



TORBAY LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES OF MEETING

HELD IN PUBLIC IN CECIL ROOM, OLDWAY MANSION
ON WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2008 FROM 7.00 P.M.

Present : John Gibson (JCG) (Chairperson), Robert Boyd (RB), Cllr. I. Doggett (IH), Wanda Hollingworth (WH), Peter Huff (PH)

Council Officers Attending : Janine Clarke (JC)

Others Attending : None

ITEM		ACTION
	<p>The Chairman (JCG) opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.</p> <p>JCG announced Davinia Hollingworth's resignation from the Forum informing due to study commitments she was unable to continue. Although the Chairman had already replied to Davinia's email, expressing appreciation, the Forum asked for its thanks for all the work Davinia had done with the Forum to be minuted and that they wished her well with her future and success in her studies. Members signed a card to express their individual thanks.</p> <p>TLAF Issues : JCG updated on the contact he had with Torbay Council on TLAF related issues, including ensuring new membership was being sought, consultation with and recognition of TLAF, etc. and full discussion took place on situation as it stands.</p> <p>JC requested that PC and BH be advised of the outcome of position regarding issues discussed.</p> <p>Members discussed the situation of the TLAF membership now being down to only 6 active members and acknowledged that this was not at all a viable working number for a LAF and is far below the minimum of 10 as set by the Defra Directive. The 5 members present agreed to ID's kind offer that he make representation to Mrs. Raikes and Mr. Thorpe (Torbay Council's Executive Head of Governance) in order that the TLAF membership number be raised to at least the minimum set by the Minister. The TLAF members agreed to await the outcome of ID's deliberations.</p>	<p>ID</p>

TLAF.08.5.01	Apologies : Patrick Carney (PC), Bev Hannah (BH) and Mark Wilson (MW)
TLAF.08.5.02	Minutes of TLAF Meeting held in Public on Wednesday 21 May 2008 : Agreed as an accurate report of the meeting and signed by the Chair. To be posted on TLAF Website. The Forum's special thanks were asked to be passed to Davinia Hollingworth for taking the notes of the meeting.
TLAF.08.5.03	Matters Arising not on Agenda :
2.2.1	<p>RoW PN/2 : It had been noted that up to week ago nothing had been posted at RoW PN/2 to inform this was a bridle path. Mark Wilson is undertaking a gradual programme of certain targeted rights of way or paths being upgraded to bridleways specifically for children and making safer networks or routes to cycle/walk to schools. JC explained that some properties have vehicular access rights down this lane (one way), but no other cars should use the lane. The lane is a private road with the burden of a public bridleway over the surface.</p> <p>The TLAF had concern that more horse riders would use these bridleways - thus making it unsafe for children using their bicycles; also this might lead to issues regarding horse droppings being both a health risk for children and possibly putting children and parents off using the paths for cycling or walking. JC informed that if PN/2 had been converted into a cycleway it would then have had to come off the Definitive Map and the Council would have no obligation regarding upkeep. JC has issued a signing order for Paignton prows; the Paignton prows that will be signed are: PN/1, PN2, PN/3, PN/7, PN/10, PN/9 and PN/16. These will not all be now signed until after Christmas 2008. Public bridleways can only be used for walking, cycling and horse riding and could only be used by cars for access purposes, if the right is in the deeds to the properties.</p> <p>JCG had written to Mark Wilson of Torbay Council and proposed that further discussion should take place on this. ID agreed to raise TLAF's issues with Nell Cruse of Torbay Council who produced the Council's Horse Riding Strategy and request information on anticipated numbers of horse riders who might use the new bridleways.</p>
3.1	<p>Pathways Accessibility for Electric Scooter and Wheelchair Users : The issue was raised at the 21 May 08 meeting as to whether ROWIP was working towards widening this network, specifically the S/W coast path. RB informed that disabled scooters cannot go far from a main road as any insurance or recovery programme would only cover breakdown on a properly made up road where a recovery van can get quickly and safely to the vehicle concerned. Serious consideration should be given to these issues when informing of those areas, particularly on the S/W path, that fit</p>

ID

	accessibility criteria. RG informed he would be happy to look at the areas that it was thought fitted these criteria. JC to forward appropriate maps to RG showing areas concerned. JC also informed that the TCCT had undertaken a general condition survey on rural rights of way - JC to forward a copy of the survey to RB.	JC/RB
8.	Dog Owners as Open-Space Users : JCG informed that discussion had taken place at a Regional LAF Meeting as to whether this came under remit of LAFs as many people have dogs and get exercise through walking dogs - this was accepted as leisure and exercise was relevant to remit of LAFs. It was therefore felt that it would be a good idea to get dog-related groups on board who could act as ambassadors and influence any dog related issues the TLAF had to raise.	
TLAF.08.5.03.1	Good News Items : JC informed of two good news items : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An order had recently been issued for handrail at American Way at Churston. • Replacement of some low handrails on S/W Path - Broadsands Viaduct. 	
TLAF.08.5.04.1	Update of ROWIP : Update to be made at February 2009 meeting by Patrick Carney.	PC/ 2/2/09 meeting
TLAF.08.5.04.2	Updates on Torbay Local Development Framework/Engaging with the LDF Team : Richard Thorpe had been made aware of this issue and JCG was awaiting a response.	
TLAF.08.5.05	Updates:	
05.1	Role of Chairperson : As agreed at AGM, JCG continuing as Chair only on pro tem basis until new Chairperson appointed, or next AGM July 2009 whichever is sooner. JCG would also be stepping down from membership of TLAF at the July 2009 AGM.	
5.2	Publicity/Webpage + Relations with Media : Deferred until response received on way forward from Mr. Thorpe.	
5.3	Networking :	
5.3.1	Culture & Environment Partnership Meeting : JCG attended AGM of Culture & Environment Partnership Meeting on 10 September 2008 and felt the TLAF should be liaising with this Partnership and it was agreed, in future, copies of the TLAF Minutes should be emailed to Sue Cheriton for information.	VCS

5.3.2	Torbay Strategic Housing - Land Availability : JCG attended meeting on 11 September 2008 regarding where Baker Associates felt 15000 proposed houses can be built within the Borough. It was felt that the TLAF should have been consulted to give advice on this and that the Development and Planning Department do not take account of what the TLAF is doing with regard to ROWIP and maintaining footpaths. It was highlighted that there was a serious danger that footpaths would get lost if ROWIP was not referenced.	
5.4	Attracting New Members : As per 5.2 above.	
TLAF.08.5.06	Disability Issues Regarding Enjoyment of Open Spaces and Footways in Torbay : At the 21 May 2008 TLAF meeting, Item 3.1 'Pathways Accessibility for Electric Scooter and Wheelchair Users : The issue was raised as to whether ROWIP was working towards widening this network. JCG to email Patrick Carney (PC) to enquire what plans were in place under the ROWIP to roll this out - with specific reference to the SW coast path where accessibility was patchy - JCG to forward copy of email response received on this to RB to take forward.	JCG/RB
TLAF.08.5.07	Coastal Access : JCG informed TLAF response had been sent in and Government is reconsidering Coastal Access and Marine Bill and would feedback in 2009. JC added that coastal access is believed to get royal ascent/confirmation next year	
TLAF.08.5.08	Current Consultations : None at present time.	
TLAF.08.5.09 & 09.1	Setting Priorities from now to AGM 2009 : Deferred to February 09 meeting.	18/2/09 meeting
TLAF.08.5.10	Chairman's Report on S/W LAF's Activities : JCG to include in AOB at end of meeting.	
TLAF.08.5.11	Review LAF Application Pack (Ref. Item 11 Minutes 21/5/08) attached : Paper copy of present Application Form was distributed to all members who were asked to review and note any comments thereon for discussion at February 09 meeting.	18/02/09 meeting
TLAF.08.5.12	AGM Update : TLAF requested its thanks to Colin Jones be recorded for leading this meeting and it was agreed that it had been an excellent exercise for all concerned.	

TLAF.08.5.13

Any Other Business :

- **Gated Areas** : PH raised the issue of Winstone Avenue in St. Marychurch where residents have campaigned for the closure of an alleyway running at the back of their properties due to problems with youths and anti-social behaviour. This is commonly known as 'gateing' and has been successful elsewhere in reducing such problems. The question arose as to whether the closure would cut across the LAF's attempts to create links in the footpath system and whether the LAF should be consulted in such matters. JCG commented that if area is reported to the Police, gateing may be appropriate, however in an instance in East Devon - when gating had been requested - on looking at criminal records within the proposed gated areas, no problems were shown to have been reported.
- **TLAF Webpage** : VCS to arrange for Webpage to be updated. VCS
- **AGM 2009** : JCG informed that Partrick Carney would be on annual leave from 16-27 July 2009 and that the AGM falls within these dates. As it would be very helpful if PC attended this meeting, a new date of 8 July 2009 was agreed. VCS to inform PC of new date to ensure able to attend and change booking for venue. VCS
- **Regional/National LAFs** : JCG gave background of formation of National LAF and interface on national level with Natural England. Over the past months a very complicated situation arose around representational procedures at this level. These issues had taken up a lot of JCG's time and effort and members of the TLAF expressed clearly it was time to draw a line under these issues and therefore the Chair must not spend any further time on regional/national LAF matters. The TLAF members agreed, bearing in mind the Chair's pro tem role that the Chair needs to concentrate the TLAF time at his disposal on dealing with the pressing issue of Torbay Council's failure to uphold the Defra directive requiring a minimum of 10 members on each LAF. As minuted in the Opening Comments above, the TLAF members agreed to await the outcome of ID's deliberations.

TLAF.08.5.14

Dates of Next Meetings :

Wednesday 18 February 2009 (Update on ROWIP by PC)
Wednesday 20 May 2009
Wednesday 8 July 2009 (AGM) (changed from 22.7.09)
Wednesday 21 October 2009
All from 7 - 9 p.m. Venue: Oldway Mansion, Paignton.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.