MEMBER SELECTION CRITERIA

FOR CORNWALL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

The Cornwall Countryside Access Forum comprises Members who have a wide range of relevant interests and expertise. Regulations require that a balance is achieved between the number of Members representing the two main interests – users of the rights of access and rights of way, and owners or occupiers of access land or land crossed by rights of way. They also encourage the representation of other interests especially relevant to the local area, such as wildlife conservation, protection of historic buildings, tourism, sport and recreation, health, outdoor education and local business interests.

The appointment of Members initially for a mixture of one, two and three years has allowed for the staggered replacement of Members over time, so providing continuity to the Forum. Roughly a third of posts become vacant every year. Members are currently appointed for a period of three years and are eligible for reappointment for a further three years. Members are sought who can bring a broad range of experience, including that of:

- general recreational use, e.g. walking, riding, cycling, limited mobility access;
- land management, e.g. farming, forestry, common land management;
- land ownership, e.g. landowners, occupiers and tenants; and
- wildlife conversation, protection of historic buildings, tourism, sport and active recreational pursuits (such as climbing, fishing), health, outdoor education, the military and local business interests.

Prospective candidates should be able to demonstrate a commitment to encouraging greater access to the countryside in their private or professional lives and also to demonstrate how they would wish to use their skills and experience to improve countryside access provision in Cornwall.

Guidance from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs encourages authorities to take account of the needs of young people, women and people on low incomes, and to seek representation from people with disabilities. Representation in any category from at least one individual with experience of the needs of the disabled will be strongly encouraged.

Secretarial support to the Forum is provided by the Council. Electronic communication with Forum Members is extensively used and so the ability to work electronically is therefore highly desirable.