

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

DETAILED CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Key Competencies

1. Ability to communicate with, and listen to representations from, landowners and recreational users of the countryside.
2. Willingness to participate in discussions, present a viewpoint, and listen to viewpoints of others, with the intention of making a balanced decision at a public meeting.
3. Willingness to broker or consider a suitable compromise where there may be unresolved conflict of opinion between members of the Forum.

Work Experience

In the interest of a broad based membership it would be desirable for members to have a range of appropriate interests from, preferably, at least two of the categories below.

1. To be a user of local rights of way, or to have been involved in any projects involving the rights of way network, and to be representative of access and rights of way users within the county.
2. To be a landowner, occupier or manager of land within the county, which is, or has the potential to be, affected by rights of way or open access land.
3. To have been involved in any aspect of land management or recreational use within any of the Mendip, Quantock or Blackdown Hills AONBs.
4. To be representative of any minority groups, less able users, or potential users, of the countryside.
5. To be involved in any Educational or Health projects or groups that would have an interest in the Rights of Way Network or Open Access land within the county.
6. To be involved in a rural or tourist business that would have an interest in access to the countryside.
7. To be involved in any aspects of nature conservation, heritage or transport which are impacted upon by, or have an impact on, the local rights of way network and access to the countryside.

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Knowledge

1. To be aware of the wide range of differing interests represented on the Forum and the differing needs of these groups.

Qualifications

1. No formal qualifications are required.

Personal Characteristics

1. To be enthusiastic about the rights of way network and access to the countryside within the county, and to be positive about any changes which may facilitate improved access.
2. To be able to respect local circumstances and different interests while operating within national guidance.
3. To be able to enter into a broad based consideration of issues affecting the future direction and scope of access to the countryside within Somerset.
4. To be willing to play a full and constructive part in the work of the Local Access Forum and to serve for an initial period of between one and three years.