

## TORBAY LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

### MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING IN CECIL ROOM, OLDWAY MANSION ON Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2008 FROM 8.00 P.M.

**Present:** John Gibson (JCG) (Chairperson), Cllr. I. Doggett (IH), Mike Soper (MS), Wanda Hollingworth (WH), Peter Huff, Robert Boyd.

**Apologies:** Davinia Hollingworth, TC&CTst

**Also present:** 7 members of the public

#### **The Chairman`s opening address**

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming the members of the public, and explained to them the manner in which this Special Meeting was to be conducted. He began by introducing the members of the LAF, and their particular interests, and then went on to explain briefly the role of a LAF and thus the purpose of this Special Meeting. He emphasised that a LAF is independent of both local and central government], and is **advisory only** - therefore LAFs are neither watchdogs nor campaigning nor lobbying bodies.

Torbay Council`s Asset Rationalisation project team had identified, with Cabinet and relevant Service Heads, 43 assets which might be suitable for disposal or rationalisation - a schedule of these 43 assets had been published. Torbay LAF members had therefore convened this Special Meeting to consider whether to give formal advice to the Mayor and Chief Executive of Torbay Council with regards this proposal. The Chairman had circulated a draft text to LAF members for their consideration. LAF members were aware that if they agreed to give advice to the Council, that advice needed to be delivered to the Council before the 31st March consultation deadline - the deadline given by Mr Steve Parrock [Assistant Director, Torbay Council, Property and Procurement ] at a briefing to Community Partnerships on 6<sup>th</sup> March 08.

The Torbay LAF Chairman explained that LAF members needed to decide what advice, if any, to give to Torbay Council, bearing in mind the impact on public access to land in that area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area. It is anticipated, given the wide spread of sites, that the advice - if given - will be in general terms, and not site-specific.

The Chairman then invited the members of the public, present at the meeting, to comment on the draft text which he had made available to them. The LAF members then noted the comments offered.

Discussion by LAF members and consideration of what Advice to give.

The LAF members then briefly discussed the draft text, considering also the comments offered by the members of the public. A final text was then agreed.

The LAF members then requested the Chairman to:

- (1) Minute the Special Meeting accordingly
- (2) amend the draft text according to the agreed amendments
- (3) deliver, the following day, to Torquay Town Hall a signed final text to the offices of the Mayor and the Chief Executive
- (4) notify the Herald Express, Community Partnerships
- (5) notify Steve Parrock, Natural England, Torbay Sports Council
- (6) notify Chairmen of the other LAFs in the SW region
- (7) request Highways to list for us those existing RoWs which could be affected + the potential impact on the RoWIP

John Gibson

Chairman - Torbay Local Access Forum