



30 OCT 2006

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Nadrid Farm
South Molton
Devon
EX36 3EJ
29th October 2006

Dear Martin,

Thank you for your last letter dated 16th October referring to the next LAF meeting. There are a couple of items which I would like to raise at the next meeting

I take reference from your letter dated 13th September. I am disappointed that the National Park Authority did not accept the LAF's recommendation ~~on~~ in Minute 22(1) (page 6) concerning asking Somerset County Council to speed up its processes to complete definitive map modification orders on Restricted Byways within the National Park. I understand that one of the primary purposes of a National Park is to enhance access to the countryside for everyone. It seems to me that the Authority has made an ill informed decision driven by prejudice and indifference. Maybe someone from the National Park Authority could explain the purpose of the Local Access Forum if the Authority ignores advice given by an advisory forum. This is particularly galling given that the final wording was so carefully prepared in a manner so that everyone was in agreement.

The second item that I would like to raise also takes reference from your letter dated

13th September. The Exmoor Society considers that decisions taken by the LAF are not credible due to apparently poor attendance by LAF members at recent meetings. I note that although the attendance was only around half of the LAF membership on 9th August, the different membership categories and user groups were in my opinion well represented.

I feel that the LAF should make it quite clear to the Exmoor Society that we are a group made up of volunteers who juggle our LAF duties ~~in bet~~ inbetween jobs, harvest, lambing and family life. I suggest that if the LAF is not considered credible then maybe the forum does not have a role to play within Exmoor National Park.

To close my letter I put forward the suggestion that Exmoor National Park Authority and The Exmoor Society are outdated and stuck in the rut left by their own self importance. I think that they should both be disbanded and Exmoor should be conserved by those who own, love and work upon the moor in the manner that they have done for generations.

I trust that this letter will be circulated to other Local Access Forum members.

Yours

Sincerely

J.L. Hooper

Jason Hooper.