

## TORBAY LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

### MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT OLDWAY MANSION ON 19<sup>th</sup> JULY 2004

Members present:- Patricia Doughty-Mortimer Chairman  
Keith Probert Co-ordinator - Torquay  
Ken Robertson Co-ordinator - Paignton  
John Gibson Co-ordinator - Brixham  
June Haywood  
Peter Huff  
Bryan Holyoake  
David Eeles  
Cllr Ian Doggett - Environmental Issues, Torbay Council  
Patrick Carney - Service Manager for Highways, Torbay Council  
Janine Clarke - Public Rights of Way Officer, Torbay Council  
Pat Bridle - Admin & Finance (Observer)  
Minutes taken by Shirley Hopkinson

#### ACTION

#### PDM OPENED THE MEETING AS VICE-CHAIR

Patrick was invited to introduce himself to the Forum.

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Justin Cox and in future if he can't attend then he will send someone else to represent him. Resignations were accepted from Ron Lovell and Ken James.

#### 2. Matters Arising from 19 April 2004 Meeting

- (3)(b) Janine has contacted the Brixham farmer and the obstruction is being dealt with. (17/11/03) **JC**
- (c) The cost to produce 100 signs is £20,000. (17/11/03)
- (d) Janine did not receive the European Funding Booklet from Justin. Janine is to contact Justin re the European Funding booklet. (17/11/03) **JC**
- (e) Ian stated that the money is not ringfenced.
- (f) Janine sent the list to Ian again and he confirmed that he has received it.
- (h) John has asked Councillor Lomas to investigate the footpaths at Brixham Harbour and it is being pursued. **JG**
- (5) Janine told the Forum that she is staying with the GIS system and is trying to get the libraries to adopt the same system. Ken queried the dates of the maps that are available. Patrick said that the dates are the OD dates 1890, 1901 and 1938.
- (7)(b) John queried what the allowances were for footpaths. Patrick told him that it was £24,000. This is to cover maintenance, limited signing and improvements. It is not to be used for new footpaths or for major improvements. The money for these comes from capital allocation from Central Government. Highways receives £5m which is broken down internally but none of it is ringfenced. This is a 10% increase on last year's amount. Peter wanted reassurance that monies allocated for footpaths was reaching them. Patrick said that he will speak to the accountants. The money from DEFRA is for the LAF and not for improvements to footpaths. **PC**

The minutes were agreed.

Proposed – Ken  
Seconded - Keith

3. Election of Chair

The Forum unanimously agreed Patricia Doughty-Mortimer as Chairman.  
Proposed – June Haywood  
Seconded - Peter Huff

**PATRICIA CONTINUED THE MEETING AS CHAIRMAN**

4. Election of Vice-Chairman

There were no nominations for Vice-Chairman. The Chairman suggested if she is not present that a Member could substitute for the business of that meeting until a Vice Chairman is appointed.

5. Council's Involvement in the Local Access Forum

- (a) Patrick addressed the Forum in connection with this item. He informed the Forum there had been various correspondence that he is not happy with. He stated that the Council must facilitate the Forum and it can be as much as attending meetings or as little as giving information. The Chairman then distributed the report from Keith which covered the feelings of the Forum Members
- (b) Ian commented that he considered all the comments to be valid and that he would like Patrick to continue to attend. Patrick is happy to attend or if he is not able to then Chris Gubby can attend to support Janine. Ken would also like Ian to keep attending to represent the Councillors. Patrick was co-opted onto the Forum. **PC**
- (c) Patrick stated that the Council are committed to the Forum and the Improvement Plan. The Chairman requested that the Local Access Forum Secretary to send her a paper copy of everything that she sends out to any member of the Forum in order that she is kept fully informed of LAF business.

6. Implementation of the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan

- (a) Janine told the Forum that the public consultation has been completed and she has received the results back. The assessment of footpaths have been completed and she has received feedback from Torquay and Paignton areas. She is awaiting feedback from Brixham John stated that he is in some difficulty as he is the only member of the Brixham area. Keith volunteered to help the other groups but he will be away for six weeks.
- (b) David queried whether the Forum was linked with neighbouring areas. The Chairman informed him that the Forums all met at the Devon Workshop. Janine stated that she had spoken to Heidi Cruickshank and they are going to sort the borders. South Hams are happy to produce joint trails. She is still trying to contact Teignbridge. John stated that he doesn't have a list of

footpath numbers as they have been omitted from maps/previous reports. **JC**  
A list of the paths will be sent to him. The Chairman queried John's contact details and Janine agreed to update the Membership details and distribute them. **JC**

- (c) Janine informed the Forum of the programme for the Rights of Way Improvement Plan. It is to go into the draft Local Transport Plan. The first draft is to be produced in November. It is to go out to public consultation in December. Patrick stated that it is a tight programme but there has to be 12 weeks of consultation. The Chairman asked how the public would know about it. Janine stated that there would be a notice in the papers stating that the public can view the plan.
- (d) The Chairman would like more publicity for the Forum. The Forum would like to advertise the Forum meetings in the libraries and also Torbay Council Connections offices. The Chairman stated that they could also advertise information on footpaths in the Tourist Information offices. Janine is going to attempt this. Patrick stated that he would speak to PR to see if they can produce a press release on the Forum. **JC/PC**

## 7. Structure of the Torbay Local Access Forum

### (a) Terms of Reference

Janine handed out the terms of reference and the members are going to take them away and review them in groups.

### (b) Secretary

Patrick stated that the Council can provide a secretary but it needs to be someone who does not work for the Council. He will read the guidance and report back to the Forum. Patrick wants to check what the specific role will be and how many hours per week will be required. **PC**

## 8. Chairman's Report

There was no Chairman's Report

## 9. Group Representative's Reports

### (a) Torquay

Keith read the report for Torquay. Copies were distributed to the meeting.

### (b) Paignton

Ken stated that he had not yet completed his report as he had just returned from France. He also informed the Forum that he is the only member in the Paignton group and please could he have some help. Janine stated that they have a possible new member to join the Forum representing horseriders. She stated that they need to try to get some more new members, preferably landowners and individual walkers, and not representing specific walking groups. Janine suggested that when she receives an application that the Forum will be notified that they can agree on whether or not the application should be accepted. The chairman suggested the decision should be made between herself and the LAF

- Secretary. Keith will speak to some ramblers to see if they are interested in joining as individual members. He also stated that he might be able to find some people who are willing to help Ken.
- (c) Brixham  
John stated that he is in a similar situation to Ken as he is now the only member of the Brixham group. The Chairman queried whether they could advertise for new members of the Forum. Janine stated that she could but that the cost of it would have to come from her budget. Patrick suggested that they could issue a press release for this instead to save money and also to advertise the Forum. This was agreed. **PC**
10. Report on DCC Meeting at Exeter  
The Chairman, Ron Lovell, Peter and Janine attended the workshop at Exeter in June. Peter told the Forum members all about the day and what it was about. It enabled the Forums within the SW to compare notes and see how much progress each Forum had made. The day also included various workshops which were interesting and useful. Peter stated that Devon are going to produce minutes of the day's events. They will be sent to Janine who will forward them on to the members of the Forum. **JC**
11. Publishing a Report from the Local Access Forum on their Achievements  
The Chairman stated that they need to produce a document stating what the Forum has achieved to date so that the Secretary can send it out to all the members. She queried what the Forum wanted in the document. The members are to send their information to the Chairman so that she can produce it and pass it onto the LAF Secretary. **ALL**
12. Any Other Business
- (a) Janine stated that they have someone from Paignton that is interested in joining the Forum and queried whether the Forum are agreeable to this. The Chairman stated that she would like to see the details first. The Forum agreed in principle. **JC**
- (b) David queried the footpath from Petitor to Little Oddicombe Beach as the bottom footpath had been closed since Monday. Janine stated that the footpath was closed due to cliff falls and they would not be opened unless there is money available to pin the cliff. Patrick said that he would look into it but there were no plans to open it. **PC**
- (c) Ken suggested that they issue a press release informing the public that Patricia has been elected Chairman with a photo for publicity. The Chairman thought this was a good idea and that they should include a representative from each Group. **PC**
- (d) The Chairman informed the Forum that when attending the Workshop, she met a PhD student from UCL, Jonathan Mitchell who was interested in attending our next meeting. The Secretary is to invite him to our next meeting. He will be invited to speak to the Forum on the work he has done for LAF's. **JC**

(e) Peter requested a copy of the Secretary of States Guidance Notices on LAF. Janine is to provide this. **JC**

(f) John queried the format for future meetings e.g. diversion orders/closed footpaths etc. Janine told him that this subject is for the sub groups to discuss. Patrick stated that the Forum needs to keep with strategic issues and not day to day issues. These should be kept for the sub groups or taken directly to Janine.

13. Date of Next Meeting

15<sup>th</sup> November 2004 – at 6.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.  
Toorak Hotel, Chestnut Avenue, Torquay