



Devon Countryside Access Forum
c/o Public Rights of Way Team
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Mr D Eltham
Environment and Sustainability Policy Officer
Environment Group
Devon County Council
County Hall
Room 120
Exeter, EX2 4QD

26 January 2021

Dear Mr Eltham

Devon Interim Carbon Plan

The Devon Countryside Access Forum is a statutory local access forum set up under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000. Its members are volunteers, appointed by Devon County Council, to provide independent advice on “the improvement of public access to land for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment”. Section 94(4) of the Act specifies bodies to whom the Forum has a statutory function to give advice, one of which is councils.

The DCAF currently has fifteen members who represent the interests of landowners/managers, access users and other relevant areas of expertise such as conservation and tourism.

The Devon Countryside Access Forum discussed the Devon Interim Carbon Plan at its public meeting on 21 January. This response constitutes formal advice from the Forum and Devon County Council is required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the CRoW Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this Forum in carrying out its functions.

Members confined their brief discussion to the cycling and walking actions in the transport section of the plan. Members agreed that the key outcomes and associated priority actions outlined in the Plan are laudable.

The Forum advises that a further outcome and action should be added around safety. People using sustainable modes of transport (non-motorised users) should feel safe in

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the space that is made available to them. This is particularly critical in trying to achieve a change to reduced carbon emissions. Such vulnerable users need to feel confident that their journey is safe and that suitable safety audits have been carried out on newly designed or improved routes.

Feedback on this comment would be very welcome.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Hilary Winter.

Hilary Winter

Forum Officer

Letter sent on behalf of Devon Countryside Access Forum

Chair: Sarah Slade

Vice Chair: Chris Cole