Date: March 4th
Our ref: Shrops LAF
Your ref: DEW

Attingham Park
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Shropshire
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T 0300 060 0684
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Mr D E Wise
Shropshire LAF Secretary
Shropshire County Council
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury SY2 6ND

SHROPSHIRE CC
-5 MAR 2009

Dear Mr Wise

England Access Forum

Thank you for your letter of 17 February about the England Access Forum.(EAF) and your concerns that the meetings are not open to the public. I have consulted with my national colleagues who act as the secretariat for the EAF.

They have informed me that the EAF is as open as practically possible. Local Access Forums are invited to suggest items for the EAF meetings, can contribute to papers and suggest regional representation for the EAF. LAF's have access to all the papers of the meetings in advance, the minutes and other data collected. Furthermore LAF's can contribute to data collection for any relevant issue they decide to investigate, e.g. Gating Orders.

I hope this answers your concerns but please contact me if you wish to discuss further. Alternatively, I am happy to discuss the EAF at the next Shropshire LAF meeting.

Yours sincerely

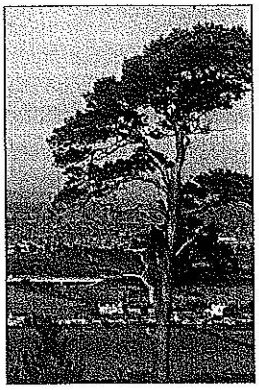
J. Felton

Jonathan Felton

Senior Specialist Access and Recreation

Phone; 0300 060 0563

Shropshire Local Access Forum



Dr H Phillips
Chief Executive
Natural England
1 East Parade
Sheffield,
S1 2ET

17 February 2009

My ref	Your ref	Tel (01743)	Fax (01743)	Please ask for
DEW/		252726	252713	Mr Wise

Dear Dr Phillips

ENGLAND ACCESS FORUM

At the last meeting of the Shropshire Local Access Forum members were concerned that meetings of this body are not open to the public.

The Forum agreed that representations should be made that such meetings should be open to the public.

Local Access Forums are required to have their agendas and supporting papers available for public inspection (which can be accessible on websites), so what is the justification for the parent body being treated differently with only the minutes of meetings being publicly available?

Yours sincerely

Secretary

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Shropshire COUNTY COUNCIL