



Devon Countryside Access Forum

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Planning Policy Team
Torrridge District Council
Riverbank House
Bideford
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8 February 2017

Dear Sir/Madam

Revised draft Charging Schedule and Regulation 123 List consultation

The Devon Countryside Access Forum (DCAF) is a statutory local access forum established under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (CRoW Act 2000). Its specific remit is to provide independent advice on the “improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area.”

The Forum has sixteen voluntary members, appointed by Devon County Council, who represent the interests of land owners/managers, access users and other relevant concerns such as health and tourism.

At its recent public meeting, the DCAF supported the sections of the Regulation 123 list which would provide additional recreational access and greenspace and in particular:

- Transport infrastructure projects which would support the “Bideford to Westward Ho! Cycle link/Trail (BID08)” and the “provision/enhancement of footpath and cycleway linkages between existing settlements (Bideford and Great Torrington) and the Tarka Trail.”
- Strategic green space projects which would fund “provision of strategic green spaces and walking/cycling linkages within settlements.”

The Devon Countryside Access Forum, is required, in accordance with Sections 94 and 95 of the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000 (Local Access Forums), to advise on the improvement of public access to the countryside.

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The Forum is encouraged that these have been included in the Regulation 123 list and is pleased the economic and health benefits of the Tarka Trail are recognised. The Forum advises that landowners and land managers are consulted at the earliest stage on any proposals which might affect their land and is attaching its position statement on liaison with land managers. A position statement on disability access is being prepared and will be forwarded when available.

The DCAF notes that the Regulation 123 list does not make mention of “footpath/ cycleway linkages required to link new developments with strategic green space/Tarka Trail”, unlike the North Devon Council list. The Forum trusts these links could also be funded, through section 106 contributions or possibly CIL money. It would be helpful if you could provide feedback on this point.

Yours faithfully



Forum Officer
Devon Countryside Access Forum

Letter sent on behalf of the Devon Countryside Access Forum

Chair: Laura Leigh
Vice Chair: Chris Britton