



Minutes of the Local Access Forum

9 May 2013

-: Present :-

Phil Collins (Chairman), Councillor Ian Doggett, Margaret Forbes-Hamilton, Bob Harvey, Mick Lear, Alan Robinson and John Mellor

(Also in attendance: James Nicholas (Torbay Council) and James Law (Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust))

76. Apologies

Apologies were received from Elaine Mason, Robert Boyd and Wanda Hollingworth.

77. Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2012 were accepted and agreed as an accurate report of the meeting.

78. Matters arising not shown on the Agenda

- Members requested investigations as to whether other LAFs have a standard framework when considering planning applications.
- The Chairman advised that Hilary Winters would be willing to undertake a development session. Members welcomed the offer and expressed a preference for Wednesday evenings with the session being an interactive visit possibly to Maidencombe or Brunel Woods.
- Bob Harvey provided an update on the Ash tree die back situation and advised that there hadn't been any reported incidents of Ash die back in wild areas of Devon.

79. Updates from Area Co-ordinators

Brixham Co-ordinator

Mick Lear

- Currently no issues.

Torquay Co-ordinator

Margaret Forbes-Hamilton

- Advised that a footpath at Torre Abbey Meadows had been widened in contradiction to the restoration plan for Torre Abbey.

Paignton Co-ordinator

Ian Doggett

- Requested an update on the right of way that had been closed at Oldway Mansion.

James Nicholas advised that the Oldway Mansion path that had been closed was not a registered right of way. James also advised of other rights of way applications that had been submitted such as Queensway Road through the Grammar School to Hawkins Avenue.

Outside of Torbay

Bob Harvey

- Circulated literature from 'Torbay's Urban Forest' conference which was held on 1 March 2013.
- Bob was working with Plymouth Local Access Forum to see if they would be interested in a joint meeting with Steve Jenkinson from the Kennel Club.

80. Proposed Disposal of Three Open Areas of Council Land

The Forum considered three open areas of Council Land which had been proposed for disposal. The areas of land were:

- Land adjacent to 4 Plym Close, Torquay;
- Land adjacent to 45 Stanley Garden, Paignton; and
- Land off Alpine Road, disused playground, Torquay.

Members raised no objection to the disposal of the three areas of land as there were no explicit access issues and the steps and paths were being retained at the Alpine Road site.

Action: A letter to be drafted, to this affect, with the content being agreed and signed by the Chairman.

81. Planning Consultation - Land at Churston Golf Course/Churston Golf Club, North East of Bascombe Road Opposite the Northern End of Bridge Road, Churston, Brixham

Members considered a planning application in respect of Land at Churston Golf Course. Members raised objections to the application on the grounds of:

- changes to access and possible interference with existing rights of way;
- the development would impact upon the enjoyment of the access;
- the affect the landscape quality and natural beauty of the area; and
- the affect on land management, due to potential loss of agricultural land.

Action: Mick Lear to draft a response which will be circulated to all LAF members for comment and signed by the Chairman.

82. Planning Consultation - Former Finance Building, Torbay Hospital Annexe, 187 Newton Road, Torquay

The Forum had no objection to the submitted application.

83. TLAF Information Sharing

Members noted the information sharing sheet and agreed to receive the information on a monthly basis via email.

84. Change to Natural England Local Contact

The Forum noted that Jane Yates had become the Forum's Natural England local contact and requested their thanks be conveyed to Dot Isgrove.

Action: Secretary to invite Jane Yates to the next meeting of the Local Access Forum.

85. Any Other Business

- i) Frequency and timing of meetings: members agreed the LAF would continue to meet on a quarterly basis, on Thursday's at 6 p.m.
- ii) Coastal Paths: James Law of Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust advised that surveys of the coastal path were undertaken every three months. The main issue was uneven footpaths between Wars Hill and the Palace Hotel. James further advised that the section of coastal path at Oddicombe would be diverted.

86. Date/Time/Venue of Next Meetings

The Forum noted the date of the next meeting:

Thursday, 12 September 2013, 6.00 p.m. at Paignton Library.