



Report to Torbay Local Access Forum A.G.M. 20 October 2011

Torbay Local Access Forum Annual Report 2010/2011

Members of the Torbay LAF: Dominic Acland (Chair), Robert Boyd, Cllr. Ian Doggett (Torbay Council), Margaret Forbes-Hamilton, Bob Harvey, Wanda Hollingworth, Mick Lear, John Mellor, Carole Williams, Elaine Mason.

The members represent the following specific areas of interest:

- Torquay Area Co-ordinators – Margaret Forbes-Hamilton and Leon Butler
- Paignton Area Co-ordinator – Wanda Hollingworth
- Brixham Area Co-ordinator – Robert Boyd
- Coastal Lead – Mick Lear
- Tourism Lead – vacant
- Environment Lead – Margaret Forbes-Hamilton
- Health and Recreation Lead – Wanda Hollingworth
- Access for the Disabled Leads – Robert Boyd and Carole Williams

This Report covers the period from the last A.G.M. held on 13 October 2010 to 19 October 2011.

1. Meetings Held

Since the last AGM, meetings of the LAF have been held on the following dates:

- 24 February 2011
- 19 May 2011
- 30 June 2011

Notes of meetings are posted on the Torbay LAF's webpage www.torbay.gov.uk/localaccessforum.

2. Membership

A new member, Elaine Mason, was recruited during the year, with a special interest in Healthy Walking.

3. Consultations

Torbay LAF commented on the following national and regional issues:

- The Future of the Public Forest Estate in England, with the LAF playing a leading role in the regional response thanks to Bob Harvey's concerted efforts
- Torbay Green Infrastructure Plan
- Role of the England Access Forum

4. Training

A successful LAF training day was held on 21 March 2011 at Occombe Farm, organised by Natural England and Hilary Winter. A member of the Dartmoor LAF also joined us for the day.

5. Regional meetings

LAF member Bob Harvey attended a regional meeting of LAF Chairs with Natural England's Regional Manager.

6. Support

The LAF supported a bid by Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust for a Woodland Improvement Grant from the Forestry Commission that would create improved access routes through Scadson Woods. The bid was successful.

7. Rights of Way Improvement Plan

The LAF continues to monitor the ROWIP, receive reports from the Rights of Way team and to advise Torbay Council on priorities for the future. The LAF sought assurances from the Council that the role of PROW Officer was being maintained in the Council's new structure and was pleased to receive these.

8. Advice

Various issues affecting rights of way and open spaces in Torbay were commented upon by the LAF including:

- Footpath diversion adjacent to Astra-Zeneca, Brixham
- Installation of cattle grids at Berry Head, Brixham
- Circular walking routes promoted as part of the new Geopark Trail Guide
- Impact of the Churston developments on PROW

9. Torbay Local Access Forum Breakdown of Costs 2010/2011

Description	Total Actuals
	£
PAY - APT & C STAFF	1,809.27
NI - APT & C STAFF	3.37
PENS - APT & C STAFF	307.61
EMPLOYEES MILEAGE	62.33
CATERING - GENERAL	136.25
PRINTING	4.93
STATIONERY	26.58
POSTAGE	43.22
MOBILE PHONES	37.61
LAF MEMBER EXPENSES	75.35
SUBS - OFFICERS	24.30
Totals:-	2,530.82

The costs have been met from Torbay Council's Democratic Services budget.

Management of the LAF's Secretariat is undertaken by Torbay Council's Democratic Services team.

Conclusion

The LAF has performed well in the last year, attracting new members, gaining good support from Torbay Council, engaging with important issues in Torbay and adding its voice to the national perspective. Thanks are due to its efficient secretary, Valerie Simpson, her line manager, Teresa Buckley and the Rights of Way team in Torbay Council.

Dominic Acland, Chair