



Today's programme:

- 10 am Arrival and coffee
- 10.30 Welcome and Introduction to the day
- 10.45 How to be a great LAF
- 11.30 Refreshments
- 11.45 Green-infrastructure planning *Catherine Cairns, NE*
- 12.15 ROWIPs - making them happen *Stephen Jenkinson, TAC*
- 12.45 questions
- 13.00 **LUNCH**
- 13.45 Introduction to afternoon session
- 14.00 The LAF manual - *Ken Taylor, Asken*
- 14.20 Workshop session
- 15.30 Refreshments
- 15.45 summary session
- 16.00 depart

NATURAL ENGLAND



Today's aim:

To inspire and motivate LAF members with practical examples of good practice and useful advice from professionals & other LAF members... we have – and so can you!



Key issues & opportunities

- ***You are all consistently inconsistent!***
- ***You need to decide – and do – what's right for you***
- ***New opportunity for a stronger voice at a national level***
- ***Members' limited time and resources***
- ***Great potential for being a catalyst and making the connections that others aren't***
- ***You have come of age!***
- ***Time to more fully grasp your independence***

Revised Defra LAF guidance 2007

- *Essential reading!*
- *Gives lots of ideas and support*
- *Ammunition to help it become your LAF*
- *But then, much of the advice came from your family of LAFs..*



Giving advice to a range of “S94(4) bodies”

- any county, unitary, district or borough council within the LAF area
- the Secretary of State (in effect this means any Secretary of State – eg Defra, MoD, Planning Inspectorate, Highways Agency)
- Natural England
- the Forestry Commission
- English Heritage
- Parish and town the appointing authority(ies)
- councils
- Sport England
- AONB Conservation Boards



Emphasising status of LAF advice

*This letter constitutes formal advice from the [insert name of forum]...
[Insert name of relevant section 94(4)body] is required, in accordance with section 94(5) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, to have regard to relevant advice from this forum in carrying out its functions.*



Characteristics of an effective LAF

Influencing decision-makers

- **Influence** will be enhanced where a forum gains a reputation as a provider of **independent, constructive, relevant, inclusive, incisive** and **informed** advice.
- Forums should aim to give advice which informs, assists, encourages - and even inspires - the section 94(4) bodies.
- On occasion it may also be appropriate to give advice of a more cautionary or challenging or critical nature.



Characteristics of an effective LAF

Proactively advising

Forums should feel free to

- give advice without being asked or consulted;
- scrutinise and review the proposals, actions or policies, and make recommendations on the need for future action or policy development;
- ask section 94(4) bodies to assist the forum give advice (e.g. by providing information);
- ask to be consulted on a particular matter in the future;
- request feedback



Characteristics of an effective LAF

Prioritise and focus on strategic issues

LAFs should prioritise & focus time on issues which:

- have wider relevance across the local area;
- have a potential impact on more people (directly or indirectly);
- lie at the heart of access and open-air recreation policy and management in the area;
- generate a high level public interest;
- the forum regard as important to the local area in some other way (e.g. in relation to the economic benefits or tourism).



Characteristics of an effective LAF

Measure its effectiveness

LAF members will want to ensure the time and effort invested in the forum is worthwhile and makes a positive contribution.

It is recommended forums agree a set of criteria against which to measure their effectiveness.

Measures of effectiveness might include:

- amount, relevance and range of advice given;
- feedback from section 94(4) bodies;
- assessing advice has made a difference.



Characteristics of an effective LAF

Accommodates business between meetings

Depending on the issue, the LAF can decide to:

- Hold an extraordinary meeting of the forum (or a sub-group)
- Use previous advice or a pre-agreed position statement to provide adequate or interim advice;
- respond at all to certain consultations (e.g. national consultations on issues which have limited impact on the local area); or
- Agree that the chairman (or members) of a forum will express views in a personal capacity.



Characteristics of an effective LAF

Uses sub-groups

Sub-groups can be a useful way to manage the LAF's work and make best use of members' time

- The purpose (and status) of such a meeting should be agreed beforehand.
- If the meeting will lead to the direct submission of advice to a section 94(4) body, it needs to be conducted in full accordance with the regulations.
- A meeting which doesn't comply with statutory requirements should report its deliberations should back to the next forum meeting.

