergency.

In short the rational and justification to close the Hoe off was:

- Comply with the premises' licence to ensure public safety
- Ensure public safety by controlling numbers through limiting access to the site and ticketing the event

- Ensure that there were the correct number of entrances/exits to meet access and egress requirements
- Ensure that there were the correct staff and welfare facilities on site to ensure public safety.

Whilst The Hoe was closed to the public during the main event days, access to the war memorials were available to the public if they notified a member of staff that they wished to do so. This is something we will publicise better for future events.

- **How a decision to close the Hoe is arrived at, that is, is it a delegated officer decision or is it a decision of the entire Council or one of its committees?**

The decision to hold the MTV Crashes Event and therefore close the Hoe for 3 days was a Cabinet Approved decision. This decision is available on the web from this link <http://modgov/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?AllId=65643> .

- Whether any direct financial benefit is gained by the Council as a result of such closure.

Plymouth City Council did not receive any direct financial gain from the MTV Crashes' event. We do not actively encourage commercial activity on the Plymouth Hoe and we only pursue cost recovery. However, Plymouth did receive substantial benefit estimated to be £3.465 million from the MTV Crashes' event. A breakdown of the estimate is given in the attached Impact Report. Plymouth received substantial benefit from being advertised on a worldwide stage as a visitor destination and a place to invest.



MTV report August
18th 2015.doc

In developing this and other events, the Council will seek to minimise the disruption caused to the public and in particular access to the Hoe and War Memorial. Please be reassured that the Council is committed to working closely with stakeholders and local residents.

I hope we have fully answered your questions, if however you have any queries please feel free to contact me and I will endeavour to resolve them.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "DJ Draffan".

David Draffan
Assistant Director for Economic Development