

Cheshire Local Access Forum



Mr John White, Chairman, Cheshire Local Access Forum c/o Public Rights of Way, Phoenix House, Clough Road, Winsford, Cheshire, CW7 4BD

OurRef: PROW/CLAF

Date: 12/08/2009

Dear Sir/Madam

COUNTRYSIDE AND RIGHTS OF WAY ACT 2000 - SECTION 94 INVITATION FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MEMBERS ON LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

I am writing to you on behalf of the Cheshire Local Access Forum (CLAF) to invite you or your organisation to encourage applications from suitable candidates for selection to vacancies to which we are currently recruiting.

The Cheshire and Warrington Local Access Forum was set up under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 has been meeting since September 2001. Following local government reorganisation the Forum now covers Cheshire, with Cheshire West and Chester Council and Cheshire East Council as the appointing authorities. The term of membership of current members of the Forum is expiring and the appointing authorities are now inviting applications from people who would be interested in contributing to the work of the Forum. It should be noted that members of the Forum, once appointed, will act in an individual capacity rather than as a representative of a particular organisation.

Detailed notes of the role and responsibilities of the Forum are enclosed, together with information about the qualities and experience sought in members of the Forum. The Forum is a statutory advisory body with a strategic role in advising Natural England, local authorities and National Park authorities on the improvement of public access to the countryside in their area, for open air recreation. The Forum also provides linkages to a wide range of plans and strategies which have implications for countryside access.

If you or others are interested in joining, please send a letter of application to me by the deadline of **5pm, Friday 9th October 2009**. The letter should indicate how the applicant considers their interests and experience would contribute to the work of the Forum. This should be done with reference to the explanatory notes. Interviews will take place on Monday 16th November 2009.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact either Denise Snelson or Genni Butler, Countryside Access Development Officers for the appointing authorities, on 01606 271801.

Yours sincerely

John White

Cheshire Local Access Forum

council*



CHESHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

RECRUITMENT EXPLANATORY NOTES

Introduction

The Cheshire and Warrington Local Access Forum has been meeting since September 2001. Membership of the Forum is being reviewed in line with Regulations published by the government in 2007 and, following local government reorganisation, the appointing authorities are now Cheshire West and Chester Council and Cheshire East Council. The appointing authorities are now inviting applications from people who would be interested in contributing to the work of the Forum.

Section 94 of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 places a duty on local highway authorities and National Park authorities to establish an advisory body to be known as a Local Access Forum. The notes below give information about the role, responsibilities, membership and organisation of the Local Access Forum, based on "The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations) 2007".

The joint local access forum covers the geographical area of Cheshire, excluding that part which falls within the Peak District National Park, which has a separate Forum.

Statutory role and responsibilities of the Forum

The Local Access Forum is a statutory advisory body with no executive functions. The Forum is a statutory adviser to the appointing authorities and to Natural England and the Peak District National Park Authority on the improvement of public access to land within their area for open air recreation and the enjoyment of the area.

The Forum is also a statutory consultee on any byelaws to be made in respect of land to which the public have a statutory right of access, on the appointment of any wardens for access land and on Rights of Way Improvement Plans for the area. The Forum must also be consulted on any proposals to restrict or exclude access to access land.

The advisory role of the Forum is wide ranging and it considers and comments on a variety of strategies prepared by the appointing authorities, including Cheshire's Community Strategy, Walking Strategy and Cultural Strategy. In addition, the Forum comments on government consultation documents relating to aspects of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 and other pertinent issues.