

From: Chris Hogg
Sent: 29 July 2010 12:36
To: 'Andrew.Mackintosh@naturalengland.org.uk'
Cc: 'Duncan Graham'; 'Rob Cooke'; 'Ray Newbiggin'; 'Robin Winfield'; 'Ron Phelps'
Subject: JLAF Response to the Review of the England Access Forum

Dear Andrew,

I am responding to the consultation that was distributed to Local Access Forums, as Secretary of the Joint Local Access Forum Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire (the JLAF). I am submitting this response, which was ratified by the JLAF at their full meeting on Friday the 2nd July 2010, and should be considered as a response under Section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

The response below is set out under the headings introduced in your letter of 14th May.

If you have any queries on this email, or wish to follow up any of the points made below then please do contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Hogg.

JLAF Response to the Review of the England Access Forum

1. The links between EAF and the LAFs through the regional coordinators.

- the regional coordinator in the south west does a good job. She informs us of developments in Access and Public Rights of Ways issues, organises meetings of the Chairmen and organises training days. We have a very effective communications network in the region.
- We believe that it is vital that Natural England should make every effort to attract and retain good, well informed and conscientious regional co-ordinators, and maintain continuity in the support that is provided

2. The effectiveness of the links between LAFs and Natural England at a national level through EAF.

- in our opinion the links between LAFs and Natural England through the EAF at national level have been poor for the last two years. This was probably because NE were disorganised after the amalgamation of three organisations.
- recently there have been signs that NE are beginning to overcome their problems.

3. The added value that a national body representing LAFs can bring.

- the EAF should be able to receive LAFs concerns, prioritise them and pass them on to NE for action.
- NE can not know the concerns of LAFs and the EAF can be the effective eyes and ears for NE. In addition, the EAF gives one downward path to inform LAFs through one central point.
- the EAF should represent LAFs to Government and to other national bodies.

4. The options for EAF's development.

- the EAF should continue in its present form.
- the EAF needs to be properly resourced. It should be remembered that all LAF members and LAF Chairmen are unpaid volunteers. LAF Chairmen put in many days work on behalf of Access in their locality and EAF members need to see that NE takes action when needed.

<ENDS>

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