



South Lincolnshire and Rutland

Local (Countryside) Access Forum

Keith Ireland
Chief Executive
Lincolnshire County Council
County Offices
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Lincoln
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Dear Keith

REORGANISATION OF LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS FOR LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

As Chairman of the South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access Forum, I write to you on behalf of the Forum to raise the future organisation of local access forums in Lincolnshire.

As you are aware, local access forums are statutory bodies with powers to advise local authorities on their duties towards the provision of public access to land for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area. This role is specified in section 94(4) of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

In Lincolnshire, there are two local access forums, which cover Mid-Lincolnshire; and South Lincolnshire and Rutland. The Mid-Lincolnshire Local Access Forum also includes North East Lincolnshire. The South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access Forum also includes Rutland.

At its recent meeting, the South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access Forum was advised that a review was being undertaken on the future structure of the forums in Lincolnshire. The reason for the review was that since 2003 the Countryside Service had seen a reduction in the staffing resource available to support the forums; membership of the forums had reduced over recent years; and it was becoming increasingly difficult to achieve a balance of members, both geographically and in terms of representation of users, landowners and other interests.

Working with Lincolnshire County Council and Rutland County Council to improve access to the countryside

Secretary - Cheryl Hall, Democratic Services Officer, Lincolnshire County Council, County Offices, Lincoln LN1 1YL
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Chairman
Ray Wootten

www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/countryside

Secretary
Cheryl Hall

The Forum recommended to Lincolnshire County Council the establishment of a single Local Access Forum for Lincolnshire which may, or may not include North East Lincolnshire Council depending on the decision of North East Lincolnshire Council.

The Forum also requested that the Public Rights of Way Officer of Rutland County Council gives consideration to the arrangements for its own local access forum covering the Rutland area.

In the meantime, the current administrative arrangements for the Forums would continue to the next annual general meetings to allow the proposals to be examined further.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Wootten', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Councillor Ray Wootten

Chairman of the South Lincolnshire and Rutland Local Access Forum

(Email: CIrR.Wootten@lincolnshire.gov.uk)