



Devon Countryside Access Forum
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Environment and City Management
Exeter City Council
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26 January 2021

Dear [REDACTED]

Parks and Green Spaces Strategy Survey

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 Parks and Green Spaces strategy at its public meeting on 21 January. This response constitutes formal advice from the Forum and Exeter City 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 agreed that the strategy was laudable in terms of both the aims and actions detailed in the survey questions.

There were a few additional actions which the Forum would like to add:

a) Accessibility

The Devon Countryside Access Forum advises that there should be a specific

The Devon Countryside Access Forum is a local access forum. It is required, in accordance with Sections 94 and 95 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CRoW) Act 2000, to provide advice as to the improvement of public access to land for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment.

aim and action to improve accessibility for mobility scooter/wheelchair users and pushchair users across parks and green spaces within the City boundary. A copy of the Devon Countryside Access Forum's Disability Access position statement is attached for information.

b) Cross-boundary issues

Housing developments on the edge of Exeter, in Teignbridge and East Devon in particular, are likely to increase pressure on greenspace, in terms of development on existing accessible areas and population pressure. It is important to work with neighbouring authorities to ensure greenspace is created and improved across a wider area.

c) Engagement

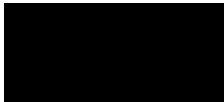
As well as working with landowners and partners, the Forum advises that an action should be to work with other organisations, such as the Devon Countryside Access Forum, who have an interest in improving access to greenspace. Public engagement should also be maintained in addition to working specifically with communities on sites.

The Forum notes the Hoopern Valley Park is not specifically mentioned in the strategy document and is interested to know whether it has been included with another park or green space area.

Feedback on these comments would be very welcome.

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

Yours sincerely



Hilary Winter

Forum Officer

Letter sent on behalf of Devon Countryside Access Forum

Chair: Sarah Slade

Vice Chair: Chris Cole