

Plymouth Local Access Forum

Monday 17 September 2012

PRESENT:

Mr Fairchild, in the Chair.

Mr Stewart, Vice Chair.

Mr Attrill, Mr Curno, Mr Emery, Mr Harvey, Mrs Hitchens, Mr Pawley and Councillor J Taylor.

Apologies for absence: Councillor K Foster, Mrs Rodgers, Mr Skinner, Mrs Stewart and Councillor Wheeler.

The meeting started at 10.30 am and finished at 12.45 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.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interest was made by a member in accordance with the Code of Conduct –

Name	Subject	Reason	Interest
Mr Pawley	South West Coast Path Update (minute 20 refers)	Is the Plymouth local representative for the South West Coast Path	Personal

16. MINUTES

Members reviewed the minutes and commented that –

- (a) the brochure for the South West Coast Path was an excellent publication;
- (b) the issue of out of date public slipways information on the council's website had still not been resolved.

Agreed that –

- (1) Dave Curno, LAF member, would raise the issue of out of date public slipways information on the council's website at the Port of Plymouth Marine Liaison Committee (PPMLC);
- (2) that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2012 are confirmed as a correct record.

17. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

Bob Harvey, LAF member, informed members that the Government were seeking feedback on the recommendations arising from the report published by the Independent Panel on Forestry.

Agreed that Bob Harvey, LAF member, would draft a letter to the Government in response to the Independent Panel on Forestry's report and its recommendations.

18. **TRACKING RESOLUTIONS**

The Public Rights of Way Officer informed the Forum that –

- (a) a site visit had been difficult to organise and that if members wished they could visit a Stepping Stones to Nature site at Ham Woods as part of a celebration day event being held on 29 September 2012;
- (2) the Co-operative Way, a local walk way, would be subject to an improved brochure publication in the near future, similar to that of the recently published South West Coast Path brochure.

The Forum noted its tracking resolutions and agreed that –

- (1) the Public Rights of Way Officer would send via email an invitation for all members to attend the celebration event in Ham Woods, which would deal with the outstanding issue of organising a site visit;
- (2) the LAF wished to be consulted as part of publishing an improved brochure for the Co-operative Way;
- (3) Zoe Goss, Stepping Stones to Nature Co-ordinator would be invited to attend the March meeting of the LAF to provide an update on SS2N sites.

19. **CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND (CPRE) UPDATE**

Bob Harvey, LAF member, gave a presentation on the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) and informed members that –

- (a) he had recently become the Chair of the Plymouth and South Hams district of the CPRE;
- (b) the CPRE was formed in 1926 with two main aims, firstly, to unite green groups with similar interests such as preserving the beauty and nature of local areas and secondly, to introduce rural planning;
- (c) at present the CPRE were campaigning for beautiful and living countryside, working to protect, promote and enhance the country's towns and countryside to make them better places to

live, work and enjoy, and to ensure the countryside was protected for now and future generations;

- (d) to achieve its aims, CPRE engaged well with the public and challenged the government to embrace the best future for the countryside by using two publications called 'A Manifesto for the Countryside' and 'Vision for the Countryside';
- (e) the LAF was an advisory body providing statutory advice and the CPRE generated a lot of publicity and were a well-resourced organisation and it was believed that by working closer together the CPRE and LAF's could have a stronger voice.

All LAF members agreed that working more collaboratively with the CPRE could improve communications and provide significantly more weight when responding to government consultations and any other forms of correspondence.

Agreed that –

- (1) Bob Harvey, as Chair of the CPRE, would raise the issue of the LAF becoming more involved in the Plymouth and South Hams district of the CPRE and report back to the next LAF meeting;
- (2) Bob Harvey would add the LAF members' email addresses to the CPRE distribution list to ensure that all members receive minutes of CPRE meetings.

20. **SOUTH WEST COAST PATH UPDATE**

Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer, informed the Forum that –

- (a) the South West Coast Path brochure, published in July 2012, had become an extremely popular publication, with requests for the brochure being received from as far afield as Australia, Canada and the USA;
- (b) the Plymouth Waterfront Partnership had been promoting the booklet and described the council publication as a 'key piece of tourism literature';
- (c) in 2013 the South West Coast Path Association would be celebrating its 40th Anniversary by completing a coastal walk of the South West Coast Path in its entirety; Robin Pearce had volunteered to lead the coast path walk through Plymouth;
- (d) the funding for steps to be developed at Royal William Yard had now completely fallen through, however, the Council and Urban Splash, Royal William Yard developers, were still keen for the steps to be developed and were seeking ways to ensure this happened;

- (e) the Forum had recently responded on two planning applications (12/01112/FUL – Plot A1, Brunel Way, Millbay and 12/01180/FUL – Boston’s Yard) which could see further improvements to the South West Coast Path.

21. **HUDDLE UPDATE**

The LAF Secretary provided a verbal update on Huddle and it was agreed that –

- (1) Ian Stewart, Vice-Chair, is appointed as the LAFs fourth member to have access to Huddle;
- (2) Hilary Winter, Regional Secretary, is invited to attend the next LAF meeting to provide an overview of Huddle to the Forum and a training session to the members who can access Huddle.

22. **WORKING GROUPS**

a) **UNRECORDED FOOTPATHS WORKING GROUP**

Robin Pearce, Public Rights of Way Officer, informed the Forum that –

- (a) a recent working group was held, which included a training session on addressing the problem of the 800 plus unrecorded footpaths within Plymouth;
- (b) the working group would continue to meet on an ad-hoc basis to provide advice to the Council on how to best record some of the unrecorded footpaths;
- (c) new footpaths were often adopted as part of the planning process;
- (d) recent announcements on potential government policy changes on determining footpaths had been encouraging, but more detail was required to fully understand the potential impact.

Agreed that the Unrecorded Footpaths Working Group is scheduled to meet in early November.

23. **WORK PROGRAMME**

The forum noted the work programme for 2012 – 2013 and agreed that –

- (1) the LAF Secretary would seek a response on the Forum’s letter regarding to Coombe Dean School and an update provided at the next meeting;
- (2) Patricia Hitchens, LAF member, would monitor progress against the Derriford and Seaton Area Action Plan and inform the Forum as and when required.

24. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The LAF Secretary informed the Forum that Gareth Harrison-Poole, Greenspace Manager, had confirmed, following receiving the forum's letter on 26 June 2012, that he would attend the next LAF meeting on 17 December 2012.

The Forum noted its correspondence.

25. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed that the next meeting of the Forum is held at 10.30am on Monday 17 December 2012.

26. **ISSUES ARISING FROM FORUM MEMBERS**

Members of the Forum raised issues regarding –

- (a) a planning application for Plymstock Quarry, The Ride, Plymouth 12/01171/REM which contained a proposed development of Morley Park;
- (b) the government's proposal to favour shared use highways, between pedestrians and cyclists.