



## TORBAY LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD

AT OCCOMBE FARM, PAIGNTON ON THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2011 FROM 6.00 P.M.

(Postponed from 19 May 2011)

**Present** : Dominic Acland (DA) (**TALF Chairperson**) TCCT; Robert Boyd (RB); Cllr. Ian Doggett (ID) Torbay Council, Bob Harvey (BH); Wanda Hollingworth (WH); Michael Lear (ML); Elaine Mason (EM), Torbay Care Trust; John Mellor (JM); Carol Anne Williams (CA)

**Council Officers Attending** : James Nicholas (JN) Rights of Way Officer/Streetscene Services, Torbay Council

**Others Attending** : Valerie Simpson, Secretary to TALF (Minute Taker)

<u>ITEM</u>		<u>ACTION</u>
	<p><b>As the Chair was delayed due to traffic congestion, Vice Chairperson, John Mellor, chaired the meeting until DA's arrival.</b></p> <p>James Nicholas, the new Rights of Way Officer was welcomed to the meeting. Members introduced themselves and James gave an overview of his new role with Streetscene Services which includes the role of PROW Officer.</p>	
1	<p><b>To Accept Apologies and Sanction Absences</b> : Margaret Forbes-Hamilton (MF-H) (re-cooperation) whose absence was sanctioned.</p>	
2	<p><b>Declarations of Interests</b> : None, other than those already notified to the TALF.</p>	
3	<p><b>To Confirm and Accept Minutes of the Meeting of 24 February 2011</b> : the Minutes were <b>accepted and agreed</b> as an accurate report of the meeting</p> <p>Teresa Buckley to arrange for agreed Minutes to be shown on the TALF Webpage.</p>	<p><b>ACCEPTED/ AGREED</b></p> <p><b>TB/ WEBPAGE</b></p>
4	<p><b>Matters Arising not Shown on the Agenda :</b></p>	
4.1	<p><b>Matters Arising not Shown on the Agenda from 21 July 2010 Meeting :</b></p> <p><b>American Way Kissing Gate</b> : RB reported that there was not a radar lock on this gate but it has a chain and bolt fitted. RB to discuss issue with JN at end of meeting.</p>	
5	<p><b>Forestry Commission – Tree and Woodland Health Update</b> : BH updated informing many papers and booklets coming out to review standards of forestry and woodland in Britain. BH had been invited to one of the three meetings; the only one in S/W England. The Expert Panel is under the chairmanship of the Bishop of Liverpool and it seems to be genuinely taking views from all as to what should happen in the future. Little disappointed with make-up of panel – felt there was a need for a balanced view, e.g. the Local Access Forum. BH tabled slightly revised notes prepared for the meeting, 'Independent Panel on Forestry, The Issue of</p>	

Public Access to Woodland' and said from the LAF's point of view it was of great importance as so many of the public want to walk through woodlands. Ruth Sanders and Minister have urged us to be involved in this. Panel highlighted that it had to advise the Secretary of State and seemed surprised when BH informed that this is the role of the LAFs.

**Dominic Acland arrived at 6.10 p.m. and Chaired the remainder of the meeting.**

**5. continued from above.**

BH suggested not responding immediately but to do so in two stages :

1. Draw attention that LAF has statutory responsibility on access to the Secretary of State (copy to the Panel) and indicate it has a balanced view.
2. When final advice received, send letter.

A meeting of LAFs took place after and support came out of this. If a group letter was sent from all LAFs, it would not be statutory, but individually it would be. In approximately three weeks time should know more and then could put forward main suggestions.

BH agreed to try to contact Neil Coish of Torbay Council again to discuss local issues on this

BH

**Larch Disease** : BH informed some of larch on his land has disease; which was spreading from Cornwall. Felt that within eighteen months or so there would not be any larch left in the South-West. There were also other new diseases affecting a variety of trees.

The Forum **agreed** to BH drafting letter and sending to Chair for consideration.

BH

6

**Proposed Formation and Role of the Torbay Environment and Access Forum :**

As the TLAF was a statutory organisation and there were a number of other groups within Torbay interested in similar issues e.g. Biodiversity Steering Group, Green Infrastructure Group, Sea Torbay, Greenspace Torbay, the Chair said that consideration might be given to a forum being put in place to bring all together under one umbrella. Members were asked for their opinions as to whether the TLAF would be a good organisation to act as an umbrella and include representatives from these other groups.

The new Administration within Torbay Council appeared to be rationalising some groups, although there was new guidance from the Government about Bio-Diversity Steering Groups and Local Nature Partnerships which need to include health, economic and social issues and have a broader remit. This had complicated matters, and not wanting to duplicate work, it may be too early to say initial proposal should go ahead until Government had made final decision.

BH suggested pulling in people from other areas and remaining a statutory body.

It was therefore **agreed** initially that the Chair would invite a representative from each of these groups to attend the next LAF meeting on 20 September (AGM) together with someone from the Economic Development Group to inform on the work and remit of the TLAF with a view to inviting them to become members of the Forum. If other members consider any others should be invited, to inform Chair direct.

CHAIR/  
ALL

**Area Reports :**

**Torquay Co-ordinator :** Margaret Forbes-Hamilton sent apologies – no report available. Mick Lear and John Mellor informed of broken fences on Brown Bridge Road - JN agreed to look into this.

**Paignton Co-ordinator :** Wanda Hollingworth – nothing to report.

**Brixham Co-ordinators :** Rob Boyd and Mick Lear. ML walked around Lupton area and Hill Head. Lupton Park Estate is wheelchair user friendly until where it splits off at Y junction then across fields ending up at Hill Head. From the front of Lupton Park House coming up to Kingswear Road will take public down to Greenway, but not good for wheelchair users. Lane goes down to Kings Barton Estate – this would make good circular walk if could gain access. Chair informed Lupton paths had been identified as crucial in the Green Infrastructure Plan and would be liaising with Landowner to get permission to use.

Funding had been agreed for development on Dart to create horse-riding route from Dart to Hillhead.

JN suggested bringing set of maps, with references, for ROW to next meeting for use when discussing issues.

JN

**White Rock Development :** will be homes and Business Park built on green-field land with potential new Countryside Park and footpaths / cycle routes.

**Baywalks :** EM to ask the Baywalks Walk Leaders if they would feedback any problems on the ROWs used to the LAF. EM to meet with JN to check which PROWs Baywalks used for its walks. It was agreed for EM to also ask Baywalks Leaders if they would be interested in sending a representative to join the LAF Membership.

EM/JN

**Linkages :** it was agreed to revisit the TLAF work of last year when the Forum looked at areas for better linkages. JN to bring set of maps to next meeting.

JN/  
FUTURE  
AGENDA  
ITEM

**Riviera Bay :** ML could not find anything out about this. Chair informed that he was not aware of the details of the proposals but because the area is a commuting route for Greater Horseshoe Bats, there would be very strict controls on any changes that affect this route, which follows the Coastal Path.

**Astra Zeneca :** RB told the meeting that retired TLAF Chair, John Gibson, had emailed him for an update on the following :

1. Ranch fencing still on the Astra Zeneca side of the tarmac path between where the PROW is being moved to – this should have been removed.
2. Hedging – promised to have a green space between the building and walk-way and something to show delineation between the PROW and Astra Zeneca.

Secretary to clarify issues with Mr. Gibson and forward to JN to update on position.

SECRETARY  
/JN

**Berry Head Cattle Grids :** JN to look into whether Order to divert cattle grids had been approved.

JN

**8 TLAF Information Sharing as at June 2011 :**

Item for information only. EM informed transfer of 'Walking for Health' still on-going – hoped decision made by November 2011; Health would not necessarily pick this up.

**9 Membership Recruitment / Raising Profile :**

Covered in previous items discussed earlier in meeting.

**10 Report back on LAF Training Day on 21 March 2011 :**

All agreed this had been an excellent training day. As new member, BH felt good opportunity to get to know other members.

**ALL**

**11 Any Other Business :**

**11.1 Measured Miles :** EM informed all 'Measured Miles' had been reinstated and new plaques had been put in place – launch event arranged.

**11.2 Scadscon Woods :** Woodland Improvement Grant agreed, previously supported by the LAF. This will result in formation of improved access through the woods.

**12 Date/Time/Venue of Next Meeting : 2011 : Tuesday 20 September (AGM)** from 6.00 p.m. at Paignton Library and **Thursday 8 December** from 6.00 p.m. in the Cecil Room at Oldway Mansion.

The Chairperson thanked all those that attended and closed the meeting at 7.30 p.m.