

PLAF BRIEFING NOTE

12 December 2011 – ROWIP Funding



1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report provides the Forum with an update on matters relating to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan Funding following on from the recommendations of the ROWIP working group. The working group identified two priorities those being the revision of the South West Coast Path booklet and formalisation of the 5 Historic Plymouth Trails.
- 1.2 The initial revenue investment of £10,000 has been increased to £17,000 in recognition of the deliverability and coherence of the business plans submitted. A further bid for additional funding has been submitted presenting two options to bring forward an additional 5 Plymouth Historic Trails on top of the original 5 walks.

2. South West Coast Path Republication

- 2.1 Fuel Communications LTD have been asked to work on the design and print aspects of the republication. 10,000 copies have already been paid for to take advantage of lower than average paper costs against an expected rise towards the end of the year. Design work is currently underway.
- 2.2 Consultation with key stakeholders is underway requesting suggestions as to changes that should be made. We are also in discussions with a local historian with a view to securing his input into improving and revising the local history aspects of the booklet.
- 2.3 Timescale as they stand today are consultation deadlines ending on 15 December, design works completed in January 2012 with publication February 2012 and launch March 2012.

3. Plymouth Historic Trails

- 3.1 The copyright holder for the 5 existing walks (The Hoe, The Barbican, Old Plymouth, City Centre and Coxside) has agreed to allow us access to the text and artwork used in the existing leaflets so that they can be redesigned internally into the corporate format so they can be placed on the PCC website. He has also been commissioned to design new higher quality bespoke mapping for inclusion within the leaflets. All the artwork for and locations of the original interpretation panels have also been purchased. It is hoped that the design work for the leaflets will take place in November/December 2011.

- 3.2 The next steps however depend largely on internal funding arrangements. The current plan is to stall the purchase and installation on the interpretation panels in favour of commissioning the research and design for an additional 5 walking routes (Stonehouse, Devonport, Plympton St Maurice, Plymstock Radford and Mount Batten). Next years ROWIP funding can then be used to cover the capital works for all ten trails. However a bid has been submitted for an additional £16,000 to bring that work forward to the 2011/12 financial year which if successful would allow all leaflets and interpretation panels for all 10 trails to be completed this financial year. This would tie in well with the Heralds' Love Life campaign which the council are keen to support. The Forum will be updated on the success of the application.

4. ROWIP Working Group

- 4.1 The ROWIP Working Group had indicated they planned to meet after the September meeting to agree priorities for subsequent years. As no further recommendations were received from the group the ROWIP funding for the 2012/13 financial year has been allocated towards the Plymouth Historic Trails project.
- 4.2 However if the additional funding discussed above is secured the 2012/13 ROWIP funding will become available and we would be receptive to suggestions for priorities for spend within the agreed ROWIP statement of actions. No allocation has yet been made for the 2013/14 financial year although the working group are invited to make recommendations if they wish to have an input bearing in mind that we aim to plan at least two years ahead. The working group may also be interested to know that there are still numerous funding streams that can be tapped into and the more projects that can be planned out the more likely it is that the money can be secured. The PLAF is well placed to advise officers on where it should be prioritising spend if it wishes to do so.