

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ACCESS FORUM.
ON 21st JULY 2003 AT
OLDWAY MANSION – HERBERT ROOM
FROM 6.30p.m. – 9.20p.m.**

Members present:- Paul Kemp, Ken James, Brian Holyoake, Ron Lovell, Jeff Leach, Peter Huff, Ken Robertson, Patricia Doughty-Mortimer, Mr K Probert, Mr N Payne, Janine Clarke, Justin Cox, Philip Sproston, David Eales, Larry Harding and June Haywood

ACTION

1. Apologies
None – RL introduced a new member to the Forum – June Haywood.
2. Minutes of Last Meeting
KR said that in item 4 it should be KP and not KR on the sub-committee.
3. Matters Arising
DE proposed that the land between Petitor Road and Easterfield Lane, BH seconded and the Forum agreed.

KR read through his email to JC about his Primley Park findings. He found out that it was opened up to allow the Zoo to sell land to Safeway so it has been there for about 7/8 years. The entrance to this area is opposite Wilkinsons Garage.

PDM proposed that Primley Park should go in and KR seconded and it is to go in as down land.

RL said he was confused with the maps. He had been going through them and had identified areas of scientific importance which are not on the map which is not good. RL asked JCI if there are any in Torbay. JCo said yes there is but they do not necessarily have public access. English Heritage control the areas.

JCI has given a copy of the criteria to the Forum members.

JCo confirmed he has a list of sites that Torbay Coast and Countryside Trust manage.

4. Torbay's Registry of Common Land and Open Country
There is no register of open country.
There is a register of common land. This was discussed with RL prior to the meeting.
5. Proposed Format for Rights of Way Standard Survey Forms
KJ went through the forms explaining them. JL asked how they had decided what to put in. RL said that they had been taken from a standard and amended for their use.

KP would like all members of the Forum to be involved and suggested dividing Torbay into three areas – North, Middle and South.
 South – From Brixham to the southern parks of Paignton.
 Middle – Preston, Cockington and Shiphay up to the Grand Hotel.
 North – the rest of Torquay.
 Each area should have a team leader with additional volunteers.

All footpaths and bridleways are to be inspected and reported to JCl and to the relevant team leader. Also to report whether it can be upgraded for physically and mentally handicapped people including the blind.

Also to report any other tracks/footpaths that are used and not on the definitive map and any areas they see that are devoid of footpaths.

RL asked JC if she has a list of all footpaths on file. JC said she does not but she can get a list.

JC

RL asked that all members make sure that they claim any expenses they incur as JC would have to employ someone to do the inspections if the Forum did not do it.

JC was asked to hand a list of footpaths to each Team leader broken down into wards.

JC

Each member was asked which team they would like to be in and the teams were decided.

	S	M	N
Team Leader	JL	PK	KP
	RL	KR	PDM
		KJ	JH
			PH
			DE

JCo said that he would be a floater so that if any team needed help he could be called on to assist.

Queries were raised on footpaths that go into other areas, i.e Devon County. JC said there is a Devon Access Forum but it has been set up differently to Torbay and is being dealt with by top level officers. RL said the area has been split into regions.

JC can pass complaints to officers in Devon County. RL has a list of officers responsible for each area and will pass these to JC.

RL

The team leaders are to decide where on their lists they would like to start.

RL proposed that JC buy kits and employ contractors to fit stiles. JC said there is not much in the budget left. The question was raised as to who would decide on priority of stiles to be replaced if there were too many. JC said that

it would be her decision.

RL said that they need to get to know the landowners. JC had let RL have the catalogue on stiles which he passed to LH to look at from the disabled point of view. He is to look at RADAR gates.

JCo said that the Trust maintains their furniture and that they pay contractors to install them on land that is not owned by the Trust although it does depend on the landowner.

JC said that the cost of labour for TCS was about £300.

JCo said that the contractors that the Trust use charge £80.

JC said that she wanted to use cheaper contractors but she had been told to use TCS. The Trust and the Council have come to an agreement for the Trust to maintain linking footpaths. TCS are maintaining urban paths.

6. Introducing Standard Criteria for Public Footpath Applications

RL showed and explained to the members two letters he had as an example of problems to get footpaths put onto the definitive map. RL said he knows of three other paths that should go on the definitive map but he was not prepared to go for it. He said that the Forum would hold more weight rather than himself as an individual.

RL would like criteria set up on what information would be available to people to help get footpaths put on the definitive map.

JC said that it is up to the Council's Portfolio Member and the Councillors to approve footpaths definitive map modification orders.

KP asked JC if she could write down what information would be available and what help would be given. Also what procedures need to be followed. **JC**

JC said that the open access applications need to go in as individuals names and not as the Forum. The Forum can make suggestions and elect someone to put them forward. **JC**

JC said that she was still waiting for the name of the elected member that is to be assigned to the Forum. JC is to request attendance at the next meeting. **JC**

7. Obtaining Past Ordnance Survey Maps to Establish Unclassified Historic Public Footpaths

RL told the Forum that there is no central point to look at maps.

JC said that anyone can look at the maps and they are held in the Devon Record Office. They could photocopy parts of the maps as required. **JC**

RL asked JC if they can buy their own copies of the maps.

JC said that they are too expensive to buy at £25 each.

JC has the working copies of the definitive map of each area.
RL commented that they do not contain the historic routes. RL said that they need the maps. RL is to try to see the Leader and find out what happened to the funding through the crow act.

RL said that the Forum needs the maps for 1954, 1968 and 1977. LH proposed that they buy them. The Forum decided that they should be bought and that JC is to tell RL the price before she orders them. JC told RL the price £300. It was decided not to buy them by JC. **JC**

PDM proposed that RL approaches local newspapers to appeal for old maps from the public. LH seconded. **RL**

8. Disabled Trail Routes and Other Trails – Leaflets

JL explained to the Forum a magazine article on a trail containing artistic works along it that can be accessed by everyone. JC to copy and distribute. The Forum would like Torbay to look at this idea. **JCI**

LH and JC are to arrange to look at the pathways in Cockington.

JL brought up the SSSI cave in Victoria Road, Brixham and asked how they could register it. JC said it would have to meet specific criteria. JL asked JCo to look into it. RL said that that area is known as Roundtop. **JCo**

PH has been collecting leaflets on trails in the area and queried whether they could produce a booklet containing them all together with town trails.

JC would like to produce one and maybe sell them in the Tourist Office but they would need to consult with other Departments in the Council.

PK said that the DCC website includes everything in Devon but not Torbay. PH said that they need to improve peoples awareness of the footpaths and leaflets would be useful.

JCo said that the Trust's leaflets work because they have enough interest into them and they give an overview of access for all. He asked whether the Council would fund them or if it would be external funding. JC said half and half. She will talk to other departments and see what she can put together. **JC**

9. Any Other Business

JC is to draft a rights of way improvement plan and to get the Forums comments. **JC**

RL is to complete the maps and put them on floppy.

It was decided that JC should no longer be Vice-Chair as it conflicts with her job. The Forum voted PDM as the new Vice-Chair.

JC has taken photos of Babbacombe Downs, it is up to the Forum to fill in the open access forms. JC can't fill the forms in as it would be a conflict of

interests with her job. RL requested someone else to fill them in and it was decided that PDM would do this. JC can assist to fill them in. It was decided that Babbacombe Downs should not be put on as it is a managed area.

DE said that Ilsham Valley was being donated back to Torbay after the sewage works and it could then be designated. JC said that when the works are finished the path is going to be reinstated. DE proposed to include it and LH seconded.

DE queried by Brunel Woods was not included. JCo said it was woodland and did not meet the criteria.

DE queries the Hopes Nose area and RL is to look at it at the next meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

17th November 2003 at 6.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Venue to be confirmed.