



**PLYMOUTH LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

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11 July 2013

Gareth Harrison - Poole  
Greenspace Manager  
Plymouth City Council  
Central Park depot  
90 – 92 Outland Road  
Plymouth

**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 Harrison-Poole,

Plymouth Local Access Forum on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2013 considered the response to the advice offered to the Council last June on the need for public footpaths on Council owned land to be registered on the Definitive Map and Statement.

Members of the Forum were disappointed the advice offered had been rejected in favour of the status quo. It is also regrettable that misleading and inaccurate information should have been used in reaching this decision.

Funding is made available for public rights of way from a number of sources other than the £30,000 two year funding quoted. Public rights of way are an integral part of the Local Transport Plan and the annual financial settlement should reflect this. Funding to finance the running of the Access Forum is also received from government.

It is highly unlikely the Council would have the resources to record 100 public footpaths as public rights of way given its past record of recording only few public footpaths as public rights of way in the last seven years.

There is no evidence the “dedication of permanent public rights of way over council owned parks and green spaces” by the Transport Department in the last three years has been recorded on the definitive map and statements. The definitive map and statements has not been updated since first publication in 2006 and no revision is planned until 2014 and so failing to comply with statutory regulation requirement for the map to be continuously updated.

It is regrettable Environmental Services is not able to agree with council policies for the countryside to be opened up to more people and that the recording of public rights of way it would “result in a negative impact on both our green spaces and the quality of the PWW network.”

Plymouth Local Access Forum is an independent body administered by Plymouth City Council. The role of the forum is set out in the Terms of Reference, paragraph 2 Role and Responsibilities in the annual review in the agenda pack of the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2013 meeting. The advice offered by the Forum is made after many hours of work researching public footpaths and liaison with the Rights of Way Officer as to how the 800 known public footpaths should be recorded on the definitive map. It is therefore disappointing the Council has failed to implement the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 and subsequent legislation on the need to record known public rights of way on the definitive map and statements.

Yours Sincerely,

Ray Fairchild,  
Vice-Chair of the Plymouth Local Access Forum