

# What can Huddle do for you?

## *The User Friendly Network site for Local Access Forums*



**Direct Contact with the Defra Minister Richard Benyon** – the Minister has committed to hosting discussion events through Huddle so you can put your questions directly to him.

**Links with other Forums** – you can invite specific LAFs to join your discussion or see a whiteboard (this is a notice board where you can post links to interesting articles or information). This means you have a wider network than just your Region. Coastal LAFs can make links, Urban or Upland LAFs can establish their own groups to share similar issues. The possibilities are endless.

**Advice** - use the Discussion or Whiteboard Tabs to pose questions. Your answer may come from DEFRA, Natural England, a local authority or another LAF. Use the People Tab to find an expert to ask (each person who is registered on Huddle has a 'profile' in which they can let others know their skills and experience).



**Collaborative working** – use the File Tab to work on a document together, get the support of other LAFs to hone your work. Want to make a joint response with several LAFs then use the File Tab to work together.

**Mentoring** – need a bit of extra support with a tricky response, ask a LAF who has dealt with a similar issue to support you.

**Keep up to date with new advice, guidance, legislation** – use the Whiteboard Tab to post any information which you feel would be relevant and share it with other LAFs

**Create an online central library** - Upload your documents and presentations to the File Tab and create a central library of specialised information.

**Access to information** – save time by not reinventing the wheel – where you have a problem or situation, you can search for documents and read how other people have tackled a similar issue. Providing you with the opportunity to search, read, adapt and apply the knowledge to your own situation.

**Check what's new** – Check out the 'What's new' section for the latest discussions and file updates. We will be setting protocols to ensure that you only get alerted to things that may interest you so you shouldn't get unwanted automated emails.

**Convenient** – reduce your travelling needs as you can do all these amazing things from the comfort of your own home.

**Reviewed and improved** – Natural England will be monitoring its use and we have put together a small group of people including LAF members, Regional Coordinators and internal staff to listen to your feedback and make sure that it fulfils your needs.