

Local Access Forum (LAF) Annual Report Proforma

* Reporting year 2011 - 2012

* Name of LAF Shropshire

* Name of LAF secretary Jim Stabler

Review of Current reporting year

Were you successful in meeting the achievements set out in your Annual Report or LAF work programme? Please provide supporting information.

The LAF has continued to give advice to Shropshire Council successfully over the year

Work is on-going with the Outdoor Recreation Team in revising the ROWIP

We have not been successful in continuing work on unrecorded rights of way. Due to internal Council Cuts and reorganisations

* **How many Open Access Restriction cases have you been informed about/involved with?**

Nil

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

Red tape challenge from DEFRA

Shropshire Council Outdoor Recreation Survey

Independent panel on forestry.

Give up to three examples where you have encountered difficulties; explain what mechanisms could be put in place to alleviate this issue:

Main difficulty has been the production of important consultations such as the Natural England Environment white paper, over the summer period when the LAF does not meet. Greater membership of Huddle and our own Yammer system have helped to disseminate information more speedily.

There are often instances where consultations have been released and neither the LAF nor Natural England have been notified.

We miss the close relationship that we used to have with NE representation at nearly all the LAF meetings.

Do you have any issues with recruitment of members from particular interest groups? Does this hinder your work in any way?

We still are under-represented by young adults, ethnic minorities and cyclists. In reality this does not hinder work.

Comments from appointing authority

Shropshire Council has continued to work well with the LAF and the partnership has been successful and productive. We have recently introduced three regional walking forums that will look locally at improving access for all to the countryside. The walking forums report into the LAF before every meeting.

Forward Look

What are your priorities for next year (list up to 3)

Continue work to widen the interests of the membership
Sort out classification and recording of unclassified County roads - note this is a National problem
Update the ROWIP realising what can be achieved within current budgetary and manpower restraints
*What support/training will you need to be able to deliver these priorities?
Sort out classification and recording of unclassified County roads - note this is a National problem. We need this to be included as an agenda item at the Next National LAF conference
Do you perceive any barriers to delivering your priorities?
See above
Any other comments
The working relationship between the LAF and Shropshire Council has remained very good. The West Midlands Regional Meetings have proved successful and the passage and sharing of information has improved. The information passed by Rob Leek has been invaluable