

Torbay Local Access Forum – Information Sharing as at 30 January 2012

(Most recently received shown first)

<p>For Members who do not have access to a computer, please ask the TLA Forum Secretary for a copy of information OF PARTICULAR INTEREST ONLY shown below (always bearing in mind cost for printing same).</p>
<p>Independent Panel on Forestry. Note of November meeting : Brief note of Independent Panel meeting held on 17th November. Shortcut to: http://www.defra.gov.uk/forestrypanel/files/SummaryNote17Nov1.pdf The Panel visited Yorkshire at the beginning of December to look at the value of forests in protected landscapes and ecosystems. Recreation also featured in discussions: Received 3 January 2012</p>
<p>FREE Outdoor Mobility Equipment Showcase event on Friday.10 February 2012 - 11.00am to 6.00 p.m. at Isca House Haven Road Exeter, EX2 8DS to try out a range of the latest rugged outdoor powered and manual mobility equipment and find out more about the Countryside Mobility scheme. For more information contact : James Maben Countryside Mobility SW Project Manager www.countrysidemobility.org Tel: 01392 456522 Mobile: 07540 722311 Living Options Devon, Isca House, Haven Road, Exeter, EX2 8DS. Flyer forwarded to all for information. Received 5 January 2012</p>
<p>National LAF Conference 6 March - Bristol / 28 February – Newcastle – Bob Harvey to attend and report back to the LAF. Invitation received January 2012</p>
<p>South West Regional Meeting : Regional Co-ordinator asked, as approaching the end of the financial year, would it be helpful to have a meet up of LAF secretaries and LAF Chairs or alternatively separate meetings for Secretaries and Chairs before the end of March? Chairs/Secretaries to inform Hilary of their views and whether there are matters they would like to cover if a meeting is convened? Received January 2012</p>
<p>Independent Forestry Panel : http://www.defra.gov.uk/forestrypanel/files/Summary-note-21-December.pdf Link to notes of Independent Forestry Panel meeting held in December. The Panel acknowledges the challenging timescale to deliver a final report in May. Received 13 January 2012</p>
<p>Green Connect South West : A free networking and learning event for Friends of Parks groups, community groups and parish councils. Bridgwater College & Walled Gardens at Cannington near Bridgwater - Saturday 25th February, 10am-3pm : Information sent out to all Jan 2012 – Wanda Hollingworth attending. Received 12 January 2012</p>
<p>Update on the Review of National Trails : Letter from Natural England Hercules House Hercules Road London SE17DU : Dear Colleague, I am writing to update you on the progress we are making with the Review of National Trails. Through this review, we want to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ensure we achieve best value and most effective use of resources;- Make the best of opportunities for engaging local people;- Implement flexible management models that reflect the needs of National Trails at different stages of development and in differing circumstances, now and in the future. <p>Over the summer 2011, Natural England carried out a number of informal discussions with partners on what they felt worked and didn't work with the current arrangements for the management of National Trails. We are grateful for the input we've had to-date from partners. The feedback we gathered has been very helpful. Broadly speaking, our partners told us:</p> <p>Maintenance - There was a strong sense, that after several years of reducing support, Highway Authorities budgets are at a threshold, below which it will become increasingly difficult for them to continue to maintain the Trails in anything like an acceptable standard. Crucially, the issue of parity between trails also needs to be addressed.</p> <p>Promotion – It was widely recognised that much more needs to be done to meet international as well as local user need for information provision and promotion. After maintenance, proper and effective promotion is the most important distinguishing factor in the success of National Trails.</p> <p>Standards – There is a need to update and improve them. Natural England's role in setting standards and providing funding helps to secure National Trails as a priority for Local Authorities and provides a lever for action. Cont/...</p>

Corridor Management – There was strong support to look wider than the actual route on the ground and to ensure that management is appropriate in terms of the access experience to user, as well as achieving landscape and biodiversity objectives within the wider landscape.

Management and Oversight - Having a clear lead for the co-ordination of delivery for the Trail was seen as important. Join up at the Trail level is vital and there is a need for management tasks to be undertaken in a co-ordinated way through a Management Plan. Currently this role is carried out by the National Trail Officer who is usually employed by a partner and supported by Natural England grant aid. The majority of partners have emphasised the importance of this role, although some partners wanted more autonomy about how tasks were performed, for example, sharing the work between several members of staff as opposed to a single National Trail Officer.

Natural England is currently developing a set of proposals which builds on the feedback we received. We anticipate the focus will be on key areas, such as:

- The roles of organisations involved in the delivery of National Trails; and
- Ways to strengthen trail-led delivery; and
- The funding arrangements for National Trails

We wish to engage with you on our thinking and are currently planning this work. We will write to you with more detail in the coming weeks about this. In the meantime, if you would like to get in touch with us about this work, please contact Rachel.Cook@NaturalEngland.org.uk.

Yours , Liz Newton, Director of Access and Engagement

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