

Local Access Forum (LAF) Annual Review Form: April 2012 to March 2013

Name of LAF: Isle of Wight

Name of LAF Chair: Mark Earp

Name of LAF Secretary: Jennine Gardiner

Number of LAF members: Thirteen + Two Councillors

1 - Involvement and Representation

What interests does your current membership cover? British Horse Society, NFU, Metal Detector Club, 4 X 4 Club, Cyclewright, IW Bridleways Group, Land Management, Equine Driving, General Users

What skills, sectors, interest groups, experience are missing? We are lucky to have a broad range of varied interests and professions.

Describe any difficulties you had recruiting members from particular sectors: none, as we seem to have all interests covered and have not needed to target a specific group.

2 - Operation of LAF

What procedures (e.g. expense claims, new applications etc) do you follow that help you work effectively? Are these effective? No expense claims. We annually advertise for new members.

How do you ensure that your members are able to work as a team? Members tend to work individually rather than as a team. It was trialed a few years back setting members up in pairs to work together on a sub category basis but without success. Members do call and email each other and then discuss issues at meetings.

In what ways do you reach consensus? Vote

How do you ensure proper conduct and/or resolve any conflicts? Chairman and voting system

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 - Possible lack of time/ commitment/ interest to draft correspondence for the chairman's approval once a matter has been raised and discussed

2 - Members are very good at raising and talking about matters, but not motivated (maybe because of lack of time) in taking charge and championing an issue or concern

3 - No reply / or poor non committal feedback from third parties when contacted about a matter i.e parish councils or cabinet members.

3 - Partnership and Progress

Do you work well with the access authority? If not, why not? Yes (secretary is the Rights of Way Assistant)

Do you work well with your planning authorities? If not, why not? No LAF dealings with Planning Services.

Have you established a clear role for the LAF in the local area? No, nothing more than the statutory requirement for an LAF to exist & to advise.

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Were you successful in meeting the achievements set out in your work programme (please provide supporting information)? We do not have a work programme or schedule - we react to matters as they are brought to our attention.

Have you achieved something else? no

Main or notable achievements? none

4 - Profile and Direction

Has anything changed over the last year? Change of members and change of chairman mid term has hindered progress.

What changes / barriers can you see ahead? Lack of time (Rights of Way Team becoming smaller and no resources to put into the administration of the LAF). Lack of commitment from members to take on and champion projects.

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

1 - Raising the profile of the LAF (so people know it exists and they can approach with questions or attend meetings)

2 - Giving support (written evidence or help and advice)

3 - Attempt to get the outside PFI provider for highways and the Rights of Way team (which is still within the Council) to work together to improve poor visibility splays where Public Rights of Way cross highways

What support or training do you need to deliver your priorities? commitment and proactive members to promote the LAF and be prepared to do things outside of the quarterly meetings.

5 - Section 94 Bodies

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

1 - Letter to Highways PFI provider (working on behalf of the IWC) to request a low barrier be removed on a cycleway adjoining a footpath to open up the width

2 - Letter to Cabinet Member for Tourism and Economy regarding concerns for visibility splays where bridleways / footpaths cross highways (certain locations)

3 - Letter to all Town and Parish Council to raise awareness about litter in rural areas and how to organise litter picks.

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)?

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Public meetings	0	Working groups	0
Training days	0	Definitive map modification orders	0
Highway orders	0	Green Infrastructure strategies	0
Gating orders	0	Local transport plans and traffic management schemes	0
Cycle projects	0	Disabled access	0
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	0
Motorised vehicle access	0	Access to MOD land	0

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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:

The recruitment process is complicated. The restriction on serving as a member for a maximum of three years should be removed when the maximum number of members is not being reached.

To date the LAF have seemed content to simply attend meetings to discuss matters generally and give advice in accordance with the regulations as opposed to delivering projects or schemes. However, the recent appointment of a new chairman may result in a more proactive approach.

We are a very small LAF limited to the Island. There is little time and no funds to enable meeting up with neighbouring LAF's. Possibly a visit from Natural England in the new year can motivate and offer advice on what the LAF could achieve and what other LAF's do and how they achieve it.

9 - Final comments from LAF Chair: New chairman has only been in post for one meeting and did not feel he could comment at this stage.