

DEVON COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM – FORUM EFFECTIVENESS 2008/9

Member involvement - Public meetings

Date of meeting	Number of members present	%	Presentation
April 22 2008	11	73	Edward Chorlton, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Environment, Economy and Culture, DCC
May 13 2008	11	73	Extraordinary meeting to discuss draft Marine Bill and Strategic Plan for Water Related Recreation in the SW
October 15 2008	12	80	Simon Chapman, Project Manager, Country Mile Project, DCC
February 13 2009	14	93	Ian Tearle, Head of Health Policy, Devon Primary Care Trust

Member involvement outside meetings

Date	Activity	Number of members involved	Purpose	Follow up
13.5.08	Training Day, Grand Western Canal	11	View access opportunities at Grand Western Canal Country Park with Mark Baker, Head Ranger. Discuss management/funding of the GWC.	Report at October 2008 meeting
18.10.08 and 20.10.08	Shoreline Management Plan meetings	2	Information on proposals	Follow progress
Summer 2008	Agricultural Shows	7	Support Public Rights of Way team at agricultural shows	
24.10.08	South West Lakes Trust Conference	1	Conference on conservation and public access management	
22.1.09	National Trails and Routes	7	Discuss Natural England's consultation on National Trails and Routes and complete response questionnaire.	Report at February 2009 meeting Response sent.
Winter 2008	Attendance at P3 winter workshops	4	Information/training on work of Parish Paths Partnership, DCC	Maintain interest in P3 work
12.2.09	West Devon SCS: Environment Theme Stake Holder Event	1	Information/training on work on environment theme action plans at district level	Follow theme progress

Devon CAF advisory function

Date	Action (e.g. letter/ consultation response)	Section 94(4) body advised	Nature of advice	Date response received	Nature of response	Influence on policy and scale (subjective) 0 – no influence 5 – major influence	Follow up
15.4.08	Letter	DCC	Advice on multi-use of cycleways	23.7.08	Positive comments from DCC on advice given.	3	Keep under review
19.5.08	E-mail response with attachment	House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee	Identification of key matters arising under the draft Marine Bill warranting further exploration by the EFRA Committee	14.7.08	Included in published report of evidence. HC 656-II	2	Review progress of draft Marine Bill
10.6.08	E-mail response with attachment	House of Commons/ House of Lords Joint Committee	Further comments on the draft Marine Bill related to Part 9 (Coastal Access)	16.7.08	Included in published report of evidence. HL Paper 159-II HC 552-II	2	Review progress of draft Marine Bill
25.6.08	E-mail response with attachment	Defra	Further comments on the draft Marine Bill related to Part 9 (Coastal Access)	26.6.08	Acknowledgement	2	Review progress of draft Marine Bill
June 2008	Response form	Environment Agency	Strategic Plan for Water Based Recreation in the SW Comments on improving water recreation access and priorities.	11.6.08	Acknowledgement	3	Enjoying Water Strategy for water based recreation in the SW published 2009. Incorporates some of DCAF comments
15.7.08	E-mail with attached letter	Devon County Council	Construction of cycle/walkway near Dawlish. Comments on provision for horse-riding.	24.7.08	Confirmation of details of horse-riding section, incorporating DCAF suggestions	4	

9.9.08 23.2.09	Letters	Boundary Committee	Comments on proposals for unitary local government in Devon, focussing on implications for rights of way funding and management.	19.3.09	Acknowledgement. New round of draft proposals. Comments made to be taken into account.	1	Await outcome. DCAF action depending on result.
24.9.08	Letter	East Devon AONB	Comments on revised AONB Management Strategy	1.10.08	Acknowledgement	3	Await final strategy
30.9.08	E-mail	Open Access Centre	Expressed concern about poor map quality			1	Keep under review. Map quality still variable.
1.10.08	E-mail with letter	North Devon AONB	Comments on revised AONB Management Strategy	2.10.08	Thanked for considered response	3	Await final strategy
Oct 08	E-mail with letter	Blackdown Hills AONB	Comments on AONB draft Management Plan			2	Await final strategy
16.10.08	E-mail plus attachment	Natural England	Review of Trails and Routes preliminary comments			2	Await outcome
17.10.08	Response form	Government Office for the SW	Comments on draft Regional Spatial Strategy, highlighting importance of green infrastructure and public rights of way.	28.10.08	Your views will be taken into account before the Regional Spatial Strategy is finalised.	2	View final Regional Spatial Strategy
31.10.08	Response form	West Devon Borough Council	Comments on Core Strategy Development Plan document Preferred Development Options for Okehampton and Tavistock	3.11.08	Comments have been acknowledged and will be taken into account when preparing further versions	3	View final document
6.11.08	Letter	Living Options Devon	Support for bid to provide tramper mobility scooters			4	Await bid outcome
14.11.08	Letter	Natural England	SW comments on NE's draft Access Policy	Nov 08	Acknowledged	2	Await publication of NE Access Policy

27.11.08	Letter	Planning Committee Chairmen/Chief Executive of districts in Devon	Highlighting consideration that needs to be given to public rights of way when assessing planning permission and asking for information on policies to improve public access.	Responses from Exeter City Council, Teignbridge, Torrridge, S Hams, West Devon	Confirming arrangements for checking for public rights of way.	2	Keep under review. Planning Guide for planning authorities – DCC draft in progress. Await outcome of unitary decision.
27.11.08	E-mail plus attachment	Tamar Valley AONB	Comments on AONB draft Management Plan	27.11.08	Your comments are very much appreciated and a valuable part of the consultation	3	View final document
7.1.09	E-mail plus attachment	Mid Devon District Council	Mid Devon Allocations and Infrastructure Development Plan Document – Preferred Options			3	View final document
8.1.09	E-mail plus attachment	South Devon AONB	Comments on AONB draft Management Strategy	8.1.09	Acknowledgement	3	View final document
Jan 09	E-mail	East Devon DC	Issues and Options for East Devon – pre Core Strategy draft.	2.2.09	Acknowledgement	2	View final document
28.1.09	E-mail	Northern Peninsula Housing Market Area	Commented that public rights of way should be included on Indicative Site Promotion Proforma (landowner) and on the Detailed Suitability Assessment form.	11.2.09	Acknowledgement	2	View final document
30.1.09	E-mail plus attachment	Natural England	Review of Trails and Routes Response form			3	Review progress
2.3.09	E-mail	DCC	Comments on Defra consultation – Structures on Rights of Way – Guidance for local authorities – including the disability implications of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended)		Acknowledged and included in DCC response to the Rights of Way Review Committee	2	Review progress
25.2.09	E-mail plus attachment	Department for Transport (Local Transport Plan – LTP)	Comment on lack of inclusion of Local Access Forums as consultees in LTP 3 Guidance	27.2.09	Acknowledged	5	Await publication Summer 2009

27.2.09	E-mail and letter	DCC	Support for reward money projects from Local Public Service Agreement 2 success	27.2.09	Acknowledged. Request noted.	4	Await decision announcements
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Miscellaneous

Name	Date	Type of involvement	Further action
Bob Harvey	15 May 2008	England Access Forum, first meeting	Report to DCAF
Chairman, Vice Chairman, Co-Chairman	28 July 2008	Meeting with adjacent Local Access Forum chairmen	
John Skinner	12/13 September 2008	Ramblers' Association conference for RA members on Local Access Forums	Report at October 2008 meeting
Bob Harvey	23 September 2008	England Access Forum, second meeting	Report at October 2008 meeting
Chairman, Vice Chairman	28 September 2008	SW LAF Chairmen's meeting with Duncan Graham, Chairman of the England Access Forum	Report at February 2009 meeting
Julie Rudge	February 2008	Report to NE Stakeholder Group on discovering lost ways	Agreed response should be sent at February meeting. Progress of Stakeholder Group to be followed.
Bob Harvey	March 2009	England Access Forum, third meeting	Report at April 2009 meeting
Secretary	2008/9	<p>Courses: MapInfo, First Aid for Lone Workers, Meeting and Minute taking.</p> <p>Meetings: Public Rights of Way team meetings, DCC Wardens meeting, public rights of way training day, Ruby Country Equine Interests Group, Devon Local Transport Plan progress report meeting, Natural England National Trails consultation information day, West Devon Environment Theme stakeholder event.</p> <p>SW Local Access Forums: Two meetings of LAF secretaries.</p> <p>Newsletters: Seven information newsletters circulated to members.</p>	To inform work with DCAF

Feedback

Advice provided by the DCAF may take time to influence policy, particularly where formal consultation procedures are involved. It is encouraging to note when comments have been taken on board. Influence on policy in the table above, a subjective number, may alter once the impact of advice is known.

- **North Devon and Torridge Core Strategy Issues and Options Report**

The Feedback Report, published in February 2009, includes some of the comments made by the DCAF in its submission in November 2007. Policies to improve access opportunities and encourage residents and visitors to enjoy the benefits, as cited by the DCAF, are mentioned in the report (page 40). The Officer recommendation is to pursue this within the context of accessible natural green space standards. The proposed Core Strategy policy now states "Green Infrastructure Strategy to support delivery of a planned network of multi-functional and inter-connecting links of green space between and within the area's towns and villages."