

Plymouth Local Access Forum

Monday 27 July 2009

PRESENT:

Mr Fairchild, in the Chair.

Mr I Stewart, Vice Chair.

Mr N Attrill, Councillor Peter Berrow, Councillor Thomas Browne, Mr J C Emery, Mr R Goddard, Ms P Hitchens, Mrs B Mickley, Mr J Skinner and Councillor George Wheeler

Apologies for absence: Mr Loze, Mrs Mewton, Mr Pawley and Miss Roberts

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 1.00 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.

13. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest by Members.

14. MINUTES

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2009 be approved.

15. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

The following comments were made by members of the group –

- (i) the need to improve the LAF's relationship with the planning department;
- (ii) John Emery raised issues with a contentious development in the Plymstock area.

The Rights of Way Officer reported that -

- (ii) the Ramblers 1988 maps were complete and available to Forum members;
- (iv) the Co-operative society have produced 6 walking booklets with routes and points of interest. Ken Loze has further details for Members;
- (v) a local company was granted planning consent with a condition that an extension to the south west coast path be implemented. The development was complete but the SWCP extension had still not been completed.

Resolved that –

- (1) John Emery to produce a report for the next meeting on the development in Plymstock;
- (2) a letter to be sent to the planning committee regarding the issue to query progress on enforcing the condition.

16. **CORRESPONDENCE**

A response was received from Nigel Pitt, Director for Development and Regeneration, Plymouth City Council in relation to a letter sent about resource issues for public rights of way.

Resolved that the letter to be noted.

17. **ACCESS TO NATURE GRANT**

The Nature Conservation Officer gave a verbal update on the Access to Nature Grant to the forum. It was reported that –

- (i) Natural England will be administering the money;
- (ii) the aim is to improve the communities identified and consult with them on what they would like to see;
- (iii) they have a target to hold 50 events over a 4-year period in green spaces;
- (iv) research to be undertaken by the University of Plymouth which will look at the health benefits for the city throughout the duration of the project;
- (v) an opportunity for a LAF representative to sit on the Steering Group.

The following comments were made by members of the group –

- (vi) Councillor Browne unclear on the robustness of the criteria for selecting the communities identified for funding;
- (vii) Councillor Wheeler welcomed the proposal to improve these areas.

Resolved that -

- (1) that the Vice-Chair, Ian Stewart will represent the LAF Forum on the Steering Group;
- (2) the summary of the notes and map of nature reserves to be emailed to all LAF members.

18. **DEFRA'S ACCESS NEWSLETTER - ISSUE 39**

Defra's Access newsletter was noted by forum members.

19. **CONSULTATION ON COASTAL CHANGE POLICY**

The Chair reported that he has looked at the Consultation on Coastal Change Policy and is pulling together a response on behalf of the forum.

Resolved that all responses to be sent to the chair for compilation prior to 25 September 2009 deadline.

20. **NATURAL ENGLAND PROTECTED LANDSCAPES**

The Natural England Protected Landscapes paper was noted by forum members.

21. **WORKING GROUPS**

a) **POTENTIAL RIGHTS OF WAY WORKING GROUP**

The Rights of Way Officer reported on the Ramblers 1988 maps.

- (i) the group need to clarify what stills exists;
- (ii) use this document as a resource for other people e.g. planners and use in claims to record rights.

Resolved that –

- (1) the LAF forum to meet to talk about the Ramblers 1988 maps at 10.30 am on Monday 7 September 2009 in the Marlborough Room, Council House.

b) **PLANNING WORKING GROUP**

The Planning Working Group were awaiting the planned Planning Training sessions before continuing their work.

22. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Resolved that the next meeting of this Committee be held at 10.30 am on Monday 5th October 2009 at the Council House.

23. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

a) **INFORMATION AND NEWS**

Forum Members reported that -

- (i) the forum needs to ensure they input into the City Centre Area Action Plan;
- (ii) the Council had adopted the draft Green Spaces Strategy.

The Rights of Way Officer reported that -

- (iii) council officers would be meeting with landowners and the National Trust to resolve access issues at Commonwood Cottages.

Resolved that –

- (1) copies of the Plymouth Green Space Strategy 2008 – 2023 to be distributed to the group;
- (2) the Rights of Way Officer and Steph Rogers to meet to discuss Commonwood Cottages and report back to the forum at next meeting.

b) **LOCAL ISSUES**

No issues to report.