



**Torbay Local Access Forum Meeting**  
**to be held in public on Thursday, 24 May 2012**  
**6.00 pm in the Ballroom, Oldway Mansion, Torquay Road,**  
**Paignton, TQ3 2TE**

*If you are unable to attend this meeting please inform the TLAF Secretary.*

Telephone: (01803) 207701 E-mail: [torbaylaf@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:torbaylaf@torbay.gov.uk)

The meeting will be open to the public in accordance with the provision of Regulation 7 of the LAF  
 (England) Regulations 2002  
 (under Sections 94 + 95 of the CROW Act 2000)

## Agenda

1.	Apologies - to receive any apologies for absence.	
2.	Declaration of Interests - to declare any interests on matters on the agenda.	
3.	Minutes - to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 16 February 2012.	(Pages 1 - 6)
4.	Matters arising not shown on the Agenda	
5.	Planning Consultation Kings Ash Road and Spruce Way	(Pages 7 - 8)
6.	Updates from Area Co-ordinators	
7.	TLAF Information Sharing	(Pages 9 - 11)
8.	Any Other Business	
9.	Date/Time/Venue of Next Meetings Thursdays from 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. at Oldway Mansion, Paignton:  19 July 2012 in the Cecil Room – Annual General Meeting  25 October 2012 in the Cecil Room	

## Membership

Robert Boyd, Brixham Co-Ordinator/Access for the Disabled Lead Phil Collins Councillor Ian Doggett Margaret Forbes-Hamilton, Parks, Green Spaces, heritage/Torquay Co-Ordinator/Environment Lead Bob Harvey, Land Owner	Wanda Hollingworth, Paignton Co-Ordinator/Health and Recreation Lead Mick Lear, Walking/Brixham Co-Ordinator/Coastal Lead Elaine Mason, Walking/Bay Walks John Mellor, Walking/Vice-Chairperson (Chairman) Carole Ann Williams, Walking/Access for the Disabled Lead
Wendy Collins	Secretary



## Minutes of the Local Access Forum

16 February 2012

-: Present :-

Dominic Acland (Chairman), Councillor Ian Doggett, Margaret Forbes-Hamilton, Bob Harvey, Wanda Hollingworth, Elaine Mason and John Mellor

(Also in attendance: Valerie Simpson and James Nicholas)

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### 29. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Robert Boyd and Michael Lear.

### 30. Declaration of Interests

None, other than those already notified to the TLAF.

### 31. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the TLAF held on 1 December 2011 were **accepted** and **agreed** as an accurate report of the meeting.

#### **Action:**

Teresa Buckley to arrange for agreed Minutes to be shown on the TLAF Webpage.

### 32. Matters arising not shown on the Agenda

#### **18/5.4 - Astra Zeneca**

The Chairperson referred to an email received from past LAF Chairperson, John Gibson, forwarded to him by Robert Boyd, informing that the work agreed at Astra Zeneca, that should have been completed by Christmas 2011, had not been carried out. John Mellor informed, having recently walked this area, that this work had now commenced.

#### **Action:**

Secretary to email Mr. Gibson with this information.

## 21 - Land near Edginswell (Tesco)

James Nicholas (JN) informed there would be cycle access to the site, although there was none at present; trees had already been cleared for this. The cycle track would be part of the National Network.

### Cycle Routes

Further discussion took place at the meeting on cycle routes. The Forum was informed that, as this was a Government initiative, some cycle routes had been discussed at a Full Council Meeting and the Byelaw amendment had the approval of the Full Council.

Regarding the approval, the Forum requested that the following be fed back to the Council:

- The Forum felt that the Council should have sought the LAF's comments regarding the cycle routes concerned before taking to Full Council.
- What was the source of the funding for the designated areas to be used for cycling and who would be enforcing this use?
- The TLAF fully supported cycling on designated routes only.

### Action:

Secretary to request Teresa Buckley to feedback above comments to appropriate Council Officer.

### Neighbourhood Plan Meetings

It was **agreed** that Margaret Forbes-Hamilton (MFH) and Wanda Hollingworth (WH) would represent TLAF at these meetings.

## 27 - Any Other Business - 'Old Maid's Perch' Gardens

MFH reported on a meeting with Garth Millard from Torbay Council who informed that the small area of land in question was a very narrow strip next to the building needed for supporting columns. The Forum therefore **supported** this disposal of land, **subject to stipulation** that if existing palms were removed they would be replaced like for like.

### Action:

Secretary to email Mr. Millard of Forum's support and stipulation together with support for the remaining seven disposals of land applications discussed at the 1 December 2011.

## 33. ROWIP 'Wish List'/ Updated ROWIP Map

JN informed meeting that the Rights of Way (RoW) were now on line at [www.torbay.gov.uk/torbaygis/Torbayinteractivemap.aspx](http://www.torbay.gov.uk/torbaygis/Torbayinteractivemap.aspx). This link would open a map

window from the Council's website. There is a drop down menu where the Public Rights of Way can be viewed. More comprehensive information would be added in the future, including statements, etc.

**Action:**

Secretary to send link to all Forum members on email.

JN tabled 'Statement of Actions', stating that he had been working with Justin Cox of TCCT on this and would like to concentrate on:

- Torquay Harbour to Daddyhole Plain signage
- Bishop's Walk signage
- Disabled access to The Grove / Fishcombe Cove

Members were asked to feedback on the Statement of Actions, raise any queries or inform on anything else they would like to see included.

Comments made by the Forum:

- Suggested JN investigate whether any PROW in the vicinity of the Vincent Hill, Woodland Trails Project, needed improving.
- Key Action No. 9 – Seymour Drive – Old Stables + footpath down to Brunel Woods.
- No sign-posting at Warwick Close from Babbacombe Road.

The Forum felt that, as its members did not have absolute knowledge of RoWs, it agreed that, in order to generate a more meaningful plan for the whole community, Community Partnerships and the Neighbourhood Plan should also be asked to feedback on this. JN agreed to send a letter to Community Partnerships requesting suggestions for priorities for 2013-14 Statement of Actions, and include the link shown above to the on-line map for information.

### 34. Updates from Area Co-ordinators

#### Torquay Co-ordinator

Margaret Forbes-Hamilton updated:

- On report at previous meeting regarding Application for **Scotts Meadow**: this will now go to Appeal, commencing 20 March 2012. Previous TLAF Chair, John Gibson, had checked past maps and records, and raised issue through email dated 9 February 2012 sent to RB and forwarded to the Chair as to whether the LAF could issue formal advice on this. MFH **agreed** to formally represent the TLAF at the Enquiry and talk to John Gibson regarding same and make a case for presentation of the area as an Open Space. Secretary to inform Mr. Gibson of response.
- Planning process commenced for the development of hotel on Marine Car Park; developing Cary Parade as small shops, etc. Pedestrian access would always be in place here.

JN informed he had received a query on Sladnor Park regarding public right of way and areas being blocked off. If evidence available of public use for twenty years, RoW could be applied for.

#### **Paignton Co-ordinator**

Wanda Hollingworth raised issue of whether **ALL** the RoWs through Oldway Mansion grounds would be retained once development of the Mansion commenced. The Forum **agreed** that a letter should be written to the Planning Department requesting the implication of all RoWs now in place in the grounds of Oldway Mansion once the development of Oldway Mansion commences.

#### **Action:**

Secretary to write to the Planning Department.

#### **Brixham Co-ordinators**

Co-ordinators Rob Boyd (RB) and Mick Lear were not present at the meeting therefore no report made.

#### **Tesco Development, Brixham Town**

Previous TLAF Chair, John Gibson, had raised issue through email dated 9 February 2012 sent to RB and forwarded to the Chair that this development would result in loss of open area. The Forum felt that this issue was not within the LAF's remit as not an Open Space.

#### **Action:**

Secretary to inform Mr. Gibson of response.

#### **35. Update on Forestry Commission - Tree & Woodland Health (Bob Harvey)**

Bob Harvey (BH) reported he had sent a Report to the Regional Co-ordinator. The Panel, that has a range of well represented organisations and interests, was looking carefully at this with an open mind. Relevant parts of the official report were highlighted to the Forum. Underpinning this was a UK Eco-System Assessment and the proposals for Reform of Agriculture Policy. Concern had been raised that the LAFs had not been included in the UK-wide representation.

#### **36. New TLAF Logo**

The Forum **agreed** the borderless logo to be used for all future TLAF paperwork.

**Action:**

Teresa Buckley to email letterhead layout to all members for information.

**37. Review Election of Chairperson (Minute 5.1 20/12/11 Minutes)**

Dominic Acland informed of the position of TCCT and that it would be difficult for him, in the circumstances, to continue his membership of the TLAF and Chairing same, therefore he would need to stand down as Chair as from this meeting. The Forum requested its thanks be recorded to Dominic highlighting how professionally he had led the Forum throughout his time as Chairperson. DA said that the work of the TLAF was very relevant to that of the TCCT and the possibility of another member of the Trust's staff attending future LAF meetings would be looked into, but that the TCCT's first priority at the present time was to focus on its own business at a very difficult time.

**Action:**

Teresa Buckley to send letter to DA on behalf of the Forum thanking him for his support to the TLAF as Chairperson.

**New Chairperson**

John Mellor agreed to take over as Chairperson until the AGM on 19 July 2012. The Forum thanked John for taking over the role as Chair.

**Action:**

Agenda item for 24 May 2012 meeting : Election of Vice Chairperson to replace JM.

**38. TLAF Information Sharing**

Accepted.

**39. Any Other Business**

- WH to attend Green Connect, a free event on 25 February 2012 organised by [Green Space South West](#) and sponsored by [Natural England](#) with a combination of speakers, workshops and networking opportunities interspersed with a private tour of the restored Walled Gardens of Cannington.
- BH attended AONB Annual Meeting.
- Land Owners Clarke Willmott on Localism Bill – reference assets of community value and disposal of these – BH suggested this should be kept in mind for the future.

The Chair informed the Forum that the Secretary's role with the TLAF and Torbay Council would end at the end of March 2012 due to Torbay Council's reorganisation. The TLAF thanked Valerie for her work with the LAF over the past four years.

Members asked for re-assurance that the Council would continue to support the Forum in the same way and have the same time allocated to its work once the present Secretary had finished employment. The Secretary informed that Wendy Collins from the Governance Support Team would take over the role of Secretary from 1 April 2012; contact email [wendy.collins@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.collins@torbay.gov.uk).

**Action:**

Teresa Buckley to send a formal letter of thanks to Valerie on behalf of the TLAF and to confirm the future support arrangements to the LAF.

**40. Date/Time/Venue of Next Meetings**

All members noted the following dates of future meetings which would all be held on Thursdays from 6.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m.

- 24 May 2012 in Ballroom at Oldway Mansion.
- 19 July 2012 in Cecil Room, Oldway Mansion (AGM).
- 25 October 2012 – Venue to be confirmed.

The Chairperson thanked all those that attended and closed the meeting at 7.40 p.m.



# Agenda Item 5

**From:** Walker, Deborah  
**Sent:** 08 May 2012 13:42  
**To:** Engineering; Highways; Prendergast, William; Environment Agency (swdevonplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk); Natural England (Consultations@naturalengland.org.uk); RSPB Regional Office (helene.jessop@rspb.org.uk); South West Water (devplan@southwestwater.co.uk); torbaylaf; South Hams District Council (development.control@southhams.gov.uk); Acland, Dominic; NaturalEnvironment  
**Subject:** Planning Consultation

PLEASE REPLY TO [PLANNING@TORBAY.GOV.UK](mailto:PLANNING@TORBAY.GOV.UK) INBOX ONLY, IF YOU WISH TO REPLY TO THE CONSULTATION LETTER. THANK YOU



**Please reply to:**

Matt Diamond Senior Planning Officer  
Planning and Development Services  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Roebuck House  
Abbey Road, Torquay TQ2 5DP

**My Ref:** P/2012/0388

**Your Ref:**

**Telephone:** 01803 207798

**Fax:** 01803 208858

**E-mail:** [Planning@Torbay.Gov.Uk](mailto:Planning@Torbay.Gov.Uk)

**Date:** 8 May 2012

Consultee

Dear Sir/Madam

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 (AS AMENDED)**

**Proposal:** Alterations to Kings Ash Road/Spruce Way to provide a new link road to the West to allow access to proposed new housing development with access to Hilltop Nursery and associated widening to Kings Ash Road to provide new vehicle lanes shared footpath/cycle way and landscape verge

**Address:** Junction Of Kings Ash Road/Spruce Way, Paignton, TQ3 3XF,

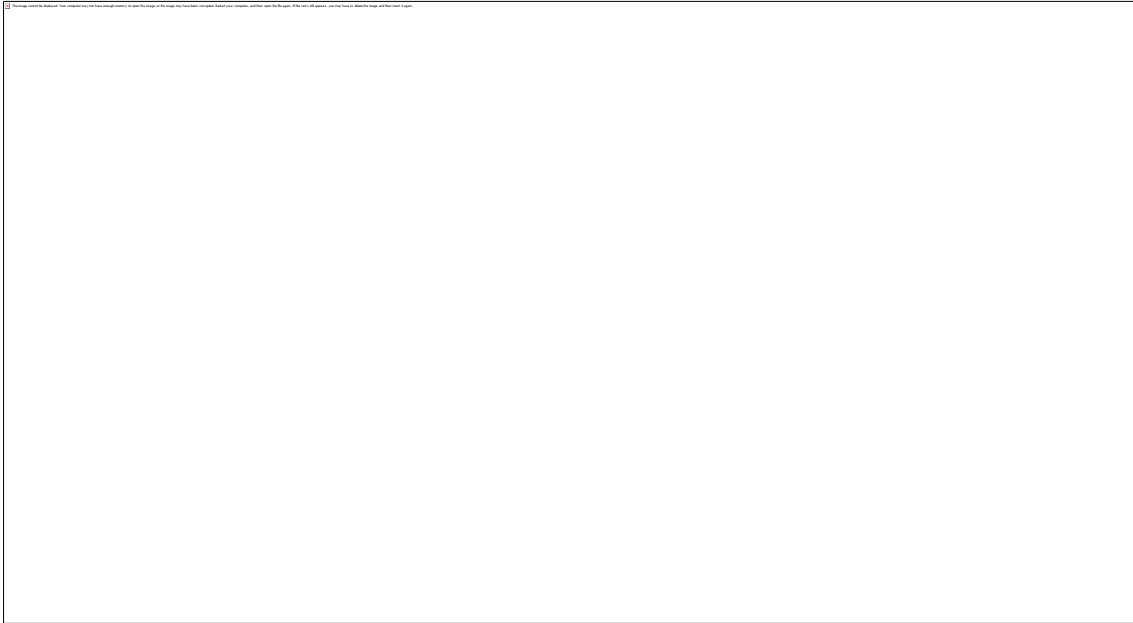
**Applicant:** Torbay Council

**Reference:** P/2012/0388

**Type:** Regulation 3 Application - Torbay

**Consultant Response By:** 31 May 2012

**Map Of Location:**



E  
astings:  
292890  
Northings:

058994

The above application has been received by Torbay Council, Spatial Planning Division and is referred to you for your comments.

You are able to access the information regarding this application via the Internet using the following address: <http://www.torbay.gov.uk/planningonline>. This will enable you to view plans and the application form etc.

Simply enter the application number P/2012/0388, in the space provided and click the Search button.

**Any comments regarding this application should reach me by 31 May 2012**, as the decision can be issued from this date onwards. Should you wish to comment after this date, please contact me on 01803 207798 and I will let you know if it is still possible to accept your comments. Please email any comments on this proposal to [planning@torbay.gov.uk](mailto:planning@torbay.gov.uk) quoting application number P/2012/0388 or write to me at the above address. If I do not hear from you within this period it will be assumed that you have no comments to make.

If you have any queries regarding this proposal, please contact me direct on 01803 207798.

Yours faithfully

**Matt Diamond**  
Senior Planning Officer  
Spatial Planning

# Agenda Item 7

## Torbay Local Access Forum – Information Sharing as at 14 May 2012

(Most recently received shown first)

**For Members who do not have access to a computer, please ask the TLAF Secretary for a copy of information OF PARTICULAR INTEREST ONLY shown below (always bearing in mind cost for printing same).**

### **National Trails & Paths for Communities & Stepping Forward**

Information from Hilary Winter, Forum Officer, Devon Countryside Access Forum, Lucombe House, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter, EX2 4QD Tel: 07837 171000

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/places/nationaltrails/review2012.aspx>

The **National Trail review** will be launched at the beginning of May. This is not a formal consultation but stakeholders will be invited to make comment and it is anticipated that LAFs will be part of that. I am attending a general National Trail meeting on 21st May and will cascade relevant information. The Devon CAF had a presentation on the South West Coastpath at its last meeting and the SWCP budget is being cut by 30% in 2012/13 - this will have implications for how the path is managed in the future and budgets, responsibilities and promotion will all be part of this review. Some local meetings are also being convened by National Trail managers and Natural England staff to do with specific trails. For those affected by the SWCP I will let you have details when a date has been arranged. For those LAFs in the Cotswold Way, Thames Path and Ridgeway areas I would suggest checking with the National Trail Officer to see how the LAF can contribute locally to this debate.

**Paths for Communities** is being launched next week, 8th May. Again, I will pass on details and no doubt there will be a lot of press publicity and enquiries from parishes and individuals about the process.

**Stepping Forward.** If you recall, the Stepping Forward report was a series of recommendations which came out of the post Discovering Lost Ways Stakeholder Group and set out ways in which the legal process for public rights of way could be improved and reformed. This report has been with Defra for a while and is likely to come out for consultation in the next couple of months. It may include wider proposals. If you are looking at work programmes or agendas for late summer/early autumn please bear this in mind as this could well be a very major consultation for LAFs to get involved with.

### **Meeting dates & Conference**

Could you possibly let me have details of meeting dates for the remainder of this year? I would like to organise a conference in the early autumn. If anyone can offer a venue or has a suggestion please let me know. Ideas for speakers/topic areas and the balance between workshops/discussion and speakers would also be helpful.

### **Regional Coordination**

On the regional coordination front things are progressing and I would like to thank you for your support. There will be a further year's funding, with Huddle being the main emphasis, and I am currently waiting for confirmation about the role 2012/13. **Received 30 April 2012**

**Huddle** It has been agreed by Natural England that up to five members per LAF can now go on Huddle. Although some LAF requested that all members should be able to go on this seems unlikely at the present time. Please could you discuss with members whether anyone would like to take up the opportunity. This will provide more scope for members to engage in discussions

on access matters with others across the country and to ensure other LAFs know of the useful work that is being carried out in your area. Members can be from the LAF or the Secretary/local authority officer. Training can be provided for small groups or on a one to one basis. **Received 30 April 2012**

**Forestry Panel** <http://www.defra.gov.uk/forestrypanel/files/18-April-Summary-note.pdf>

Notes of meeting held on April 18th. Most important thing - publication date for the final report is 4th July. **Received 30 April 2012**

**Devon Countryside Access Forum** Last meeting held on Wednesday, 25 April. An agenda is available on the website [www.devon.gov.uk/devon\\_countryside\\_access\\_forum](http://www.devon.gov.uk/devon_countryside_access_forum)  
**Received on 17 April 2012**

**New Countryside Code** Some LAFs commented on the revision of the Countryside Code. It has now been issued. Countryside Code page weblink  
<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/enjoying/countrysidecode/default.aspx> **Received 11 April 2012**

#### **Forestry panel update**

[http://www.defra.gov.uk/forestrypanel/files/SummaryNote21\\_22March.pdf](http://www.defra.gov.uk/forestrypanel/files/SummaryNote21_22March.pdf) Notes of the meeting on 21st/22nd March have been published. Of particular interest are some comments from URS Scott Wilson who are undertaking some research in connection with the Panel.

"The Panel received a presentation from the economics research team, drawing on their work within the second phase of the commissioned research. The team described the work they had done to examine a range of possible mechanisms that might be used to support activity flowing from the Panel's recommendations. Such mechanisms included public funds such as Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and tax, payments for ecosystem services, forestry investment bonds and carbon payments." **Received 11 April 2012**

**The new Planning Framework** has been released following last year's consultation. It reduces the planning policies under which authorities should operate to a mere 50 pages.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/nppf>

Of particular note are measures to improve sustainable transport and the following reference to public rights of way:

- Planning policies should protect and enhance public rights of way and access. Local authorities should seek opportunities to provide better facilities for users, for example by adding links to existing rights of way networks including National Trails. (Paragraph 75)
- Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances. Identifying land as Local Green Space should therefore be consistent with the local planning of sustainable development and complement investment in sufficient homes, jobs and other essential services. Local Green Spaces should only be designated when a plan is prepared or reviewed, and be capable of enduring beyond the end of the plan period. (Paragraph 76)
- The Local Green Space designation will not be appropriate for most green areas or open space. The designation should only be used:

- where the green space is in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;
- where the green area is demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquility or richness of its wildlife; and

- where the green area concerned is local in character and is not an extensive tract of land. (Paragraph 77)

- Great weight should be given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty. The conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage are important considerations in all these areas, and should be given great weight in National Parks and the Broads.(Paragraph 115)
- Minerals -put in place policies to ensure worked land is reclaimed at the earliest opportunity, taking account of aviation safety, and that high quality restoration and aftercare of mineral sites takes place, including for agriculture (safeguarding the long term potential of best and most versatile agricultural land and conserving soil resources), geodiversity, biodiversity, native woodland, the historic environment and recreation. (Paragraph 143 - last bullet).

Received 27 March 2012

## Summary notes of Independent Panel on Forestry meeting held on February 23rd

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/forestrypanel/files/SummaryNote23Feb.pdf>

Of particular interest to LAFs:

**Item 2:** Feedback from workshop on 8 February A sub-group of Panel members had met to consider in greater depth technical issues relating to “economic instruments” and access to woodlands. Fiona Reynolds and Shireen Chambers, as two Panel members who attended the workshop, gave a short verbal report of the day. The sub group had held discussions with Ian Dickie (Economics for the Environment Consulting Ltd) who gave a presentation outlining the potential of different “economic instruments”, such as tax, biodiversity offsets and payments for ecosystem services, to contribute to delivery of matters the Panel is considering. The Panel members also heard from and questioned Justin Cooke (the Ramblers and representative member of Forest Users Access Group); Karl Gerhardsen (North York Moors National Park Authority); Paul Johnson (Natural England) and Ben Taylor (Motor Sports Association) about access to woodlands and the wider natural environment.

### **Item 4:** Access to woodland

The Panel had a discussion about access to woodlands building on the workshop held on 8 February. The future potential and role of both the public forest estate and woodlands in other ownerships were considered, along with the mix between open access and that on paths and other defined routes. Access to existing woodlands was considered alongside the potential of new areas of woodland creation closer to people. The motivations of individual landowners is an important factor to be considered as is the role of local partnership working to find solutions appropriate to the place. Ways were explored in which a step-change in informal access provision might be encouraged for a wide range of wellbeing benefits, including the role of incentives and other forms of income to enable this. Received on 8 March 2012