



PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

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Dan Forster
Senior Transport Planner
Plymouth City Council
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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 Forster,

Plymouth Local Access Forum Members at a meeting held on 22 November 2010 received a presentation on the draft Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) and were invited to respond to the public consultation on the document. It was agreed by the Forum that individual responses would be sent directly to the LAF Secretary by 17 December 2010 in order for a combined response to be sent to the Transport Department before the end of the consultation period.

The Local Access Forum made a number of points in response to the LTP3 Consultation, the main points that the Forum wished to express were regarding Public Rights of Way and Transport.

Public Rights of Way

- The LTP1 and LTP2 failed to provide the resources to ensure the hundreds of unrecorded public rights of way within the city boundary were recorded on the definitive map and statement.
- The LTP3 acknowledges that public footpaths and public rights of way are an important part of the transportation infrastructure but again fail to say how they can be adequately resourced, preserved and protected.
- The Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan referred to in the LTP3 has yet to be published. It has been a statutory requirement since 2007 and is a major strategy document in LTP3 and should be integrated as part of the LTP3.
- The transport vision at 4.16 to develop a network of primary routes for pedestrians connecting local amenities and transport facilities should be a fundamental aspiration in the LTP3.
- The LTP3 is bereft of information or references to public rights of way.

- The economic importance of walking as a tourist attraction is not fully recognised in the LTP3.

Transport

- There should be a free number to ring or e-mail to report problems with pedestrian walkways. There should be a time limit on responses and actions to problems reported.
- There should be more integration with the transport eg. water transport to allow cycles, wheelchairs and pushchairs to link to bus stops or railway stops.
- Encourage the extension of Ivybridge Station platform to allow local commuter traffic for the east part of the city. Open rail stops like the one promised at Plympton Station to encourage more local traffic and commuting throughout the city with links to buses and especially a regular link from North Road to the City Centre for wheelchairs and pushchairs.
- Repaint and clean up Bretonside as it presents a very poor first impression of the city.
- Consideration should be given to reducing Vehicular Noise in Urban areas on main roads e.g. Parkway A38 etc. This could be achieved by reducing speed limits from 70 to 50mph and building more sound reducing barriers

Other

- There should be more reference in the LTP3 regarding the protection and enhancement of the natural environment particularly in regard to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- Sustainable access to the natural environment needs to be improved.
- Local Transport Planners to liaise more frequently with the Rights of Way Officer, Natural England and the Local Access Forum on future issues and developments.

Conclusion

There is very little in the LTP3 on Public Rights of Way or walking and it is felt that walking is a principal mode of transport which provides health, recreational and economic benefits and this along with Public Rights of Way should form an integral part of the LTP3. The document also has little coverage on the measures envisaged to record known and well used footpaths on the Definitive map and statement or how this could be achieved. Transport and other issues could have some improvements made to them in the LTP3 as listed above, however, the Forum's main concerns regarding the LTP3 are about Public Rights of Way.

Yours Sincerely,

Ross Johnston
Secretary to Plymouth Local Access Forum

cc. Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer