



**Torbay Local Access Forum Meeting**  
**to be held in public on Thursday, 29 November 2012**  
**6.00 pm in the Ballroom, Oldway mansion**

*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 30 August 2012.	(Pages 1 - 6)
4.	Matters arising not shown on the Agenda	
5.	Discussion with CPRE Chair - Carole Box	
6.	Local Plan Consultation - to discuss Local Plan Consultation	
7.	Training Session - to discuss training session to be arranged with Hilary Winter and Dot Isgrove.	
8.	Updates from Area Co-ordinators	
9.	TLAF Information Sharing	(Pages 7 - 13)
10.	Any Other Business	
11.	Date/Time/Venue of Next Meetings 2013 meetings Thursday, 14 February at 6.00 pm Thursday, 9 May at 6.00 pm Thursday, 12 September at 6.00 pm  Venue for all meetings to be agreed	

## Membership

Robert Boyd, Brixham Co-Ordinator/Access for the Disabled Lead  
Phil Collins (Chairman)  
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

Wendy Collins



## Minutes of the Local Access Forum Annual General Meeting

30 August 2012

-: Present :-

Robert Boyd, Phil Collins, Councillor Ian Doggett, Bob Harvey, Wanda Hollingworth, Mick Lear, Elaine Mason, Alan Robinson and John Mellor (Chairman)

(Also in attendance: James Nicholas and Wendy Collins)

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### 50. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Margaret Forbes-Hamilton and Dot Isgrove.

### 51. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2012 were accepted and agreed as an accurate report of the meeting.

### 52. Election of Chair

John Mellor proposed Phil Collins, seconded by Bob Harvey. Phil Collins duly elected as Chair.

### 53. Declaration of Interests

None, other than those already notified to the TLAF.

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

- The Vice Chair wished to extend thanks to Wendy Collins for taking over from Valerie Simpson as secretary of TLAF. Thanks were also extended to Teresa Buckley for all the work she carries out on behalf of the TLAF.
- Item 46 from Minutes of 24 May Town Square, Brixham/Tesco issue – Robert Boyd updated that he had spoken to James Oram, Solicitor at Torbay Council who confirmed there are no legal issues.
- A discussion took place regarding the need to have statutory advice at the start of the letter template. Robert proposed and Bob seconded, proposal accepted. Robert to provide wording to secretary.
- Bob Harvey would like to make more contact with other Forums and would like to encourage others to attend Forums. AONB works with some local

access forums, National Trust, Dartmouth and Kingswear. It was agreed that this should be extended to Torbay. It was also agreed that other LAFS should be looked at to see how they work.

**55. Appointments**

- **Vice Chair**

The Forum nominated John Mellor, Councillor Doggett seconded. John accepted.

- **Co-ordinators**

Torquay – as Margaret Forbes-Hamilton was not present at meeting it was proposed that subject to her agreement she should continue as co-ordinator for Torquay.

Paignton – Wanda Hollingsworth agreed to continue.

Brixham – Mick Lear and Robert Boyd agreed to continue.

**56. Annual Report 2012/13**

The Annual Report was considered.

The following comments were made:

BH raised a query on the answer to the question “Do you have any issues with recruitment of members from particular interest groups”. He did not agree that there was a balanced membership and suggested there should be more landowners – at present he is the only one. Bob has tried personal contacts with no success. It was suggested that TCCT should be approached and asked to provide a representative.

Action: Secretary to write to Chairman of TCCT.

Forward look:

What are your priorities for next year?

- Balance of membership
- Co-ordination with outside bodies

What support/training will you need to be able to deliver these priorities?

- Briefing on new planning regulations

Do you perceive any barriers to delivering your priorities?

- To bring awareness to others of who the LAF is and what it does.
-

Any other comments:

- Expectation of LAF
- Training day held at Occombe was good – to look at doing this again – Hilary Winter and Dot Isgrove to be approached to provide training.

Action: Secretary to contact Hilary and Dot.

## 57. Update from Area Co-ordinators

### Torquay Co-ordinator

In Margaret Forbes-Hamilton's absence John Mellor updated:

- Scotts Meadow – planning enquiry has now accepted limited number of houses to be built (approx 155).
- Hiflyer balloon rental issue is still ongoing. Councillor Doggett confirmed that the Councillors would like recompense for the money owing but there are legal technicalities at present. The grass at the site is going back to normal although there is still some rubble underneath.
- Edginswell Tesco planning consent was turned down. There may be an appeal.
- Neighbourhood Planning Group has been set up – this will look at the plans for the future of Torquay.

### Paignton Co-ordinator

Wanda Hollingsworth updated:

- No issues to update at present.

### Brixham Co-ordinator

Robert Boyd updated:

- Right of way round Astra Zenica now reinstated satisfactorily. Tarmac paths to the benches were requested but this is not possible. RB asked if a hardened area could be installed next to the benches for wheelchairs. This has gone to Highways but no response received as yet. He is also pushing for wheelchair access at the Grove but no response received yet.

James Nicholas said he would bring the Rights of Way Improvement Plan to future meetings.

Mick Lear updated:

- Wishings Field has got restrictions on the pathway, namely fencing that allows only an 18" wide gap for people to pass through and a style at the coastal path end which makes it difficult for wheelchairs. JN explained that this is not owned by the Council. However he would arrange for an inspector to have a look at it to ensure there is adequate access.

## 58. Update from Natural England

Dot Isgrove from Natural England had sent apologies but had sent a note which was considered:

Paths for Communities

- A heritage walk around Waterhead Creek, Kingswear - BH will follow-up on this item.
- Improved access to Easton Tor and Down from North Bovey – JM would be interested to visit.

Action: Response to be sent to Dot but to query if it was intended that the North Bovey issue should be sent to TLAF as it is so far from Torbay and to ask if Devon is doing anything. There are resource issues with TLAF getting involved in issues out of the area – secretary to action.

Natural Connections Demonstration Project

Action: Dot Isgrove to be asked the names of any schools in Torbay who are involved – secretary to action.

**59. Early Day Motion 219 - Reduction in funding for urban parks**

Email and attachments from Karen Hughes, Green Space considered. TLAF had been asked to support the Make Parks a Priority campaign by sending a proforma letter to local MPs.

Phil Collins asked if this was an issue that the TLAF should respond to as it is not a pressure group.

Councillor Doggett suggested that it should be up to individuals to send this letter to the MP if they wished to do so.

Action: Secretary to respond to Karen Hughes saying LAF would not respond but individuals may do so.

**60. Planning application P/2012/0633 - update**

TLAF noted the response from Planning regarding the questions raised by RB.

**61. LAF to devise standard set of questions for planning applications**

BH said he had a set of booklets which may help the TLAF to formulate specific questions to ask when consulted on planning issues. He will bring them to the next meeting.

Suggestions:

- Does it conform to the Local Plan
- Does it interfere with rights of way or bridle ways

Action: It was agreed that Hilary Winter should be asked if there is already information/guidance available regarding this issue that can be discussed at the next meeting – secretary.

**62. TLAF Information Sharing**

The TLAF considered the Information Sharing sheet.

Independent Panel on Forestry

Hilary Winter had asked LAFs if they wanted to make further representations to DEFRA regarding how the stakeholder engagement will work following publication of the Independent Panel on Forestry's final report published in July.

BH briefed the TLAF further.

Action: Bob Harvey to draft response to Hilary Winter.

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

It was agreed that meetings in 2013 should continue to take place quarterly and would take place on the second Thursday in the months of February, May and September:

Dates for 2013:

Thursday, 14 February at 6.00 pm

Thursday, 9 May at 6.00 pm

Thursday, 12 September at 6.00 pm

TLAF will be informed of the venue for the meetings in due course.

Final meeting of 2012

The next meeting due to take place on 25 October 2012 is to be moved to 8 November 2012 at 6.00 pm at Oldway.

**64. Any Other Business**

- Planning application P/2012/0869  
Proposal – vehicle entry and erection of packing shed, glasshouse and polytunnel and horticultural trial ground – land to east of Occombe Farm car park, Preston Down Road, Preston

TLAF had no objections.

- Countryside Management Association (CMA) Study Day – 12 September 2012

Information regarding this study day was circulated .

- JN had received a letter from Strategic Planning regarding applications by Torquay, Paignton and Brixham Peninsula Forms for designation as Neighbourhood Forums and Neighbourhood Areas under the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 – comments to be received by 7 September.

Action: Secretary to circulate letter

# Agenda Item 9

## Torbay Local Access Forum – Information Sharing as at November 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).**

### **Green Infrastructure Data**

The Chief Medical Officer, Professor Dame Sally Davies, has produced her first annual report - 'On the State of the Public's Health'. This is a comprehensive report looking at specific diseases etc. Chapter 4 is, however, on the social determinants of health and p.14 of this chapter provides some interesting data/graphs on 'Sustainable communities, place and vulnerability - green space and infrastructure.' Data used to produce the chapter will be available shortly by local authority.

<http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/2012/11/cmo-annual-report/>

Hilary

Hilary Winter  
Regional Coordinator

### **Natural England Chief Executive's Report for Board Meeting on 27 November**

As always the Natural England Chief Executive's Report for the Board meeting, to be held on 27th November, makes interesting reading. I have copied the sections particularly relevant to LAFs which can be found in the attachment. I have blind-copied this e-mail to LAF Chairs.

The full report and other agenda papers are on

[http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about\\_us/ourpeople/neboard/meetings/november2012/default.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/ourpeople/neboard/meetings/november2012/default.aspx)

Regards  
Hilary

Hilary Winter  
Regional Coordinator  
SW Region LAFs

**Received 21.11.12.**

### **Pathwatch - Illegal Use of PROW**

[http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/community\\_safety/pathwatch/index.aspx](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/community_safety/pathwatch/index.aspx)

This link has been sent to me by a LAF member. Interesting to see the police and local authorities in these areas working very publicly to reduce illegal use of PROW, particularly by motorised vehicles.

Hilary

Hilary Winter

Regional Coordinator  
SW Region LAFs

Received 15.11.12.

### **Natural England – National Nature Reserve dedication**

Further to the letter from Natural England about National Nature Reserve dedication, an additional letter clarifying LAF involvement and contact with NE has been put on Huddle and is also attached.

Hilary Winter



October letter re NE  
NNR dedication.pdf

Received 25.10.12.

### **LAF updates from Hilary Winter**

#### **Growth and Infrastructure Bill**

I am copying below an e-mail from Dave Waterman at Defra referring to clauses in the Growth and Infrastructure Bill currently going through Parliament. In addition to the amendments below there are also proposed changes to the legislation on town and village greens - "Reform will protect local communities' ability to determine what development is appropriate in their areas by preventing TVG applications overriding decisions made following local consultation on plans. The new approach will prevent TVG applications when an application for planning permission has been made or granted, and when land has been allocated for development by the local authority." <http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2012/10/18/ending-abuse-of-village-greens-legislation/>



Growth and  
Infrastructure Bill.doc

#### **Forestry Commission – new woodland planting**

Attached is a letter from the Forestry Commission seeking views on new woodland planting. Although there is a tight deadline of the end of October views will still be accepted up until the end of December. This is more complex than usual as views are sought on woodland planting in association with designated National Character Areas. The letter gives a link to the Natural England site with information and maps for the NCAs - smaller areas with certain landscape characteristics. There may be opportunities to link with green infrastructure plans, recreational trails etc.



Dear  
Stakeholder.doc

Received 22.10.12.

### **Ramblers Vision for National Trails**

[http://www.ramblers.org.uk/Resources/Ramblers%20Association/Website/National\\_Trails\\_Fantastic\\_Future.pdf](http://www.ramblers.org.uk/Resources/Ramblers%20Association/Website/National_Trails_Fantastic_Future.pdf)

The Ramblers has published its vision for an independent trust to manage National Trails. Natural England is considering responses to its review of National Trails and this contribution from the Ramblers will contribute significantly to the debate about the future of the Trails.

Hilary

Hilary Winter  
Regional Coordinator  
SW Region LAFs

Received 4.10.12.

### **Independent Panel on Forestry**

For your information - letter from TLAF to DEFRA sent on 3 October 2012 regarding stakeholder engagement following publication of the Independent Panel on Forestry's final report.



06 Response to Final  
Report Independent I

Response from DEFRA 6 November 2012



08 Response from  
DEFRA Public Forest I

**Extract from Natural England Board Paper for September 26<sup>th</sup> 2012**

**b. People are inspired to value and conserve the natural environment:**

<p><b>Access and Engagement</b></p> <p>We work locally with stakeholders, partners and community groups to deliver improvements to and economic benefits from Access infrastructure.</p> <p>Measures:</p> <p>1) Delivery of £500,000 of Paths for Communities Grants.                  2) Delivery of Access to Nature Grants worth £7m.                  3) 70 per cent of Local Access Forums with annual reports for public display.                  4) 85 per cent of Local Access Forums represented on the electronic forum.</p>	<p><b>End of July Performance</b></p>	<p><b>Green</b></p>
	<p><b>Year end Outlook</b></p>	<p><b>Green</b></p>

The Paths for Communities Scheme has been widely promoted and we have received over 70 expressions of interest with the first full applications now expected in August. The Scheme booklet and score sheet are now available on our website and the first Grants Panel meeting is scheduled for early September.

We continue to meet our target for Access to Nature grant claims to be awarded within 20 working days and are on target to distribute our annual programme budget spend of £7.1 million. The additional Supporting Change Funding award assessment process has been independently quality assured 'with flying colours'.

Our Local Access Forums (LAF) work is ongoing with the reporting proforma for LAFs agreed, and at a local level advice and support to LAFs continuing through training on the Huddle online communication tool and providing briefing on Paths for Communities and other access issues.

**Full papers on**

[http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about\\_us/ourpeople/neboard/meetings/september2012/default.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/ourpeople/neboard/meetings/september2012/default.aspx)

Received 20.9.12.

**MEME Monthly update for July 2012**

[http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/mene-report-july2012\\_tcm6-33775.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/mene-report-july2012_tcm6-33775.pdf)

The Monitoring Engagement with the Natural Environment Report for July 2012 is on the above link. It's worth noting a few key facts:

*The 230.9 million visits taken in July 2012 is lower than the 235.3 million visits taken in June 2012 and the 242.6 million visits taken in July 2011.*

*For the first time since October 2009, the volume of visits to green spaces in towns and cities exceeded those to the countryside.*

*Between June and July 2012, visits to green spaces in towns and cities increased by 3.5 percent, while visits to the countryside dropped by 13 percent*

*In July 2012, ten percent of adults reported they had never visited the natural environment over the previous year.*

Hilary

*Hilary Winter  
Regional Coordinator  
SW Region LAFs*

Received 20.9.12.

### Information from Hilary Winter

Following the regional coordinators' teleconference yesterday there are a few matters to bring to your attention.

- Paths for Communities. Natural England has had over 100 expressions of interest but it is taking longer to achieve full applications. LAFs are requested to encourage interest/applications wherever possible. The definition of 'rural' is now more flexible and is based on the MAGIC map version. This is available on the P4C page on the Natural England website. <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/access/rightsofway/p4c.aspx>
- Huddle. Please could you make this a standing agenda item to encourage dissemination of information from Huddle. It would be good to get a few more SW members on Huddle so please let me know if anyone is interested or would like a demonstration/training.
- The national conference in 2013 is planned for 27th February (Wednesday) commencing at 9.30 a.m. I don't know the venue yet but it will be in the Midlands and there will only be one conference. As in 2012 one or two members from each LAF will be able to attend with travel (and overnight accommodation if required) paid for by Natural England. I am attaching some suggestions for presentations/workshops that have been put forward. Please let me know whether your LAF has any other suggestions by the end of October at the latest so that a final programme can be put together.



Conference -  
possible topics and sp

Hilary Winter  
Regional Coordinator

Received 18.9.12.

### National Trails – review update

13 September 2012

Our National Trails are treasured long distance routes through the most beautiful areas of our countryside and are hugely important and valuable to our economy and the millions of people who enjoy them.

To ensure the long term protection and maintenance of National Trails, Natural England recently ran a [consultation](#) that focussed on improving how they are managed and funded – the first time this had been looked at for ten years. This consultation confirmed the Government's long-term commitment to securing and supporting these much loved routes.

In the consultation Natural England received 140 responses from a number of organisations which are closely involved in the care and maintenance of the Trails. These are now being carefully analysed and the response to the consultation will be published, following further partner discussion, by April 2013. Natural England and Defra are committed to completing the current review, which will give National Trails a more secure and well-managed future and makes the most of these important national and local assets for the benefit of all trail users, local

communities and business. This remains our priority over the coming months.

The Ramblers have proposed that an independent Trust is set up to look after National Trails in the future. We welcome this wider contribution to the important debate on the long term management of National Trails.

Clearly this proposal, or any other new management model would require further consideration, development and discussion with all interested parties, including the local highway authorities (the local authorities responsible for maintaining the trails), other user groups and landowners. We will help facilitate this discussion, as we progress more immediate changes that are needed to help secure the future of our National Trails"

*Hilary Winter*  
*Regional Coordinator*  
*SW Region LAFs*

**Received 13.9.12.**

### **Department for Transport report**

The Department for Transport has, for the first time, produced a report on walking and cycling in England (those over 16 years old). This is based on figures from the Active People Survey conducted by Sport England. If you look at the report this will also give links to specific local authority data (district council level) and might help identify areas where activity is less.

<http://www.dft.gov.uk/statistics/releases/local-area-walking-and-cycling-in-england-2010-11>

**Received 7.9.12.**

### **Updated guidance on LAFs and water access**



Guidance for LAFs re  
Advising on Open Wa

**Received 6.9.12.**

### **The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE)**

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) is producing a series of public health guidelines for local authorities to coincide with health improvement work coming across to local authorities. This is one of the first publications. Importantly in early 2013 there will be one on walking and cycling, followed by one on obesity.

For full details on NICE and the briefings see  
<http://www.nice.org.uk/localgovernment/PublicHealthBriefingsForLocalGovernment.jsp>

**Received 6.9.12.**

### **Access Newsletter**

Attached is Issue no 52 of the Department's Access newsletter which covers:

- Natural England review of the coastal access Scheme

- Natural England's consultation on the draft Kent coastal access report



Access-newsletter-Isue-52.pdf

Received 6.9.12.

### **New Secretary of State for Defra**

The new Secretary of State for Defra is the Rt Hon Owen Paterson who replaces Caroline Spelman. For biographical details see

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/corporate/about/who/ministers/paterson/>

At the moment it looks as though Richard Benyon MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary for Natural Environment and Fisheries, retains his post. He has had responsibility for LAFs in the past.

Received 5.9.12.

### **Natural England website on P4C**

The Natural England website on P4C has been updated to include a revised question and answer booklet which covers more details on types of scheme, landowner involvement and funding sources. There is also a new interactive link where interested applicants can check their project is classified as being in a qualifying 'rural' area.

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

Received 31.8.12.