

Local Access Forum (LAF) Annual Review Form: April 2013 to March 2014

Name of LAF: Isle of Wight

Name of LAF Chair: Mark Earp

Name of LAF Secretary: Jennine Gardiner

Number of LAF members: 10

Number of LAF vacancies:

1 - Involvement and Representation

What interests does your current membership cover? Landowners, land management, cyclists, equestrians, carriage drivers, walkers, 4 X 4 users, general users, elected Councillors & NFU County Secretary. Regular guests include Council Officers from Countryside and AONB teams and some local Parish Council Members

What skills, sectors, interest groups, experience are missing? dog walkers, active volunteer group representatives.

Describe any difficulties you had recruiting members from particular sectors:

2 - Operation of LAF

What procedures (e.g. expense claims, new applications, monitoring of Huddle etc) do you follow that help you work effectively? Are these effective?

How do you ensure that your members are able to work as a team? quarterly meetings and emails

In what ways do you reach consensus? vote

How do you ensure proper conduct and/or resolve any conflicts? vote and chairman's input

Give up to 3 examples of where you have encountered operational difficulties (e.g. lack of resources); explain what mechanisms could be put in place to alleviate such issues:

1 -

2 -

3 -

3 - Partnership and Progress

Do you work well with the access authority? If not, why not? Works well with the Rights of Way team / Countryside team as they are currently retained by the Council. Rights of Way assistant is also the LAF secretary. However, the Traffic / Highways team has been contracted to an outside PFI provider and getting a reply or trying to resolve an issue has extra layers of formalities to overcome.

Do you work well with your planning authorities? If not, why not? LAF have no current contact with planning

Have you established a clear role for the LAF in the local area? no

Main or notable achievements?

4 - Profile and Direction

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Has anything changed over the last year? Loss of members but those remaining are active in their interest groups

What changes / barriers can you see ahead? Finding Members who will be able to give up their time and be proactive

What are your priorities for the year ahead (list up to 3)?

- 1 - Achieving the right balance of proactive members
- 2 - promote the LAF so the Isle of Wight knows it exists and what it is there to do
- 3 -

What support or training do you need to deliver your priorities?

5 - Section 94 Bodies

Give up to 3 examples of advice given by your LAF to section 94 bodies:

- 1 -
- 2 -
- 3 -

6 - Open Access Work

How many Restriction Cases have you been consulted on? 0

How many cases have you responded to? 0

Detail any informal involvement with Open Access Restriction cases: 0

7 - Number of consultations, meetings and initiatives your LAF has been involved with over the year. Please add numbers into the boxes below and only count specific consultations once even if advice has been given on them a number of times. If a consultation covers more than one subject area, please count them separately as appropriate.

Public meetings (e.g. LAF meetings)	4	Working groups	0
Training days	0	Definitive map modification orders	0
Highway orders	8	Green Infrastructure strategies	0
Gating orders	0	Local transport plans and traffic management schemes	0
Cycle projects	0	Disabled access	0

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Dog exclusion/on leads/fouling orders	0	Housing development schemes	0
Planning applications	0	PROW network and projects	0
ROWIP planning and objectives	0	Local development frameworks and planning strategies	0
Local Nature Partnerships	0	Recording of paths and promoting use	0
Expiring permissive agreements under Higher Level Stewardship schemes - assessing the value and future of and liaison with landowners to improve access	0	Flood defence works - Environment Agency consultations and planning applications regarding	0
Slipways and landing stages - public access to	0	Improvement of access through the Paths for Communities (P4C) scheme	0
Disposal and development of land owned by the Council	0	Parish Council or local improvement grant schemes	0
Shoreline management plans	0	Rail freight interchange strategic development	0
Network rail and rail crossing closures	0	Access and nature conservation	0
Horse routes and equestrian provision	0	Multi user routes	0
National Parks	0	Coastal access	1
Motorised vehicle access	0	Access to MOD land	0
New town & village green registration government consultation	0	Natural England consultations	0
Defra consultations	0	Commons grazing proposals	0
Highways Agency consultations	0	Department for Transport consultations	0
Other (please specify):			

8 - Final comments from Appointing Authority: Achieving the right balance of active members is difficult and the formal recruitment process and minimum number of members is a hindrance. In the past LAF members have simply been happy to attend meetings without

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taking on tasks and seeing them through. Non active members are leaving as they are becoming aware that more is needed from them and they are not able to give the time required.

The annual conferences are very useful and we are pleased that our chairman and other interested members have the personal time so they can attend during the working week and then attempt to pass on this enthusuaum and points learned to other members. The travel and expenses incurred by our LAF members are reimbursed by the Rights of Way Team / Local Authority which is only fair but due to budget constraints this could become difficult in the future.

9 - Final comments from LAF Chair: The IW LAF have covered a wide range of subject matter, over the last year. The most important in terms of its effect on the Isle of Wight, "The coastal access appeal". There have been a number of excellent discussions resulting in a greater understanding of various issues. The Forum faces a number of interesting challenges in the near future especially initial negotiations with Network rail regarding re-structuring of rail crossings. The Forum would benefit from an injection of new members, especially from groups that have not previously been represented on the IW LAF.