

**WYRE FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**29<sup>th</sup> July 2009**

**Nominations for Outside Body**

**Worcestershire Local Access Forum**

**Background**

The Worcestershire Local Access Forum (WLAFF) consists of a number of people including ordinary members of the public interested in access issues, members of user groups, landowners, and people with a knowledge of particular sections of the population, together with Councilors both County Council and District Councillors.

The purpose of the group is to advise the County Council to take a broader view of access issues and policy. The objects, functions and responsibilities of the Worcestershire Local Access Forum are defined by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and all consequent secondary legislation and guidance.

Matters of special interest to the Forum include:

- Access to the public path network
- Access to the permissive path network
- Access to land (predominantly common land)
- Access to Section 15 Land (common land with schemes of management providing public access rights)
- Freely available access to other land which is not access land (e.g. environmental stewardship land)
- Access to country parks and picnic sites
- Land to which public access is available on a restricted or conditional basis being land which is or may be governed by a variety of terms e.g. National Trust Land.
- Sites to which access is available on a commercial basis
- Access to country parks and picnic sites
- Access to water and water courses including points where launching and landing may take place.
- The encouragement of responsible car parking in the countryside and the identification of locations where cars may be considerably parked for short periods.
- Applications for consent to carry out fencing and other works on common land
- Town and Village Greens
- Local bye laws concerned with land to which the public have access

- The provision of public open space within new developments
- The maintenance and provision of green corridors for the benefit of Nature Conservation on or associated with land to which the public have access in so far as it may help to enhance or improve the enjoyment of the access experience.
- The identification of special wildlife sites of all types and categories and the preservation and protection of the involved special interests in so far as they exist on land to which the public have access.
- The protection and preservation of heritage sites and ancient monuments in so far as they exist on land to which the public have access
- The development of land adjacent to land to which the public have access where the development is incompatible with the access ethos and diminishes the public enjoyment of access to such land or to the public path network and over land adjacent to it.

Each of the northern Districts in Worcestershire take turns in rotation to appoint a Councillor to sit on the Worcestershire Local Access Forum for a period of one year. The Forum meets four times a year and a nomination is required from Wyre Forest District Council for this municipal year. This falls within the responsibility of the Cabinet Member for Community and Partnerships.

**Recommended to Council: That the Cabinet Member for Community and Partnerships be nominated to represent the Council on the Wyre Forest Local Access Forum for a period of one year for 2009/2010.**