

TORBAY LOCAL ACCESS FORUM



MINUTES OF MEETING IN CECIL ROOM, OLDWAY MANSION ON WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2008 FROM 7.00 P.M.

Present : John Gibson (JCG) (**Chairperson**), Cllr. I. Doggett (IH), Davinia Hollingworth (DH), Wanda Hollingworth (WH), Mike Soper (MS) (attended part meeting up to Item 6).

Council Officers Attending : Bev Hannah (BH), Janine Clarke (JC)

Others Attending : Lyn Ware (LW) Lifestyles Team Manager (Torbay Care Trust), Valerie Simpson, (VCS) Torbay LAF Secretary (Minute Taker).

SI = Standing Item

* Tabled Papers

| ITEM | ACTION |
|------|---|
| | <p><u>Housekeeping & Chairman's Announcements :</u> Chairperson informed of emergency exits, facilities, etc. Bernard Parker : Ramblers' Association Member will apply for TLAF membership and replace MS who will be standing down at the AGM on 23 July 2008 Lyn Ware : was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.</p> |
| 1. | <p><u>Apologies (SI):</u> Robert Boyd (RB), Peter Huff (PH) - absences were formally sanctioned by Forum.</p> |
| 2. | <p><u>Minutes of Wednesday 24 October 2007 (held in public) :</u> Agreed as an accurate account of the meeting.</p> |
| 3. | <p><u>Matters Arising (SI) :</u> <u>3. Item 3, 4.2.4. Cycling</u> : JCG thanked JC for forwarding information. <u>10.2 Ramblers Rights of Way</u> : JCG thanked MS for arranging for copy of new edition on Ramblers Rights of Way to be available for members to view at this meeting <u>10.5 Accessibility to Pathways for Wheelchair/Electric Scooter Users</u> : Deferred to Wednesday 21 May 2008 as RB had not been available to take this forward.</p> |
| | <p><u>4.</u> <u>4.1 ROWIP</u> : Forum thanked Patrick Carney for circulating copies of final ROWIP to all members. <u>4.2 The Ramblers' Association - Working for Walkers</u> : TLAF had received an email on 2/1/08 from Richard Granville, Campaigns Officer, and Ramblers' Association</p> |

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regarding the Access Management Grant Scheme. Email had been forwarded to Patrick Carney for comment. BH to request PC to forward response.

PC/BH

5. Publicity/Webpage/Leaflet/Relations with Media/Networking/Attracting New Membership :

5.1 Summary of Annual Report : VCS to forward first draft of Summary of Annual Report to BH for urgent action - appropriately labelled pictures to be included.

VCS/BH

5.2 Attracting New Membership : Torbay Care Trust had been invited by the Chair to apply for TLAF membership. Lyn Ware, as Lifestyles Team Leader, attended meeting and informed of common interests between this group and TLAF, including :

- Promotion of health related activities e.g. walking, running.
- NICE Guidance for local planners to incorporate facilities for exercise.
- 'Go for It' Campaign to get people more active - contact LW or Andy Simpson, Cycling Forum member for more information.
- 'Get Healthy, Get Active' - MS to liaise with LW on links with Ramblers' Association. LW to arrange for copies of this initiative to be available at next TLAF meeting in May.

MS/LW
LW

JCG informed that for past 3 years TLAF's agenda had been mostly concerned with ROWIP and public rights of way. However, the Forum acknowledges its remit includes all open spaces and the enjoyment thereof and as such would very much welcome input from groups such as Lifestyles to ensure a more balanced agenda, e.g. working with other groups such as the blind, elderly, etc. LW to forward contact details of any other groups who might wish to engage with the work of TLAF. BH to liaise with LW regarding joint working, attendance appropriate to agenda, and discussion as to Lifestyles becoming member of TLAF as Council is appointing authority for Forum's membership.

LW

BH/LW

5.3 TLAF Leaflet : Has been customised and distributed to TCCT Farm Shop, libraries, etc. Forum Members agreed to take copies made available at meeting to distribute to other venues.

5.6 Kennel Club : Had been invited to attend meeting to present on its work to TLAF, however it informed that no local representative was available in this area. JCG to contact Cinnamon Trust reference membership of TLAF.

JCG

6.1 National Access Forum : JCG reported on attendance at recent event in Taunton. The need for strength at regional level was highlighted - the South West is only region with own Co-ordinator in place, although funding for this post has yet to be agreed from April 2008.

6.3 Brixham Town Council : JCG has been asked to give presentation to Council as to footpath status within its area.

6.5 East Devon Footpath Committee : MS informed this was a very detailed, drawn-out procedure and it would be left up to individuals as to whether to take up this work.

7.

7.1 LAF Handbook : should be available to LAFs within 6 months.

7.2 LAF Training Event 12/3/08 : JCG to attend, Julie Green had informed Secretary she would like to attend - VCS to confirm. Bernard Parker would like to attend but as a prospective new member of LAF who had not, as yet, completed formal application, JCG to ask Regional Co-ordinator if this was in order.

VCS

JCG

8.

8.1 Local Development Framework (LDF) : ID agreed to look into whether there is already a Sub-Committee of LDF that TLAF could work with as way of interacting with the LDF.

ID

8.2 Torbay Council's Greenspace Strategy : this item was discussed with reference to an article that had appeared in local newspaper regarding, what appeared to be, the sale of local parks. On this occasion it transpired that there was nothing to be done as it had already passed through planning period. After discussion on the issue of possible sale of land relevant to the TLAF's agenda, IH agreed to raise with Planning Officers and to pass on JCG's contact details for further discussion.

ID/JCG

9.1 Oxon Cove : JCG had spoken with Site Manager who assured that the South West Coastal Path would remain intact. Possibility, due to work, path might have to close for 1-2 days but a fortnight's notice will be given to JC.

11.

11.1 Fisherman's Way : Enquiry to be held on 26/27 March 08 at Brixham Theatre.

11.2 Parallel Footpaths between King Street/Berry Head Road and Brixham Harbourside Walk : JCG had received email from Ian Jones (Principal Engineer) informing middle of three pathways now in public domain and will be administered by Cultural Services. JCG to ascertain if this is the first of many that Cultural Services will be taking on.

JCG

11.3 Path at Great Hill : Patrick Carney has confirmed the Council's commitment to the up-grading of the new footpath at Great Hill to PROW and also its willingness to meet the legal costs, etc. (with the exception of the survey costs - to be resolved with Torbay Coast & Countryside Trust).

4.1 **Updates on ROWIP** : JCG had received an email from Patrick Carney - one of the key actions listed therein was 'to improved information on Public Rights of Way Network and Council Website - hope to improve website on Public Rights of Way'. Input was requested from TLAF and the following suggestions were made :

- Include link to the Met Office or similar weather forecasting agency.
- Include link to Ordnance Survey Maps for area.
- Include contact details of local and other suppliers of walking/running clothing and equipment.
- Include all dates of any organised walks/runs, e.g. Walking Festival on May 12 - 16 organised by Tourist Office who will have leaflets.
- Link to Tourist Office for guided walks, etc.
- Produce Walking at Night Strategy and link to Midnight Walk for McMillan and Rowcroft, look at doing more organised night walking events, liaise with Women's' Running Network (contact DH) regarding safe and well lit areas for women to run.

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| 4.2 | <p><u>Update on LDF</u> : Forum highlighted need to register the TLAF under community development - JCG to contact Tracy Brooks, Senior Strategic Planning Officer for Torbay Council to inform that no information was being received from LDF. <i>LDF also referred to above - see Matters Arising Item 8.1 above.</i></p> | <u>JCG</u> |
| 5. | <p><u>Publicity/Webpage/Leaflet/Media/Networking/New Membership/Budget</u> :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When Summary of Annual Report printed, arrangements to be made for WH to visit local schools to raise TLAF profile. • BH to liaise with JCG regarding use of media to highlight work of LAF using both Council's and Care Trust Press Office contacts. • TLAF does not control its budget but PC has supplied information on how Council arrived at budget figure - Forum thanked PC for information. <p><i>Other updates on this item were made in Matters Arising, Items 5.1, 5.2 and 5.3 above.</i></p> | BH/JCG |
| 6. | <p><u>South-West LAF Chairpersons' Meeting on 15 January 2008</u> : JCG reported in Matters Arising Item 6.1. above.</p> | |
| 7. | <p><u>Extension of the Access Management Grant Scheme/Ramblers' Association</u> : Discussed in Matters Arising, Item 4.2. above.</p> | |
| 8. | <p><u>Dog Control Order</u> : An email had been received from James Oram/Tara Fowler of the Council's Community Protection Team informing of preparation of an order, to replace the existing bylaws, prohibiting dogs from fouling in Torbay. The legislation requires the Council to consult with, amongst others, the Local Access Forum with regards to any Open Access Land before it makes such an order.</p> <p>The TLAF formally agreed that it fully supports the Order attached to the above-mentioned email dated 7 January 2008 under The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, The Dog Control Orders (Prescribed Offences and Penalties, etc.) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1059), The Fouling of Land by Dogs Order 2008.</p> | |
| | <p>VCS to inform Council's Protection Team of the above decision.</p> | VCS |
| 9. | <p><u>Taking Forward Work on LAF Database of Contacts</u> : Ongoing - BH and VCS to liaise on how to set up at Council Offices.</p> | |
| 10. | <p><u>Any Other Business</u> :</p> | |
| 10.1 | <p><u>Bridleways</u> : Regarding issues raised previously on horseriding facilities within Torbay and who to approach for representation on TLAF, JG informed of two bridleways in Torbay :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At back of Sorting Office. • Parallel to northbound Hellevoetsluis Way (between Widdicombe Cross and Monkshaven Lane) - used as link to neighbouring districts. | |
| | <p>Some pathways belonging to Countryside Trust are also horse-friendly.</p> | |
| | <p><u>Horseriding</u> : LW to forward contact details of local representative of British Horse Society to JCG. JCG to open discussions with neighbouring District Councils regarding interfacing with horseriding.</p> | LW JCG |

10.2 **Meeting of SW LAF Chairs and Secretaries 15 January 2008** : JCG tabled 'Matters of Particular Interest to the Torbay LAF' :

- Natural England budget to be cut, leaving its leisure, etc. work very vulnerable.
- Hilary Winter's (SW Regional CO-ordinator) contract expires on 31/3/08.
- Measuring LAF's outcomes, progress and effectiveness : LDF impact and dialogue, ROWIP, Publicity and Advice & Consultation.
- LAFs' Clients include 94(4) bodies - need to ask them what the LAF needs to do and if satisfied.
- What joining/information pack is a LAF applicant/member given?
- Recruiting new members : instead of general advertising, recommended target (using existing networks) to bring in people with specific experience (contact Cornwall, Dorset).
- Raising the profile of TLAF : refer to Wilts.
- LAF Members' Handbook : maybe later in 2008.

10.3 **Website** : DH highlighted link to Ordnance Survey would also be a useful tool for finding out about the terrain and background for disabled users and bring new ideas for horseriders, etc.

Letter-Boxing - DH suggested similar type of boxes as on Dartmoor could be placed along SW Coastal Path, ensuring boxes are made secure, to encourage children and other people to make more use of pathway. Forum agreed to take this up with SW Coastal Path Association, SW Coast Team, Natural England and the Tourist Office.

VCS

10.4 **Waymark Magazine** : JCG informed TLAF had been invited to subscribe to Waymark - the journal of the Institute of Public Rights of Way Management. Please visit the IPROW website <http://www.iprow.co.uk> and report back at next meeting whether copy for TLAF would be useful.

ALL

11. Reminder for SW Regional LAF Event on 12 March 2008 : Discussed above in Matters Arising, Item 7.2.

The meeting then moved into a confidential closed session Part 2 and LW was asked to leave the room and then resumed in Part 1 when LS returned to the meeting.

12. **2008 Meeting Dates** : All meetings agreed from 7 - 9.00 p.m. in the Cecil Room at Oldway Mansion, Paignton :

- Wednesday 21 May 2008
- Wednesday 23 July 2008 (AGM)
- Wednesday 22 October 2008

Signed Chairperson

Date