



Torbay Local Access Forum Meeting
to be held in public on Thursday, 30 August 2012
6.00 pm in the Cecil Room, 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

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. | Minutes - to receive the minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2012 | (Pages 1 - 4) |
| 3. | Election of Chair | |
| 4. | Declaration of Interests - to declare any interests on matters on the agenda | |
| 5. | Matters arising not shown on the Agenda | |
| 6. | Appointments: Vice Chair Co-ordinators | |
| 7. | Annual Report 2012/13 | (Pages 5 - 8) |
| 8. | Update from Area Co-ordinators | |
| 9. | Update from Natural England - Dot Isgrove | |
| 10. | Early Day Motion 219 - Reduction in funding for urban parks | (Pages 9 - 14) |
| 11. | Planning application P/2012/0633 - update to note response from Senior Planning Officer | (Page 15) |
| 12. | LAF to devise standard set of questions for planning applications Discussion item | |
| 13. | TLAF Information Sharing | (Pages 16 - 22) |
| 14. | Date/Time/Venue of Next Meetings - to agree frequency and month for 2013 | |
| 15. | Any Other Business | |

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
Alan Robinson, Walking
John Mellor, Walking/Vice-Chairperson (Chairman)

Wendy Collins



Minutes of the Local Access Forum

24 May 2012

-: Present :-

Robert Boyd, Councillor Ian Doggett, Margaret Forbes-Hamilton, Wanda Hollingworth, Mick Lear and John Mellor (Chairman)

(Also in attendance: James Nicholas and Wendy Collins)

41. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Phil Collins, Bob Harvey and Elaine Mason. Carole Williams was absent.

42. Declaration of Interests

None, other than those already notified to the TLAF.

43. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting of the TLAF held on 16 February 2012 were accepted and agreed as an accurate report of the meeting.

44. Matters arising not shown on the Agenda

Neighbourhood Plan Meetings

Wanda Hollingworth informed the Forum that the Paignton meetings had been mostly about Victoria Park. The fencing around the new play park in Paignton had also been discussed.

Margaret Forbes-Hamilton said that Torquay had held several meetings on what should be done. There is funding from the Princes Trust Foundation for all three towns. A steering group will be set up to discuss what needs to be done and two projects groups will be formed. MFH put herself forward as the Greenspace Forum rep.

45. Planning Consultation Kings Ash Road and Spruce Way

Margaret Forbes-Hamilton passed on a comment from a resident who lives in this area that widening the road at the Hilltop Nursery would not really improve matters.

The Forum had no other comments to make.

46. Updates from Area Co-ordinators

Brixham Co-ordinator

Robert Boyd updated:

- Astra Zenica – it was felt that a good job had been done. There is space between the laboratories and the tarmac which is 2 metres wide which is enough for people and wheelchair users. RB had a discussion with John Gibson who felt there should be access for wheelchair users to the benches. He was told that this was not in the initial remit. What is proposed it what was asked for.

Action: Robert Boyd to contact Disability Access officer in the Council to discuss this.

- Town Square, Brixham/Tesco issue – John Gibson had raised in an email that the building of a Tesco on the Town Square should be opposed. It was suggested that the particular laws for Town Squares should be looked at.

Action: Robert Boyd to contact James Oram, Legal Officer Torbay Council regarding the laws and status of Town Squares.

Paignton Co-ordinator

Wanda Hollingsworth updated:

- Oldway Mansion is going ahead in October.
- Crossways still ongoing.
- Playpark is now complete apart from the fencing.

Torquay Co-ordinator

Margaret Forbes-Hamilton updated:

- Scotts Meadow planning enquiry was well attended. Results from the enquiry are awaited.
- The Hi-flyer Balloon is going, the site is being ripped up.
- Maidencombe – the Residents Association has been active in looking for funding the restore the Linney as a spot for walkers and visitors to stop and obtain information of the area and natural history of the coastal path (not a shop).
- Edginswell
 - Tesco – discussions around road access and parking issues. These will be in the Neighbourhood Plan for Torquay. The biggest objection to the scheme is from the Environment Agency regarding drainage which could be a serious problem.
 - MFH put in an objection regarding the proposed office building on the car showroom plot – the car park was going to be across Edginswell Lane.

- Traffic surveys were carried out before Dunelm and Asda were opened and consequently they need to be carried out again.

47. TLAF Information Sharing

Agreed.

Planning Framework

B&Q site – looking at building homes on this site with a green area.

John Mellor agreed that it was a good idea to exchange information between other LAF groups. Devon has three LAFs whereas some other areas only have one.

48. Any Other Business

- Comment in the email from John Gibson regarding membership of LAF discussed.

Action: Teresa Buckley to take this forward.

- Huddle – members asked if they would like to join huddle. No-one wished to do so.

Action: Secretary to inform Hilary Winter.

- Planning application – Change of use to temporary park and ride facility for 230 vehicles, with temporary buildings to run until 31.10.14. – land to north east of A3022, Brixham Road and West of Elberry Lane, Churston

Members were not aware of this planning application. Robert Boyd and Mick Lear were not aware of any discussions having taken place in Brixham. It was agreed that no comment would be made until there had been a response from the people of Brixham. Also the LAF would like clarification of whether this is an extension of use or change of use.

- Regional LAF meeting
Hilary Winter emailed with a choice of dates for the next Regional LAF meeting. Mick Lear, John Mellor and Ian Doggett can all provisionally attend on 9 or 16 October.

Action: Secretary to complete Doodle poll to indicate which dates are suitable.

- National Trail Review
John Mellor, Mick Lear and James Nicholas attended a meeting on 22 May 2012.

A grant from Natural England for the South West Coastal Path goes to Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust. However this is being cut by 30%. Funding comes in each year which makes it difficult to plan long term. The proposal is to give out the money every 3 years in future. The grant money is prescriptive on what the money can be spent on, generally vegetation, hand rails, steps.

JN suggested an agenda item for LAF – SW Coastal Path updates.

- Margaret Forbes-Hamilton raised an issue from a recent Greenspace Forum meeting when she said she was the rep for LAF. It became apparent that some Torbay Councillors were unsure what the LAF was. It was agreed that posters should be produced explaining the LAF and for one to be put into each of the Political Groups' rooms at the Town Hall.

Action: MFH to produce a draft poster and forward to Teresa Buckley.

- JN asked for backing from the LAF on behalf of Dominic Acland of Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust for proposed cycle routes at Scadson Woods and Cockington. There will be signage for the routes. Some will be an improvement on what is already there and some will be new routes. It was also suggested that the cycle routes should be on the website to enable tourists to plan ahead. Once there is an image of the design JN will bring it to LAF.

The Forum agreed this scheme was a good idea.

- JN informed the Forum that there had been objections to the PROW at Innerbrook Road and therefore there would be a hearing.

49. Date/Time/Venue of Next Meetings

- 19 July 2012, Cecil Room, Oldway Mansion (AGM)
- 25 October 2012 – Venue to be confirmed



Torbay Local Access Forum (LAF)

Annual Report 2011/2012

Report to the Annual General Meeting on 30 August 2012

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|--|---|
| Secretary: | Wendy Collins, Governance Support Assistant, torbaylaf@torbay.gov.uk | | |
| Current Membership: | Member | Job Title/Interest | Lead Roles |
| | 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 | Interim 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>Changes in Membership since last AGM:</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>Review of current reporting Year:</p> | |
| <p>Were you successful in meeting the achievements set out in your Annual Report or LAF work programme?</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>How many Open Access Restriction cases have you been informed about/involved with?</p> | <p>None</p> |
| <p>Can you give up to three examples of advice given by your LAF to Section 94 bodies:</p> | <p>Local Authority: Their responses are set out below:</p> <p>Proposed Disposal of 8 minor tracts of Council 'Open' Land to adjoining owners:</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>Planning application by Tesco at Edginswell - P/2012/0280:</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>Give up to three examples where you have encountered difficulties; explain what mechanisms could be put in place to alleviate this issue:</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>Do you have any issues with recruitment of members from particular interest groups? Does this hinder your work in any way?</p> | <p>No we have a balanced 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.</p> |
| <p>Comments from appointing authority:</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> |
| Forward Look: | |
| What are your priorities for next year (list up to three)? | To be discussed and agreed by members at the AGM. |
| What support/training will you need to be able to deliver these priorities? | To be discussed and agreed by members at the AGM. |
| Do you perceive any barriers to delivering your priorities? | To be discussed and agreed by members at the AGM. |
| Any other comments: | To be discussed and agreed by members at the AGM. |

-----Original Message-----

From: Karen Hughes [<mailto:karenh@green-space.org.uk>]

Sent: 12 July 2012 12:00

To: undisclosed-recipients

Subject: Make PArks a Priority campaign

Dear All

Many of you probably never see the journal [Horticulture Week](#) , but it is running a campaign to get the Government to formally debate the impact of the current cuts in parks funding. I attach copies of the articles and also a template for a letter to your local Member of Parliament asking him or her to support the call for a debate.

If you decide to send a letter please let me know. I'll be sending one to my local MP here in Somerset.

Best wishes

Karen Hughes

Karen Hughes

Regional Manager GreenSpace South West

(I am based in Somerset and generally work Monday -Thursday between 9am and 1.30pm)

Head Office: Caversham Court, Church Road, Reading RG4 7AD

Direct Tel 0118 946 5153

Email karenh@green-space.org.uk

website www.gssw.org.uk

Twitter account @GS_SW

Facebook page **GreenSpace SouthWest**

Agenda Item 10

Appendix 1

House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Date

Dear

MP

RE: Early Day Motion 219 – Reduction in Funding for Urban Parks

As your constituent, I am writing to share my concerns that disproportionate cuts to local authority parks maintenance budgets are, once again, threatening to tip Britain's urban parks into a spiral of decline, and to urge you to sign **EDM 219 – Reduction in Funding for Urban Parks**.

EDM 219 calls for an inquiry to examine the issues behind the crisis facing urban parks, as well as address concerns over the absence at national level of any department, body or function with a watching brief for the UK's urban parks which is exacerbating the crisis.

In London, parks budgets have fallen by 44 per cent in the past four years, the London Parks & Green Spaces Forum reported this month. In Liverpool, which has lost a third of its green space budget in two years along with 65 parks staff, officials came perilously close last year to withdrawing maintenance completely from all community parks. Meanwhile 96 per cent of green space managers from councils across the UK have told APSE that lack of investment in parks will impact negatively on health and social wellbeing.

Eighty per cent of parks managers are predicting quality standards to fall as they become unable to deal with vandalism and ongoing maintenance, and 50 per cent are expecting a drop in public perceptions of safety. There is a slide back towards there being no-go areas for children, families and old people.

A copy of EDM 219 is enclosed. I would be grateful if you would show your support for the call for an inquiry into the parks crisis by signing the EDM.

Yours sincerely,

Full text of EDM 219

EDM 219 - EDM 219 – Reduction in Funding for Urban Parks

That this House is concerned about the damage being caused to Britain's urban parks and green spaces by disproportionate cuts to their maintenance in local government budget savings, the loss of skills in professional horticulture in the public sector through staff redundancies and the lack of investment in parks, negatively impacting on health, social well-being and community cohesion; notes that, for example, London parks budgets have fallen by 44 per cent in the past four years while Liverpool has lost a third of its parks budget in the last two years along with 65 parks staff; recognises the challenge for green space professionals with the absence of a national level department, body or function with a watching brief for the UK's urban parks; and calls on the Government to address these concerns in a new inquiry into urban parks.

Signature _____

Date ___/___/___

House of Commons reception hosted by all-party group hears parks professionals raise concerns with parliamentarians

HW campaign calls for urban parks inquiry



By Jez Abbott

HW has this week launched a campaign calling for a new select committee inquiry into urban parks.

The action is prompted by the fears of professionals that disproportionate cuts to urban parks services are driving horticultural skills from the sector while threatening to usher in, once again, a spiral of decline in parks across the UK.

The campaign launch followed a reception in the Commons last week organised by HW and hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Gardening & Horticulture Group (APPGHG), which saw parks professionals raise their concerns with parliamentarians.



Parliament: an early day motion has already been signed by 17 MPs

An early day motion highlighting the damage being caused to Britain's parks from disproportionate cuts and a call for a fresh inquiry into urban parks has been tabled on behalf of the campaign by supportive MPs. This has already been signed by 17.

Addressing last week's event, *Horticulture Week*

editor Kate Lowe warned that compounding the impact of budget cuts was the absence at a national level of any department, body or function with a watching brief for any aspect of urban parks.

"CABE Space has gone, the Design Council has omitted parks from the remit that it

inherited from CABE, the last civil servant with responsibility for any aspect of parks at Communities & Local Government has left, the future of the Green Flag Awards is unclear and the Green Infrastructure Partnership is focused on the creation of new landscape elements rather than the maintenance of existing urban parks.

"Where do green space professionals go with the issues they are facing, their ideas and their solutions?" Lowe asked.

Attendees at the reception heard from Tony Leach of the London Parks & Green Spaces Forum, who drew attention to the threat to volunteering by friends groups from the cuts and the mistaken assumption that they could take on activities that are normally carried out by skilled staff.

Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) head of landscape Drew Bennelick showed a

film highlighting the importance to the quality of life of local residents of a park recently restored with HLF funds. "Our concern is we are in a boom-and-bust situation and that we don't go back to those days," he said.

After chairing a debate during the event that illustrated the deep concern of parks professionals present, APPGHG chairman Baroness Fookes said: "A select committee seems to be the answer to addressing the problem and bringing it to notice. This is about making parks a priority again and we all say amen to that."

MPs attending last week's event included Sir Peter Bottomley, Bill Esterson, Brian Donohoe, Sir Bob Russell, Rosie Cooper and David Amess. Peers included Baroness Fookes — who opened the event — Lord Courtown, Lord Palmer, Lord Clark and Baroness Sharples. See campaign pages 6 and 7.

Champions of green-space sector on the call for an inquiry and why urgent action is needed



DAVID ALLISTER, HEAD OF PARKS, LONDON BOROUGH OF RICHMOND UPON THAMES

"The call for an inquiry is the next logical step and a political answer to the devastation some have felt from these recent cuts and all that good work we as a sector have built up over the past decade or so."



DAVE MORRIS, VICE CHAIR, NATIONAL FEDERATION OF PARKS & GREEN SPACES

"We cannot return to the

1980s and the difference now is that we have a vibrant grass-roots friends movement of 5,000 groups that will speak up. I support this proposal for an inquiry."



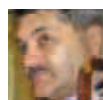
TONY LEACH, DIRECTOR, LONDON PARKS & GREEN SPACES FORUM

"We know from past experience that quality and security of parks are at risk from cuts to maintenance budgets, which have fallen by 44 per cent in London since 2008."



PAUL BRAMHILL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, GREENSPACE

"Some £1.4bn was going into the green sector and a recent study found that it will go down to £700m. While the Heritage Lottery Fund can safeguard certain parks — say 500 — we have 30,000 parks so 29,000 are in peril."



JOHN TWEDDLE, HEAD OF PARKS, WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL

"We are losing skills across the

industry because of the people forced out by cuts to local authorities. There's no one there to track quality."



PETER NEAL, PARKS AND LANDSCAPE CONSULTANT

"This is a fantastic year to launch this initiative and for the Government to support the sector because we are welcoming the world to Stratford later this month where we have created a state-of-the-art urban park."

This week on www.HorticultureWeek.co.uk

NEWS MONTY DON TO PRESENT NEW BBC TV SERIES ON FRENCH GARDENS

The show is scheduled for April 2013. The *Gardener's World* presenter also tweeted: "I am a champion of independent nurseries but have not set foot in a garden centre in years."

➔ www.HorticultureWeek.co.uk/news

NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT ON NEW HTA DIRECTOR-GENERAL DUE THIS WEEK

David Gwyther's replacement was set to be revealed this week after HTA board members approved the selected candidate at a meeting this week.

➔ www.HorticultureWeek.co.uk/news

NEWS LOVE YOUR GARDEN-FEATURED PLANTS AND PRODUCTS REVEALED

The ITV1 series producer Spun Gold and the Garden Industry Manufacturers Association have released lists of products and plant suppliers used in the show.

➔ www.HorticultureWeek.co.uk/news

BLOG KATHERINE WILLS' DIARY OF A BUDDING GARDEN DESIGNER

"Having got over the shock — and delight — of making it to the RHS young designer of the year final three, a dauntingly regular commute began from London to Cheshire."

➔ www.HorticultureWeek.co.uk/blogs

MAKE PARKS
A PRIORITY

Why we need a new

By HW staff

Our public parks are under threat once more as the impact of the spending cuts becomes clear.

Budget savings have resulted in disproportionate cuts to urban parks services, the *State of the Market Survey 2012* published by the Association of Public Service Excellence (APSE) this April confirmed.

Meanwhile, nearly a third of authorities reported front-line staff being lost in the first year of the squeeze on public spending alone, said parks charity GreenSpace.

In London, parks budgets have fallen by 44 per cent in the past four years, the London Parks & Green Spaces Forum reported last month.

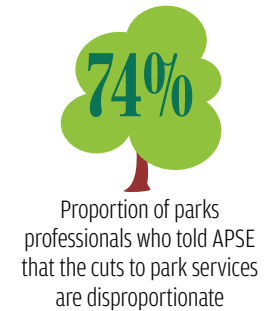
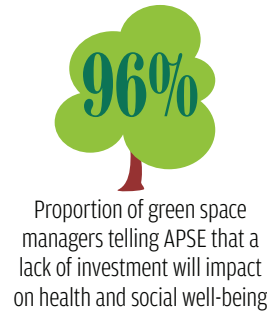
In Liverpool, which has lost a third of its green-space budget in two years along with 65 parks staff, officials came perilously close last year to withdrawing maintenance completely from all community parks.

Added to this, 96 per cent of green-space managers from councils across the UK have told APSE that the lack of investment in parks will impact negatively on health and social well-being.

Eighty per cent of parks managers are predicting a fall in quality standards as they become unable to deal with vandalism and maintenance, and 50 per cent are expecting a drop in public perceptions of safety. There is a slide back towards no-go areas for children, families and old people.

Hopes that parks' long-established ranks of local volunteers might help to ease some of the impacts of the unprecedented pressure on budgets are also being dashed as that same pressure undermines the ability of teams to support their volunteers.

Tree Council director-general Pauline Buchanan Black has warned of the impact of overstretched tree officers on professional support for the national volunteer tree



warden scheme. "The collaborative working style, through no fault of the tree officers, is being withdrawn," she told HW last month.

Compounding the current challenges facing the sector is the absence at national level of any department, body or function with a watching brief for any aspect of the UK's urban parks.

CABE Space has gone, the Design Council has omitted parks from the remit it inherited, the last civil servant with responsibility for any aspect of parks at Communities & Local Government has

left, the future of the Green Flag Awards is unclear and the Green Infrastructure Partnership is focused on creating landscape elements rather than maintaining existing urban parks.

So where do green space professionals and all those deeply concerned with the quality of urban parks across the UK and the maintenance of this critical part of our national heritage go with the issues they are facing, their ideas and their solutions?

David Lambert, expert adviser to the 1999 town and country parks inquiry of the

Commons environment, transport and regional affairs committee, warned recently in *The Times* newspaper: "We are embarking on a return to the near-terminal spiral of decline in which parks found themselves in the 1970s and 1980s — vandalised toilets, untended flower beds and closed cafés and paddling pools".

This is a fear shared by many of the green-space sector's highly committed professionals. It is also why we believe that now is the time for a fresh parliamentary inquiry into urban parks.

Last week's reception at the House of Commons hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Gardening & Horticulture



1 HW's Kate Lowe and Parks Agency's David Lambert (right) talk to Bill Esterson MP 2 GreenSpace's Paul Bramhill, consultant Sid Sullivan and Westminster City Council's John Tweddle 3 Lord Courtown, London Parks & Green Spaces Forum's Tony Leach and consultant Peter Neal 4 Heritage Lottery Fund's Drew Bennelick and Bramhill 5 Lambert and City of London's Sue

inquiry into urban parks

How you can help the campaign

1 Write to your MP

Please write to your MP asking them for their assistance in securing a select committee inquiry into urban parks and to show their support for the campaign by signing an early day motion (EDM) that highlights our concerns over the future of our parks.

EDM219 – *Reduction in Funding for Urban Parks* – highlights the damage being caused to Britain's urban parks and green spaces by disproportionate cuts to their maintenance in local government budget savings and the loss of skills in professional horticulture in the public sector through staff redundancies.

In addition, it draws attention to the fact that these problems are being exacerbated by the absence of a national-level department, body or function with a watching brief for the UK's

urban parks and calls for these concerns to be addressed in a new inquiry into urban parks.

- When contacting your MP you need to use the full name of the early day motion – EDM 219 *Reduction in Funding for Urban Parks*.
- For the full text of the EDM, see www.HorticultureWeek.co.uk/makeparksapriority.
- To find out how to contact your local MP, see findyourmp.parliament.uk.

2 Spread the word

Do you have a parks friends group? If so, please let them know about the campaign and encourage them to write a letter supporting the call for an inquiry into urban parks to their MP. For a PDF copy of these campaign pages that you can forward to interested parties, email Kate Lowe at kate.lowe@haymarket.com.

3 Send us your message of support

If you agree with the aims of *Horticulture Week's* campaign, then please send us your message of support.

Such messages are really important to illustrate the depth of feeling among professionals on this critical issue to all those we need to win over to the campaign's aims.

You can either post your message of support directly on the campaign section of our website at www.HorticultureWeek.co.uk/makeparksapriority or send it by email to Kate Lowe at kate.lowe@haymarket.com.

- For regular campaign updates, see www.HorticultureWeek.co.uk/makeparksapriority and you can follow our campaign on Twitter at @ParksPriority.

MPs who have shown their support for our call for an inquiry so far:

Heidi Alexander (Lewisham East)
David Anderson (Blaydon)
Ronnie Campbell (Blyth Valley)
Martin Caton (Gower)
Rosie Cooper (West Lancashire)
Mike Crockart (Edinburgh West)
Bill Esterson (Sefton Central)
Dr William McCrea (South Antrim)
John McDonnell (Hayes and Harlington)
Alan Meale (Mansfield)
Sandra Osborne (Ayr Carrick and Cumnock)
Albert Owen (Ynys Môn)
Steve Rotheram (Liverpool Walton)
Bob Russell (Colchester)
David Simpson (Upper Bann)
Mark Williams (Ceredigion)
Roger Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)

The 1999 select committee inquiry

The Department of Environment, Transport & Regional Affairs select committee report on town and country parks was published in 1999. The key findings included:

- Adequate research should be undertaken and accurate records kept of whether urban green space has increased or decreased over the past 30 years.
- Parks are a key feature in the renaissance of our urban areas and they need to be resourced as such by local and central Government.
- There should be a Government initiative to set up an urban parks and green spaces agency.
- Making parks safe and making them feel safe must be a priority for councils.
- The Green Flag Awards scheme should be coordinated with the work of a national agency.

Group (see p3) brought professionals together with parliamentarians to discuss the issues facing the sector



Ireland 6 Barnet councillor Katherine McGuirk 7 Rosie Cooper MP 8 David Amess MP 9 Lord Palmer 10 Baroness Sharples 11 Brian Donohoe MP, Baroness Fookes and Lord Courtown 12 Consultant Bob Ivson, Farrer Huxley Associates' Noel Farrer and Lambert 13 Ireland and Friends of Parks Federation's Dave Morris 14 Lowe and Sullivan 15 Leach and Neal

Update on P/2012/0633 – response from Senior Planning Officer

Approval of all reserved matters for a 6257sqm pharmaceutical manufacturing unit (use class B1) with associated external buildings.

Land Off Brixham Road, Rear Of Torbay Garden Centre Incorporating Yannons Farm, Adjacent To Little Preston, Short Preston And Woodlands, Paignton, Devon,

Dear Sir,

I refer to your e-mail sent on 10th July about the Reserved Matter application for an employment use on land at Yannon's Farm. You should be aware that consent was given in October 2011 for a mixed use development to form approx 220 dwellings, approx 5,600 Sq. M. gross of employment (B1) floorspace, a local centre and public open space with roads and car parking on land at Yannons Farm in between the Garden Centre and Sainsbury's. That consent was given in outline, meaning that details of the exact nature of the development would need to come back before the Local Planning Authority for approval. The applicant is now submitting the details for the employment (only) element of the proposal. The principle of development has therefore already been established.

I am not aware that any existing Public Rights of Way would be affected by the current proposal. In fact, the whole area will be developed with new roads and footways which will increase significantly the amount of public rights of way in the area. It will also mean that this part of the 'countryside' will be lost to development, but that was considered as part of the outline application now approved and is not a valid issue with the current application. There will be no loss of access to the countryside beyond the development boundaries.

I hope this answers your queries. Please be aware that this application will be presented to Members of the Development Management Committee at their next meeting on 13th August. So if you have any further comments to make then they should be sent to the planning 'in-box (or via post) before that time.

Regards,

John Burton

Senior Planning Officer (Development Management)

Planning and Development Services

Torbay Council

Agenda Item 13

Torbay Local Access Forum – Information Sharing as at August 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).

Independent Panel on Forestry

Message from Hilary Winter:

I asked Defra how it was going to engage following the Independent Panel on Forestry's report and a website comment that "Government will now need time to properly consider the work of the Panel – we will fully engage stakeholders and want to hear your views."

This is the response I received. The timescale is not entirely clear but your LAF may wish to make further representations.

Hilary Winter
Regional Coordinator
SW Region LAFs

Dear Ms Winter

Thank you for your email of 25 July about how the stakeholder engagement will work following the publication of the Independent Panel on Forestry's Final Report on 4 July. I have been asked to reply.

We want to listen to everyone's views; we will be meeting groups and organisations and working closely with stakeholders to inform our response. People are encouraged to give their views and can contact us at forestryresponse@defra.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Daisley
Customer Contact Unit
Defra

Received 1.8.12.

National Items of LAF Interest

Sent by Hilary Winter

NATURAL ENGLAND ANNUAL REPORT

http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/reports/annualreportfeature.aspx

Natural England has just published its 2011-2012 Annual Report which is on the above link. There is much of interest in it but as far as LAFs are concerned the report on "Outcome 2: People are inspired to value and conserve the natural environment", is of greatest relevance. Pages 9-11 give details of highlights for Outcome 2, which include Weymouth Bay coastal access; Weymouth & Portland Green Infrastructure Project; working with national and local partners to improve the quantity and quality of green space - work in this area has included

seven new country park accreditations, two successful Local Access Forum national conferences, delivery of Access to Nature, and involvement in a number of local projects; the National Trail Review; the Pennine Bridleway; Natural Connections (a new approach to children's learning in the outdoors); transfer of Walking for Health to the Ramblers (with Macmillan Cancer Support funding); The Access to Nature scheme (which has enabled 862 communities to invest in and sustainably manage their local natural places. Investment made in almost 7,000 networks and access links between natural places. The impact of its successful delivery has attracted a further £1.37 million from the Big Lottery Fund); reviewed aims for a series of National Nature Reserves; community involvement in management of National Nature Reserves; increase in events held on National Nature Reserves.

COASTAL ACCESS

Cornwall CAF drew my attention to a Defra 'lessons learned' report on coastal access arising out of the Weymouth experience. This is not on the website but I've managed to get a pdf version. Interesting and particularly relevant to North Somerset/JLAF A map showing the planned coastal access timings is on http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/coast-map5-7_tcm6-31922.pdf

Minehead to Brean Down and a further stretch east of Weymouth are planned before 2017.



Lessons learned
FINAL.pdf

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK TO IMPROVE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/files/2012/07/No-Health-Without-Mental-Health-Implementation-Framework-Report-accessible-version.pdf>

The Department of Health has just published its National Framework to Improve Mental Health and Well-being. With health improvement work coming across to local authorities this includes some aspects of potential work for LAs which has some bearing on LAF work. It may be something for LAFs to keep an eye on, particularly if there are geographical areas with a greater incidence of mental health problems, where improvements in rights of way/green space could make a difference. One of the roles suggested for local authorities is to **"Assess how its strategies, commissioning decisions and directly provided services support and improve mental health and wellbeing.** Almost all areas of a local authority's responsibility have the potential to contribute to good mental health and wellbeing, or to lead to poor mental health. Decisions about employment, housing, planning, transport, leisure and green spaces and other community services all directly affect mental health." It is suggested community groups can **"Raise awareness of mental health amongst relevant organisations.** This could include public services, businesses and other private sector organisations. It could also include other community groups, including those with a focus on physical health, particularly long term conditions. In rural areas, this could also include Parish Councils, who work with many local voluntary organisations and are close to their communities."

Received 25.7.12.

Access Newsletter

Attached is Issue no 51 of the Department's Access newsletter which covers:

- Right of coastal access for Weymouth Bay

- Coastal access – new and updated guidance
- Consultation letter issued on 24 July 2012 on an Order for the Isle of Wight



Access-newsletter-Isue-51.pdf

Received 24.7.12.

Match funding for P4C

Emails from Hilary Winter:

Subject: FW: Match funding for P4C

Following the discussion at the SW LAFs meeting recently I am forwarding the response from Martin Gilchrist at Natural England on public funding. You will recall there was particular discussion about section 106 money and you will see that this is seen, disappointingly, as public money and therefore not eligible as part of match funding.

If there are any other potential funding sources that might be seen as public funding please check these with NE.

Hilary

-----Original Message-----

From: Gilchrist, Martin (NE) [mailto:Martin.Gilchrist@naturalengland.org.uk]

Sent: 16 July 2012 10:50

To: Hilary Winter

Cc: Isgrove, Dot (NE); Leek, Rob (NE)

Subject: Match funding for P4C

Hi Hilary,

Not good news I am afraid. None of the sources we discussed are eligible as match funding for Paths for Communities. Namely – S106 money – this counts as public money no matter how it is processed / held. Local Transport Plan, Local Sustainable Transport Fund

Sorry.....

Best wishes - Martin

Martin Gilchrist, Natural England, People and Access – Local Delivery team, 2nd Floor, Cromwell House, 15 Andover Road, Winchester, SO23 7BT, Mob. 07825 174918, www.naturalengland.org.uk

Dear all

Further to the e-mail I sent about P4C match funding I have had a number of e-mails from you seeking clarification and expressing surprise, particularly about Section 106 money. I have therefore had some further discussions with Martin Shaw, Senior People and Partnerships Adviser at Natural England, who is dealing with the P4C scheme. In this role he has had a number of discussions with Defra about what funding is and is not eligible to match fund P4C

projects.

Section 106. Any monies released as a compulsory part of a planning development are seen as a form of tax and are therefore not eligible. Any developer could, of course, make a voluntary donation to a P4C scheme.

Landfill Tax. Natural England is still seeking final assurances on this. The implication is that the funding source is ok as the landfill operator has a choice as to whether the tax money is put in a pot for good causes. Due to the degree of optionality it appears to overcome the question of public money.

Parish Councils. The precept money levied by the Parish Council is definitely not eligible. The presumption is that Parish Council money is not eligible unless the Parish Council can prove the money is not public, for example it is responsible for dealing with a legacy or local trust.

P4C schemes might attract funding from groups such as wildlife trusts, the National Trust and similar charities.

It is clear that the rules on public funding have tightened considerably in recent years,

Hilary

Received 19.7.12.

Follow up from SW LAF meeting

Message from Hilary Winter:

Following the SW LAF meeting a couple of weeks ago I am forwarding an attachment from Martin Gilchrist at Natural England which outlines the access and engagement evidence sources which NE has to hand. This is not the summary Martin mentioned as that is still in draft form but hopefully will provide some details in the interim.



Natural England -
Access & Engagemen

I have also done a quick summary of how to get more specific local authority data from the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment (MENE) survey.



MENE LA data.doc

Mention was also made of the grant funds available in Hampshire and Wiltshire to support public rights of way improvements in parishes. Both these are very useful schemes and the LAFs are actively involved. Weblinks for information are:

Parish Improvement Grant Scheme (Wiltshire)

<http://www.wiltshirelaf.org.uk/>

From the main page click on the link to 2012 Path Improvement Grants now available.

Small Grants Scheme (Hampshire)

<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/countryside/sqs.htm>

Received 19.7.12.

MENE

The third annual report (2011-12) on the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey has just been published by Natural England. A useful source of information if you want to find out detailed information about people's visits to the natural environment.

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/1712385?category=47018>

Received 11.7.12.

Paths for Communities

Updated guidance on the Paths for Communities scheme (v.2 26.06.12) is now on the website.

http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/P4CApPLICANTHandbook_tcm6-32021.pdf

Received 6.7.12.

Countryside Mobility Newsletter

It's packed full of information about new sites and forthcoming events, and also includes news of an award for the scheme!

Claire Stewart
Countryside Mobility South West Admin Assistant
Living Options Devon
Isca House
Haven Road
Exeter EX2 8DS
Tel: 01392 456522

www.countrysidemobility.org

Living Options Devon is a Registered Charity (no. 1102489)

www.livingoptions.org



CMSW_Update_11_J
une2012.pdf

Received 5.7.12.

MENE

Monitor of Engagement results for April 2012. This survey has been going on since 2009 and people are surveyed weekly. The results show what type of place people are visiting, what they are doing, for how long, how they got there and what they spend. It's a good snapshot and useful evidence to support LAF advice.

Monthly results (Year 4) are on this link:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/research/mene.aspx>



MENE Report April
2012.pdf

Received 20.6.12.

DEFRA's Access Newsletter

Please see below issue 50 of Defra's Access newsletter which covers the latest position on coastal access, details of consultations on rights of way and National Trails, and the launch of the Paths for Communities scheme.



Access-newsletter-Issue-50.pdf

Received 25.5.12.

Extract from the Chief Executive's report for the Natural England Board meeting on 30th May on Access and Engagement

Working with the Department of Health, Macmillan Cancer Support and the Ramblers, the handover of the Walking for Health Project to the Ramblers concluded on 31 March 2012 which represents the successful completion of Big Society divestment to the third sector or other non-governmental interests.

Working closely with local and national partners to increase the quantity and improve the quality of green space, we have delivered on a number of projects and initiatives enabling communities to be involved in the management of local green space. This includes seven new country park accreditations, two successful Local Access Forum national conferences and involvement in a number of local projects.

The Access to Nature scheme has enabled almost 900 communities to invest in and sustainably manage their local natural places, to better meet the needs of the local people and wildlife, which far exceeds our original target.

We have worked with a large consortium of partners to develop an ambitious demonstration project, Natural Connections, which will trial an innovative approach to the delivery of Outdoor Learning, for school age children.

The Weymouth Bay coastal access report was approved by the Secretary of State. The coastal path project was awarded the Inspire Mark, by London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and will open before the sailing events in July. The Weymouth and Portland Green Infrastructure (GI) project, one of four GI partnership projects in our London 2012 programme, has delivered in excess of 2000 hectares of new green infrastructure'

If you are interested in other papers from the Board meeting or delivery targets for SSSIs and biodiversity these are on

http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/ourpeople/neboard/meetings/default.aspx

Hilary Winter

Regional Coordinator
SW Region LAFs

Received 25.5.12.

Paths for Communities Launched

Details of the grant scheme etc. are now on the Natural England website

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/rightsofway/p4c.aspx>

Jane Yates from Natural England will be the lead adviser and grant officer for the SW, except for Dorset which will be covered by Kevin Haugh. Jane's contact numbers are **Direct Dial: 0300 060 0548 / Mobile Tel: 07900 608409** **E-mail Jane.Yates@naturalengland.org.uk** if you have any queries.

Received on 14.5.12.