

Plymouth Local Access Forum

Monday 12 September 2011

PRESENT:

Mr Fairchild, in the Chair.

Mr Stewart, Vice Chair.

Mr Attrill, Councillor Churchill, Mr Emery, Councillor K Foster, Mr Goddard, Ms Hitchens, Mr Skinner and Councillor Wheeler.

Apologies for absence: Mr Curno, Mr Pawley, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Rodgers and Mrs Stephens.

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 1.35 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.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Name	Subject	Reason	Interest
Councillor Churchill	Chair's Urgent Business – Plym Valley Cycle Trail (minute 20 refers)	Member of Planning Committee	Personal
Councillor Wheeler	Chair's Urgent Business – Plym Valley Cycle Trail (minute 20 refers)	Member of Planning Committee	Personal

19. MINUTES

Agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2011 are approved.

20. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

Plym Valley Cycle Trail

Ray Fairchild, Chair of the LAF informed members that the National Trust had recently made an application to the Planning Authority for a Plym Valley Cycle Trail. It was commented by members that –

- (a) in principle the idea of a cycle trail was supported, however, Forum

members were concerned about the proposed location due to issues about car parking and current users;

- (b) the application demonstrated that the National Trust was becoming more receptive to the needs of the wider public audience, which was encouraging;
- (c) consultation on the cycle trail had been minimal and as such the Forum felt that the consultation deadline on the planning application should be extended.

Agreed that –

- (1) Ian Stewart, Vice-Chair would draft a letter to the Planning department in response to the Plym Valley Cycle Trail planning consultation deadline asking for the deadline to be extended for the Forum to make comments following a site visit;
- (2) the LAF Secretary would seek to organise a working group on the Plym Valley Cycle Trail by 23 September 2011 and invite all Forum members to attend;
- (3) a copy of John Emery's email on the Plym Valley Cycle Trail be emailed to all Forum Members.

21. **TRACKING RESOLUTIONS**

Members noted their tracking resolutions.

22. **REVIEW OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Agreed the terms of reference is approved.

23. **DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010/11**

The Forum considered the 2010-2011 draft annual report and commented that it was pleasing to see statistics on public rights of way being included in the annual report at section 4.10, however, the statistics recorded could be improved to make them clearer and more comparable.

Agreed that –

- (1) the PROW Officer would write a statement to be included under the statistics at 4.10 informing the reader as legal process in progress;
- (2) subject to (1) being complete the 2010 - 2011 annual report is approved for publication.

24. **WHITLEIGH: SAFER AND SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL 2011
(CONSULTATION RESULTS: PRELIMINARY REPORT)**

Members noted the report.

Agreed to invite Rosie Dale, Major Schemes Officer to attend the Forum's next meeting on 12 December 2011 to provide an update on the Whitleigh: Safer and Sustainable Travel project.

25. **STEPPING STONES TO NATURE PROJECT UPDATE**

Zoe Goss, Project Coordinator provided an update about the Stepping Stones to Nature Project in Plymouth and informed members that –

- (a) the project, which was close to concluding its second year of a four year project, had achieved excellent progress in engaging people positively in using green space;
- (b) as part of positively engaging people in using green space the project had coordinated events at a number of green spaces across the city including –
 - Woodland wood;
 - Ham woods;
 - Southway Valley LNR;
 - Efford Valley;
 - Forder Valley;
- (c) the project had delivered a number of capital improvements within woodlands to provide visible physical improvements which had encouraged increased participation;
- (d) the project had delivered many successes in its first two years and would continue to strive forward in years three and four developing on the already successful improvements to improving access to woodlands and information and by building confidence of people using green spaces.

Agreed to distribute to all Forum members the Stepping Stones to Nature Project Annual Report for year two.

26. **PLYMOUTH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT**

Members received a report on the Plymouth Green Infrastructure Project.

Agreed that –

- (1) the LAF Secretary would seek to find out how many Forum members could be nominated to sit on the Saltram Countryside Park Stakeholder Forum. Subject to three members being allowed the Forum nominated Ray Fairchild, Chair, Ian Stewart, Vice-Chair and John Skinner;
- (2) a list of Forum Members nominated to sit out on other bodies be provided at a future meeting.

27. **NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION**

Forum members received a consultation request on the National Planning Policy Framework.

It was agreed not to respond to the consultation as a Forum but members were minded that they could respond to the consultation as individuals.

28. **RECRUITMENT TO THE PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY DEPARTMENT**

Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way (PROW) Officer provided members with an update on recruitment to the PROW department. Members were informed that –

- (a) the University of Plymouth were receptive to the idea of providing an intern to the PROW department;
- (b) due to a staff restructure and the implementation of the Accommodation Strategy the idea of recruiting an intern had been put on hold;
- (c) the intern employed would suitably be a student of geography or similar subject and be available for a year's work experience in order to assist with the backlog of footpaths awaiting to be added to the definitive map.

Forum members commented that they felt that recruiting an intern was intrinsic to the expediency of footpaths becoming defined as PROW.

Agreed that –

- (1) a letter be written by Ray Fairchild, Chair, in consultation with the LAF Secretary and PROW Officer, to the Chief Executive of Plymouth City Council identifying the need for the recruitment of a University Intern at the earliest opportunity;
- (2) an updated list of Forum members contact details be distributed to all members via email.

29. **WORKING GROUPS**

a) **RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN WORKING GROUP**

The Forum was informed that a recent working group undertook to look into the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) – work programme priorities and that the working group recommended that the ROWIP should spend the money from the Local Transport Plan on revising the South West Coast Path Walking Guide and improving historic trails in Plymouth.

The PROW Officer, who also attended the working group, gave an update on the recommendations made by the working group. Members were informed that –

- (a) the work on revising the South West Coast Path Walking Guide had been commissioned and that 10,000 books would be produced and be available free of charge to members of the public;
- (b) only one of the five historic footpaths would have been improved using the money allocated, however, subsequently more money had become available and now all five historic footpaths could be improved;
- (c) in order to improve all historic footpaths the PROW Officer needed to be aware of what improvements were required and requested for a volunteer to undertake the research.

Agreed that Ray Fairchild, Chair would walk two of the five historic paths in Plymouth and report back on what improvements are required to the PROW Officer.

30. **WORK PROGRAMME**

Members noted their work programme and agreed that –

- (a) the following items be added to the work programme:
 - South West Coast Path update – 12 December 2011;
 - Public slipways update – 12 December 2011;
 - Eastern Corridor Development update – 12 December 2011;
 - MVV Umwelt Incinerator – 12 March 2012;
- (b) a site visit be organised within the next six weeks to look at three separate woodland sites that have had significant improvements made to them through the Stepping Stones to Nature project;
- (c) the recent Planning Authority consultation be included on the agenda

for the next Forum meeting and be emailed to all members for consideration.

31. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Forum noted their correspondence and agreed that in response to the letter received on 13 July 2011 from Ian Gillhespy, Senior Valuation Surveyor, he be invited to the next meeting of the Forum to provide an update on Statutory Land Transfers for Ridgeway School and Coombe Dean School.

32. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed that the next meeting of the Forum be held at 10.30am on Monday 12 December 2011.

33. **ISSUES ARISING FROM FORUM MEMBERS**

Following issues raised Members were provided with an update on the following –

- (a) Ridgeway School Extinguishment Order;
- (b) the Royal William Yard;
- (c) the South West Coast Path;
- (d) city wide signage for footpaths.