

## Local Access Forum (LAF) Annual Review Form: April 2013 to March 2014

Name of LAF: Torbay Local Access Forum

Name of LAF Chair: Phil Collins

Name of LAF Secretary: Lisa Antrobus

Number of LAF members: 9

Number of LAF vacancies: 1

### 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? None

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, monitoring of Huddle etc) do you follow that help you work effectively? Are these effective? Torbay Local Access Forum 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 - Staff resource has become pressured within the Governance Support Team and in order to alleviate the issue meetings have been reduced to two a year with a focused and themed work plan having been developed which covers the next two years.

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### 3 - Partnership and Progress

Do you work well with the access authority? If not, why not? Yes, good relationships have been built with the several departments whose actions may impact upon access and open space such as the planning and estates departments.

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.

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**Main or notable achievements?** The LAF responded to consultation on the draft Torbay Local Plan resulting in an amendment to Policy SS6.

### 4 - Profile and Direction

**Has anything changed over the last year?** Frequency of meetings have reduced.

**What changes / barriers can you see ahead?** Potential funding and resource issues, with supporting officers having to take on additional duties and responsibilities.

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

- 1 - Continue engagement with the maintenance and funding of the coastal paths
- 2 - To comment upon and be aware of the Neighbourhood Plans
- 3 - LAF to comment

**What support or training do you need to deliver your priorities?** LAF to comment

### 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 - Lease of Old Maids Perch

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### 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:** 0

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**7 - Number of consultations, meetings and initiatives your LAF has been involved with over the year. Please add numbers into the boxes below and only count specific consultations once even if advice has been given on them a number of times. If a consultation covers more than one subject area, please count them separately as appropriate.**

Public meetings (e.g. LAF meetings)	2	Working groups	0
Training days	0	Definitive map modification orders	0
Highway orders	0	Green Infrastructure strategies	0
Gating orders	0	Local transport plans and traffic management schemes	0
Cycle projects	0	Disabled access	1
Dog exclusion/on leads/fouling orders	0	Housing development schemes	0
Planning applications	6	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	0
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	4	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

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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 LAF continues to act as the voice for the local people of Torbay on access issues. A work programme has been developed to enable themed discussions and presentations at each meeting to enable the LAF to focus on strategic issues as well as give feedback from the ground.

**9 - Final comments from LAF Chair:**