

Lisa,

I spoke to you earlier regarding the new Local Plan and the Local Access Forum.

The website for the current consultation can be found here – www.torbay.gov.uk/newlocalplan. There is a 6 week period for representations on the published Local Plan to be made – representations must be received by 9am on 7 April for them to be valid. An interactive online version of the Local Plan can be viewed or a PDF downloaded through the online consultation portal (Objective).

Policy SS6 (Strategic Transport Improvements) and **Policy TA1 (Transport and Accessibility)** may be of particular interest to the Local Access Forum. These can be found on pages 43 and 104 of the Local Plan.

At this stage of the process, the published Local Plan represents the Council's intended version that it proposes to submit to the Secretary of State for public examination in the Autumn. Earlier drafts have been consulted on previously, the most recent of which was the September 2012 version. The Torbay Local Access Forum made a representation on this earlier version of the Local Plan which can be seen amongst the summary of comments here - <http://www.torbay.gov.uk/newlocalplanresponsesummary.doc>

The addition of paragraph 4.3.20 (page 45, part of Policy SS6) may be of interest as this has been inserted, in part, to directly address the representation made previously by the Local Access Forum. Paragraph 4.3.20 reads:

“Footpaths and cycle paths should be designed to be accommodate wheelchair and mobility scooters, for example, by being of sufficient width, clear of unnecessary obstructions and with appropriately designed gates. Further guidance can be obtained from the Council's Highways Team and in the NHS National Institute for Clinical Excellence 41: ‘Walking and Cycling’”.

I have copied in Steve Turner for his information and I see that he has the Local Access Forum meeting in his diary for the 1 April (6pm @ Paignton Library).

Best regards,

Andrew Gunther
Senior Planning Officer (Strategic Planning)