



PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

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Juli Wileman
Major Scheme Project Manager
Transport and Highways
Plymouth City Council
Plymouth
PL1 2AA

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

My Ref: **LAF/FA**

Your Ref:

This letter constitutes statutory advice from the Plymouth Local Access Forum. Plymouth City Council and the Department for Transport are 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.

Dear Mrs Wileman,

SUPPORT FOR PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL'S BID TO THE LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND

Further to the presentation by Officers of Plymouth City Council (PCC) on the 28th March I am writing to offer the support of Plymouth's Local Access Forum (LAF) for the Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid PCC is developing.

It is the understanding of the Forum that the bid will include a package of infrastructure measures aimed at encouraging a greater uptake of sustainable travel and that these improvements will be supported by 'smarter choices' measures within local communities. We commend these proposals.

The Forum believes that the scheme will provide significant improvements for pedestrians and cyclists and, by linking socially deprived areas of the City such as Devonport, Stonehouse, Millbay and the East End to employment areas such as the City Centre and Langage the scheme will reduce inequalities between areas and support the overall growth of Plymouth. Increased accessibility will enable more people to use their local facilities and improved awareness and information of public transport services, through the delivery of personalised travel planning; will be of particular benefit for those who do not have access to a car.

Greater connectivity between communities in the East and West of the City is supported by the LAF. Both areas of the City have excellent green space and through enabling sustainable travel between the two locations we believe the residents of Plymouth will gain valuable commuter and leisure routes. It will also allow the recreational use of the Saltram Country Park and estate by visitors travelling by sustainable transport.

Through the refurbishment of the Laira Rail Bridge we feel the City will gain a valuable, functional, local landmark. The proposal for bringing the Laira Rail Bridge back into use is identified in the Local Development Framework (LDF) Core Strategy and North Plymstock Area Action Plan (AAP) and it is excellent that the City Council are seeking to bring the iconic heritage structure back into use.

The proposed walking and cycling facilities will provide faster, safer and more direct long term links for all abilities to existing infrastructure on the Eastern Corridor and will link to the National Cycle Network route 27 from the City Centre and the west of the city.

We feel the scheme proposals support the local economy and facilitate economic development through enhancing access to employment and other essential services. The scheme helps to tackle the problems of congestion by encouraging modal shift towards walking, cycling and public transport as well as improving the reliability and predictability of journey times for all users. The scheme directly seeks to reduce carbon emissions by encouraging modal shift towards more sustainable low carbon modes.

The provision of active travel infrastructure will increase walking and cycle usage in the city through improved cycle link connectivity, providing safer on and off-line routes and reduced journey times and will also provide long term links to the National Cycle Network (NCN) and facilities provided in neighbouring authorities. On behalf of Plymouth's Local Access Forum I therefore offer my support for the bid and, in doing so consent for the contents of this letter to be quoted wholly, or in part, as part of the bid and for the LAF logo to be included on bid documentation.

Yours sincerely,

Ray Fairchild
Chair, Plymouth Local Access Forum