

Local Access Forum (LAF) Annual Review Form: April 2012 to March 2013

Name of LAF: Torbay Local Access Forum - due to the TLAF meeting schedule this report covers activity from September 2012 to August 2013

Name of LAF Chair: Phil Collins

Name of LAF Secretary: Lisa Antrobus

Number of LAF members: 10

1 - Involvement and Representation

What interests does your current membership cover? Walking, access for disabled, land owner, recreation and health.

What skills, sectors, interest groups, experience are missing? No

Describe any difficulties you had recruiting members from particular sectors: We do not have many landowners in Torbay so it can sometimes be difficult to recruit to this sector.

2 - Operation of LAF

What procedures (e.g. expense claims, new applications etc) do you follow that help you work effectively? Are these effective? Torbay Local Access Form Terms of Reference

How do you ensure that your members are able to work as a team? Please see page 3 of Torbay Local Access Forum Terms of Reference

In what ways do you reach consensus? Please see page 3 of Torbay Local Access Forum Terms of Reference

How do you ensure proper conduct and/or resolve any conflicts? Please see page 3 of Torbay Local Access Forum Terms of Reference

Give up to 3 examples of where you have encountered operational difficulties (e.g. lack of resources); explain what mechanisms could be put in place to alleviate such issues:

1 - LAF to provide comments

2 -

3 -

3 - Partnership and Progress

Do you work well with the access authority? If not, why not? LAF to provide comments

Do you work well with your planning authorities? If not, why not? The Secretary is copied into planning consultations where there may be public access issues these are then circulated to the Members of the LAF to see if they wish to make a statutory response or are considered at the LAF meetings.

Have you established a clear role for the LAF in the local area? They are a statutory consultee on issues relating to land access, open space and rights of way

Were you successful in meeting the achievements set out in your work programme (please provide supporting information)?

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1. Balance membership by increasing the number of land owners - there were no vacant seats on the LAF so this has not been progressed, however, one of the LAF members is standing down later this year and we will attempt to recruit a landowner to replace them.

2. Co-ordinating with other groups and organisations - LAF to provide comments about how successful this has been

Have you achieved something else? LAF to provide comments

Main or notable achievements? LAF to provide comments

4 - Profile and Direction

Has anything changed over the last year? LAF to provide comments

What changes / barriers can you see ahead? LAF to provide comments

What are your priorities for the year ahead (list up to 3)?

1 - LAF to provide comments

2 -

3 -

What support or training do you need to deliver your priorities? LAF to provide comments

5 - Section 94 Bodies

Give up to 3 examples of advice given by your LAF to section 94 bodies:

1 - Consultation regarding the proposed disposal of three areas of Council Land:

Land adj. 4 Plym Close, Torquay;

Land adj. 45 Stanley Gardens, Paignton; and

Land off Alpine Road, disused playground, Torquay.

This letter constitutes formal advice from Torbay Local Access Forum. Torbay Council is required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this forum in carrying out its functions.

In considering the three areas for disposal, Members noted that there did not appear to be any explicit access issues but welcomed the retention of the steps and path at Land off Alpine Road, disused playground, Torquay. Therefore the Members of Torbay Local Access Forum have no objection to the proposed disposal of the three areas set out above.

2 - Consultation regarding "A Landscape for Success – The Plan for Torbay to 2032 and beyond" Development Plan Document – new Torbay Local plan

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- A member of the TLAF, a wheelchair user and a coordinator for the Brixham region would ask that access issues for disabled people are fully considered in all public planning.
- Pavements and pathways are kept clear of unnecessary obstructions.
- On cycle routes if barriers are included then sufficient space is allowed for wheelchairs and electric scooters to pass through. Scooters often need a wider turning space to swing through.
- If 'kissing gates' are necessary then they are the modern metal type which can be opened with a radar key to allow wheelchairs and scooters to pass through. Wooden kissing gates are often too small for scooters and that hampers enjoyment of the countryside.
- In Brixham there are three old kissing gates that prevent access to public pathways.
- I, Robert Boyd TLAF Board Member and colleagues from the ACE charity at Brixham College are available and willing to assist in planning design for disability requirements.
- Will Torbay Council explain what plans it has to implement the recommendations of NHS National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) Guidance 41 : Walking and Cycling : local measures to promote walking and cycling as forms of travel or recreation.
- Also, how it proposes to involve the Torbay Local Access Forum which has a statutory function to advise the Council in this respect.

3 - Development to form 54 sheltered apartments for the elderly including communal facilities (Category II type accommodation), access, car parking and landscaping. The Torbay Local Access Forum are concerned about the mature trees lining Blatchcombe Road, opposite Baymount and Redburn Roads. There are several fine specimens there which "house" birdlife, and would not like to see them cut down. The TLAF would like to see a preservation order put on the trees as a condition of development.

6 - Open Access Work

How many Restriction Cases have you been consulted on? 0

How many cases have you responded to? 0

Detail any informal involvement with Open Access Restriction cases: None

7 - Number of consultations, meetings and initiatives your LAF has been involved with over the year (please add numbers into the boxes below)?

Public meetings	3	Working groups	0
Training days	0	Definitive map modification orders	0
Highway orders	0	Green Infrastructure strategies	0

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Gating orders	0	Local transport plans and traffic management schemes	0
Cycle projects	1	Disabled access	0
Dog exclusion/on leads/fouling orders	0	Housing development schemes	0
Planning applications	8	PROW network and projects	0
ROWIP planning and objectives	0	Local development frameworks and planning strategies	1
Local Nature Partnerships	0	Recording of paths and promoting use	2
Expiring permissive agreements under Higher Level Stewardship schemes - assessing the value and future of and liaison with landowners to improve access	0	Flood defence works - Environment Agency consultations and planning applications regarding	0
Slipways and landing stages - public access to	0	Improvement of access through the Paths for Communities (P4C) scheme	0
Disposal and development of land owned by the Council	3	Parish Council or local improvement grant schemes	0
Shoreline management plans	0	Rail freight interchange strategic development	0
Network rail and rail crossing closures	0	Access and nature conservation	0
Horse routes and equestrian provision	0	Multi user routes	0
National Parks	0	Coastal access	0
Motorised vehicle access	0	Access to MOD land	0
New town & village green registration government consultation	0	Natural England consultations	0
Defra consultations	0	Commons grazing proposals	0
Highways Agency consultations	0	Department for Transport consultations	0

Other (please specify):

8 - Final comments from Appointing Authority: The Torbay Local Access Forum (TLAF) has continued to provide a voice for the people of Torbay by considering issues affecting public access to land and making statutory representations where relevant.

Often the deadlines for consultations coming from the Council do not fit in with the dates of the meetings and they are therefore circulated electronically for comment, which is signed off by the Chairman on behalf of the LAF. This can mean that the agendas can sometimes only have a few items. Consideration could be given to reducing the number of meetings of the TLAF and some of the members of the TLAF meeting as a working group to consider consultations and make recommendations to the full TLAF electronically for sign off by the Chairman.

There have been no changes to the membership of the TLAF over the past year, although one of our members is standing down later this year.

9 - Final comments from LAF Chair: Phil to complete