

## TORBAY LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT OLDWAY MAINSION ON 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2005

- Members present:- Patricia Doughty-Mortimer Chairman  
Ken Robertson Co-ordinator (Paignton)  
John Gibson Co-ordinator (Brixham)  
June Haywood  
Tony Perrett  
Mike Soper
- Elected Council Member:-  
Cllr Ian Doggett – Environmental Issues, Torbay Council
- Council Officers:- Patrick Carney – Service Manager, Highways, Torbay Council  
Janine Clarke – Public Rights of Way Officer, Torbay Council  
Diane Ware – Minuting Secretary
- Torbay Residents:- Keith Probert – Observer  
Dave Rosser - Observer
- Guest Speakers:- Hilary Winter – Secretary, Devon Local Access Forum and  
Regional Co-ordinator S. W. Region LAF's  
Colin Jones – Countryside Agency, Exeter (contact person for  
LAF's)

- Councillor Ian Doggett opened the meeting, introducing himself.
1. He welcomed everyone especially the visiting speakers Hilary Winter, Colin Jones and Keith Probert and the new member Mike Soper.
  2. Councillor Doggett announced the passing of Larry Harding on the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2005 who had been a great asset in the interest of disabled access.
  3. Apologies were received from David Eeles, Brian Hollyoake, Peter Huff, Justin Cox and Natalie Chippett. Resignation from Justin Cox was noted. Resignation was accepted from Keith Probert.
  4. Minutes of the last Full Forum Meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2004 were taken as read.
  5. The minutes were accepted, proposed by Ken Robertson and seconded by June Haywood. There were no matters arising other than item 6 below.
  6. Patrick Carney spoke about the progress of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan. He handed out a progress report and stated that Torbay Council now intends to publish its draft improvement plan by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2005.

#### Action

7. Election of Members – No election of members.
8. After the resignation of Keith Probert, a Torquay Co-ordinator needs to be found. Councillor Doggett suggested leaving it open to present. The Chairman said that there is a need to attract new members across the whole of Torbay.
9. Any other business

The Chairman asked John Gibson if there was anything to say on Brixham Harbour, he replied that there was nothing to say.

The Chairman added that regarding item 12 on the agenda of the last meeting she would like to see more details of people applying to join.

Could the Secretary please copy applications to the Chairman.

**PC**

The Chairman said that she is not receiving any diversion orders or dates of Planning meetings. Mr Carney and Councillor Doggett confirmed that she would be invited if there were any footpath issues on the agenda of the Transportation Strategic Working Party meetings.

**PC**

John Gibson asked Mr Carney about work to be done on the existing footway network, saying that some need signs at both ends including alleyways. Mr Carney said that improved signing will be implemented over the next three years after the ROWIMP has begun. £38,000 has been given for the first year of the improvements. Will be hoping to upgrade existing network with this, but not working on anything new at the moment.

Ken said that the relationship between the access forum and the Council had not been smooth in the last two years and that this situation should not be allowed to continue. The Access Forum may have too high expectations of the Council and vice-versa. Both parties were continually complaining about each other. The Access Forum should be helping the Council and the Council helping the Forum. Mr Carney agreed with Ken and said that we should address what we expect from each other. He said that he appreciates the work of the Forum and maybe after meetings there should be a discussion on these matters.

The Chairman commented on her lack of confidence with the secretarial arrangements. Mr Carney agreed that the system is not working at present and agreed to look into finding an independent secretary who is qualified and willing to work for just a few hours a week. He warned that any expenditure on a secretary would diminish the amount of money available to rights of way improvements.

10. Speaker – Hilary Winter, Regional Co-ordinator SW Region Local Access Forums – gave a talk entitled: “Networking and training requirements for the Local Access Forums in the region”.

11. Speaker – Colin Jones, Contact for Local Access Forums, Countryside Agency, Exeter – gave a talk entitled: “The role of Local Access Forums”.
12. Speaker Keith Probert, former Co-ordinator for Torquay – gave a talk on the new John Musgrave Trail.
13. Date of next meeting  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2006