

Chris Hogg

From: Ros Taylor [r.taylor@asken.co.uk]
Sent: 30 October 2007 15:28
To: SarahFord@barnsley.gov.uk; secretary@jlaf.org.uk; Phill.Fox@bedscc.gov.uk; john.hall@birmingham.gov.uk; sally.coulson@bracknell-forest.gov.uk; tim.squire@brighton-hove.gov.uk; rob.haworth@broads-authority.gov.uk; mkeyworth@buckscc.gov.uk; John.crooks@calderdale.gov.uk; gail@lgs-services.co.uk; paul.hickman@cheshire.gov.uk; chris.e.thompson@cheshire.gov.uk; ccaf@cornwall.gov.uk; simon.boyd@cumbriacc.gov.uk; Nick.Elliott@darlington.gov.uk; sbishop@dartmoor-mpa.gov.uk; anne.barrett@derbyshire.gov.uk; hilary.winter@devon.gov.uk; julie.guest@doncaster.gov.uk; d.r.northover@dorsetcc.gov.uk; kevin.clements@dudley.gov.uk; barry.charlton@durham.gov.uk; Annie.hadfield@eastriding.gov.uk; andrew.whitnall@eastsussex.gov.uk; paula.cheesman@essexcc.gov.uk; MPalmer@exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk; kevinvigars@gateshead.gov.uk; andrea.griffiths@gloucestershire.gov.uk; david.wagstaff@bolton.gov.uk; cath.hart@hants.gov.uk; aroberts@herefordshire.gov.uk; andy.hardstaff@hertscc.gov.uk; lee.skinner@IOW.gov.uk; lucy.miles@kent.gov.uk; stephanie.conway@lake-district.gov.uk; holly.gregson@env.lancscc.gov.uk; John.grieve@leeds.gov.uk; Paul.Standley@leicester.gov.uk; emcwilliam@leics.gov.uk; Graham.Watts@lincolnshire.gov.uk; Graham.Watts@lincolnshire.gov.uk; r.fielding@manchester.gov.uk; annmarie.behn@medway.gov.uk; bernie.maloney@knowsley.gov.uk; Roger.Penfold@reading.gov.uk; Steve.crowther@milton-keynes.gov.uk; Sarah.Manchester@newforestmpa.gov.uk; Peter.barber@norfolk.gov.uk; irichardson@northamptonshire.gov.uk; colin.wilkinson@northlincs.gov.uk; richard.phillips@n-somerset.gov.uk; marian.hume@nnpa.org.uk; L.Pickering@northyorkmoors-mpa.gov.uk; stephen.knight@northyorks.gov.uk; john.lee@nottinghamcity.gov.uk; neil.lewis@nottscc.gov.uk; Kath.Heap@oldham.gov.uk; paul.harris@oxfordshire.gov.uk; Mike.Rhodes@peakdistrict.gov.uk; plaf@peterborough.gov.uk; laf@plymouth.gov.uk; Margaret_clark@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk; andrew.savage@rotherham.gov.uk; sue.phelps@sandwell.gov.uk; steve.tivey@sheffield.gov.uk; karen.wilson@shropshire-cc.gov.uk; jacqui.wheeler@slough.gov.uk; savickery@somerset.gov.uk; jort@southdowns-aonb.gov.uk; annecook@southend.gov.uk; barbara.brassington@staffordshire.gov.uk; prow@stockport.gov.uk; jill.christley@et.suffolk.gov.uk; peter.tilley@et.suffolkcc.gov.uk; andrew.saint@surreycc.gov.uk; dchandler@swindon.gov.uk; Beryl.bird@hartlepool.gov.uk; mwillson@thurrock.gov.uk; Valerie.simpson@torbay.gov.uk; afowler@wakefield.gov.uk; chengt@walsall.gov.uk; jocooper@warwickshire.gov.uk; Fiona.MacLeod@westsussex.gov.uk; Sandip.mahajan@calderdale.gov.uk; e.parry@wiganmbc.gov.uk; alisonstewart@wiltshire.gov.uk; andrew.fletcher@rbwm.gov.uk; Rjones@worcestershire.gov.uk; david.holdsworth@york.gov.uk; Rachel.Mozley@yorkshiredales.org.uk

Cc: Kathryn Beardmore; Andy Hardstaff; David.Gear@countryside.gov.uk; Hilary Winter

Subject: LAF Handbook

Dear LAF Secretary

In response to research recommendations made in 2005 and support given by LAF chairs at a seminar held in Bristol in early 2006, Natural England has now allocated funding to prepare an Information Handbook for LAF Members. Asken Ltd has been contracted to carry out this task and to produce the text of a Handbook by next spring.

Asken Ltd is a consultancy that specialises in countryside management and public access to the countryside. The lead author is also a member of a LAF.

LAFs may have commented previously on the contents of the proposed Handbook but, with the benefit of greater experience and in the light of the revised LAF regulations and guidance, there may be additional suggestions LAFs wish to make. So, we want to consult over the scope of the Handbook. We should be grateful, therefore, if you could pass the contents of this email to LAF chairs and relevant officers in the appointing authority and invite them to respond to the following questions:

1. Are the suggested contents of the Handbook appropriate for LAF members? If not, what is missing or superfluous?
2. If we had to prioritise, which subjects are the most important?
3. Would you please provide examples of situations in which your LAF has had a positive effect (such as

helping resolve an access problem, helping secure more external funding)? We may want to use these as examples in the Handbook.

4. Do you already have a Members Information Pack/Handbook, and if so, would you be willing to send this to us?

It is important to remember that the Handbook is intended to be an Information Resource, rather than an Induction Pack. NE will be looking at how it will be kept up-to-date once the initial work has been completed.

It would be helpful if you were able to collate comments and forward them as one response from your authority (or authorities, if you are secretary of a joint LAF), rather than as individual responses from LAF members. Unfortunately, time is limited and we would be grateful for a response by **Monday 26th November**, please. Responses should be sent by email to: r.taylor@asken.co.uk

Material that cannot be emailed can be sent to:

Mrs R Taylor
Asken Ltd
17 Hayfell Rise
Kendal
Cumbria
LA9 7JP

Thank you for your assistance.

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Draft Structure – as per Brief

1. Introduction/welcome to Handbook (by NE Chair/NEO) (What about the Minister?)
 - a. Scope and purpose
 - b. Availability (electronic and paper copies)
 - c. Updating arrangements
 - d. NE/Defra contacts (for suggestions)
2. Making a difference to recreation and access through your forum
3. Stimulating, implementing, promoting, reviewing, and monitoring RoWIPs (rights of way improvement plans)
4. Increasing/enhancing access for walkers, horse-riders, and cyclists
5. Stimulating the dedication of land for access
6. Increasing/enhancing access to inland water-sides
7. Addressing issues relating to ‘off-road’ use of MPVs (mechanically-propelled vehicles)
8. Providing for, and encouraging participation by, minority groups, eg ethnic, vehicle-less, disabled
9. Reconciling access and land management for game
10. Reconciling access and nature conservation
11. Alerting people to access opportunities

Appendices

- A. Section 94(4) bodies, who they are, what they do, how to contact them, when best to contact them, what sorts of advice they would (or would not) find useful
- B. Plain (non-legal) English explanation of s94 and s95 of CROW Act (*with note on how legislation can be accessed, and hyperlink in electronic version of handbook*)
- C. Brief summary of 2006 revision of SoS LAF Regulations (*with note on how full text can be accessed, and hyperlink in electronic version of handbook*)
- D. Brief summary of 2006 revision to Defra Guidance to LAFs and AAs (*with note on how full text can be accessed, and hyperlink in electronic version of handbook*)
- E. Rights of Way Improvement Plans
 - The special importance of forums to ROWIPs, and ROWIPs to forums
 - Plain (non-legal) English explanation of s60-s62 of CROW Act (*with note on how full text can be accessed, and hyperlink in electronic version of handbook*)
- F. Forums’ roles and responsibilities towards appointing authorities, NE, and Defra (with hints and tips on how best to work with and influence them)
- G. Roles and responsibilities towards appointing authorities, s94(4) bodies, NE, Defra, LGA, and LAF regional co-ordinators, (with hints and tips on how best to work with and influence them).
- H. Internet information sources for forum members
 - Defra website
 - NE website

- PROW Good Practice Guide website
- LAF 'learning network' (depending on NE EMRO pilot)
- Other websites (e.g. RA)

I. Main issues on which forums can give advice and most effectively influence decision-making on:

- Access land
- ROWIPs
- Local development frameworks
- Planning applications
- Cycle paths
- Disabled access
- Gating orders
- Common land
- Etc.

J. Publicity and information about forums

- Annual reports
- Forum newsletters
- AA house journals
- Local newspapers
- 'specialist' press
- local radio & TV

K. Advice for forum chairs (based on CCRU findings/recommendations)

L. Glossary of terms, abbreviations, designations, etc.