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## LOCAL ACCESS FORUM - THURSDAY, 30 AUGUST 2012

Please find enclosed a copy of the Torbay Local Access Forum Annual Report 2011/12 final report.

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7.	Annual Report 2011/12	(Pages 1 - 4)

# Agenda Item 7



## Torbay Local Access Forum (LAF) - Annual Report 2011/2012

Approved at the Annual General Meeting on 30 August 2012

<p><b>Secretary:</b></p>	<p>Wendy Collins, Governance Support Assistant, <a href="mailto:torbaylaf@torbay.gov.uk">torbaylaf@torbay.gov.uk</a></p>		
<p><b>Current Membership:</b></p>	<p><b>Member</b></p>	<p><b>Job Title/Interest</b></p>	<p><b>Lead Roles</b></p>
	Phil Collins	Walking	Chairman
	Mr Robert Boyd	Access for the disabled/ Conservation	Brixham Co-ordinator/ Access for the Disabled Lead
	Councillor Ian Doggett	Councillor	Link to Transport Working Party
	Mrs Wanda Hollingworth	Walking/Conservation	Paignton Co-ordinator/Health and Recreation Lead
	Mr Mick Lear	Walking	Brixham Co-ordinator/Coastal Lead
	Mr John Mellor	Walking	Vice Chairman
	Mrs Margaret Forbes- Hamilton	Parks/Green Spaces/Heritage	Torquay Co-ordinator/ Environment Lead
	Mr Bob Harvey	Land Owner	Forestry
	Ms Elaine Mason	Walking/Bay Walks	
	Mr Alan Robinson	Walking	
	Teresa Buckley	Governance Team Leader/Overall Management of LAF	

<p><b>Changes in Membership since last AGM:</b></p>	<p>Mr Dominic Acland resigned on 16 February 2012 and Miss Carole Anne Williams resigned on 18 June 2012.</p> <p>Mr Phil Collins was appointed on 14 May 2012 and Mr Alan Robinson was appointed on 1 July 2012 maintaining a membership of 10 members.</p>
<p><b>Review of current reporting Year:</b></p>	
<p><b>Were you successful in meeting the achievements set out in your Annual Report or LAF work programme?</b></p>	<p>No specific targets were set for 2011/2012. However, the Forum has actively responded to all relevant consultations and taken a keen interest in ensuring suitable access for all over the past twelve months.</p>
<p><b>How many Open Access Restriction cases have you been informed about/involved with?</b></p>	<p>None</p>
<p><b>Can you give up to three examples of advice given by your LAF to Section 94 bodies:</b></p>	<p><b>Local Authority:</b> Their responses are set out below:</p> <p><b>Proposed Disposal of 8 minor tracts of Council 'Open' Land to adjoining owners:</b></p> <p>Old Maid's Perch' Gardens: The Forum supported this disposal of land, subject to stipulation that if existing palms were removed they would be replaced like for like. Please confirm that this stipulation will be put in place, all other disposals were supported.</p> <p><b>Planning application by Tesco at Edginswell - P/2012/0280:</b></p> <p>The Torbay Local Access Forum would like to re-confirm its objections to the planning application by Tesco at Edginswell - P/2012/0280:</p> <p>Torbay Local Access Forum wishes to formally object to the above planning application, specifically to the plans for the 3 storey office block and adjacent parking for 71 cars.</p>

	<p>The plans show that this parking is to be built across part of the adopted highway network, on land that belongs to Torbay Council. This was the original Edginswell Lane, that until Orchard Way was created, was a working road. It is now an integral part of the footpath network, leading to the main road.</p> <p>Edginswell Lane is part of the old road network of the hamlet of Edginswell, and connected the farmland to the road running between Newfton Abbot and Torquay. It can be clearly seen on the tithe map of 1840 and the first OS map of 1888. The hamlet itself is included in the Domesday Book, so the road will date back many hundreds of years.</p> <p>Any further encroachment on our footpath and ROW network is unacceptable.</p>
<p><b>Give up to three examples where you have encountered difficulties; explain what mechanisms could be put in place to alleviate this issue:</b></p>	<p>The LAF is not always consulted on applications for village green status since these have been delegated to the Council's Legal Department. The Forum made a formal request to the Legal Department to ensure that they are consulted on future applications.</p> <p>The LAF is not always consulted on issues affecting rights of way. In the past Teresa Buckley has included information on the Council's daily electronic newsletter reminding staff of the need to consult with the LAF. This will be repeated and direct contact made with officers involved in such applications.</p>
<p><b>Do you have any issues with recruitment of members from particular interest groups? Does this hinder your work in any way?</b></p>	<p>We have membership from all the sectors and encourage members to have lead roles for specific areas such as health, access for the disabled and environment. We also have a good mix of male and female members. We only have one landowner currently and are seeking to increase this.</p>
<p><b>Comments from appointing authority:</b></p>	<p>The Torbay Local Access Forum has continued to provide a valuable service to the people of Torbay ensuring, wherever possible, that everyone continues to have access to open space and the benefits that it brings. They have been fundamental in helping to prioritise the spending against the Rights of Way Improvement Plan and have won a long battle to</p>

	<p>improve the area around Astra Zenica.</p> <p>There have been a few changes in membership of the Forum over the past twelve months and this has helped to keep up the enthusiasm and bring different perspectives to the voice of the Forum. Hopefully the membership will remain the same for the next few years to enable the Forum to develop into a strong and representative voice, using their knowledge and experience for the benefit of Torbay. I hope that the appointment of Phil Collins, former employee of National England will help to give new strategic direction and leadership to the Forum.</p>
<b>Forward Look:</b>	
<b>What are your priorities for next year (list up to three)?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To balance membership by increasing number of land owners.</li> <li>● Co-ordination with other groups and organisations.</li> </ul>
<b>What support/training will you need to be able to deliver these priorities?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Briefing on new planning regulations.</li> <li>● Training session with Regional Co-ordinator and Natural England.</li> </ul>
<b>Do you perceive any barriers to delivering your priorities?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Awareness of others of who the LAF is and what it does.</li> </ul>
<b>Any other comments:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Expectation of LAF</li> <li>● A copy of annual report to be sent to the Transport Working Party.</li> </ul>