

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum
Thursday 28th September 2017
Carmarthen Leisure Centre, Carmarthen, 6pm

Present:

Members:

Mark Hadley (MH) – LAF Chair
Karen Burch (KB) – LAF vice Chair
Jillie Gardiner (JG)
Glyn Evans (GE)
Caroline Evans (CE)
Geoff Williams (GW)
Keith Morgan (KM)

Secretary (interim)

Lucy Pugh (LP) - CCC Acting Countryside Access Officer)

Advisors/ Observers/Speakers/Members of the Public

Cliff Cleaton (CC) - CCC Acting Countryside Access Manager
Phil Snaith (PS) – Carmarthenshire Cycling Forum
Martin Murray (MM) - (CCC Maint Rep)
Anne Marshall (AM) – Member of Public
Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths (PHG) – CCC Executive Board Member
Paul Barrett (PB) – Llanelli Ramblers

Apologies (Members)

Jane Evans (JE)
Richard Leggett (RL)
David Stacey (DS)
Ed Percy (EP)

Apologies (Advisors/Observers)

Simon Charles (SC) - CCC

*CCC in these minutes refers to Carmarthenshire County Council

ITEM	ACTION
Items 1 - Welcome & Introduction MH welcomed all to the meeting and introduced Paul Barratt to members.	
Item 2 - New Members/Resignations None.	
Item 3 - Apologies Apologies were taken and recorded.	

<p>Item 4 - Consideration and Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting</p> <p>The minutes were checked and agreed.</p> <p>LP will send for translation and publish on website.</p>	<p>LP</p>
<p>Item 5 - Matters Arising from Minutes</p> <p>Item 4 – Morfa Bychan TRO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MH – TRO was intended to be from March to October, but due to delay in processing is now Aug to Feb. • MH – requested agenda item for next meeting. • GW – regrettable that the opportunity was missed to have the TRO through the summer and hopes/requests that it is done in time next year. <p>Item 16 – LAF Annual Report to be signed off and circulated.</p>	<p>LP</p>
<p>Item 6 – Twyi Valley Path</p> <p>KB gave an update on her meeting, which was mainly about exploring equestrian opportunities. It was disheartening that the same excuses are made by council staff looking at cycle access as was ten years ago, particularly regarding width and surface, and landowners not wanting horses on the path. She suggested that from talking to affected landowners the bias is not from the landowner at all but a lack of support for multi user access on behalf of the authority.</p> <p>MM queried if staff would be dedicated for maintenance of the path.</p> <p>CC – Steve Pilliner now has control over Highways and Public Rights of Way (apart from PRow Maintenance – still with Leisure).</p> <p>MH – will raise at HoS meeting that maintenance of created routes needs to be determined.</p> <p>MH – would like to see full Tywi Valley Path report and will request at HoS meeting.</p> <p>CE – need to keep pushing for the path to link with Llandeilo railway station.</p> <p>KB – still need clarification of the official route status of the proposed Tywi Valley Trail.</p> <p>GW – any permissive sections would not be suitable for Ramblers’ Guided Walks as wouldn’t be covered by insurance.</p>	<p>MH</p> <p>MH</p>
<p>Item 7 – Brechfa Wind Farm</p> <p>MH read out email update provided by Jason Lawday.</p>	

<p>CE – no information is forthcoming regarding funding.</p> <p>KB – are new routes mapped and available?</p> <p>AM – maps are available at Keepers, but are not very clear. There is a website with more details.</p> <p>MH requested clarification of website and maps – CE to provide contact.</p> <p>CC – Jason Lawday is in talks about PRow improvements. Again, ongoing maintenance needs to be considered.</p> <p>MH – any works to be done must be where people want it!</p>	<p>CE / MH</p>
<p>Item 8 – County Walks Review</p> <p>MM gave handouts and overview of how County Walks developed.</p> <p>General discussion that maybe paper maps / leaflets is old-fashioned and that smartphone apps would be the way forward. The Discover Carmarthenshire website needs to be improved as very difficult to find promoted walk leaflets on there.</p> <p>GW queried renewal of leaflets.</p> <p>MM explained updated style of leaflets.</p> <p>CE – People without internet access would still need paper maps.</p> <p>KB – Leaflets are more practical to carry than OS maps.</p> <p>MH – Definitely still a need for paper leaflets with maps.</p> <p>GW – Llandovery Tourist Info Office use a lot of leaflets.</p> <p>KB asked if the County Walks were decided at a particular point, or added to over time.</p> <p>MM – added to, and reviewed over time.</p> <p>KB – has demand for the routes changed?</p> <p>MM – TICs are good outlets for leaflets. If there are no relevant outlets for the leaflets, it can be difficult to promote the routes.</p> <p>GE – Bronwydd – diversion has been agreed. Why haven't the permissive routes been maintained?</p> <p>MM – Priority is to maintain registered routes, not permissive routes.</p> <p>MH – Is it sensible to be creating new routes when we can't maintain existing routes?!</p>	

<p>GW – more and more walk leaders are coming back and saying that paths are not accessible due to issues.</p> <p>PS – Tywi Valley Path should be relatively easy to maintain if well-constructed.</p> <p>CE – The Visit Wales theme for next year is “Year of the Sea”.</p> <p>MM – We now have a Coastal Path Officer, funded by NRW!</p> <p>GW – Does he come with a budget though?</p> <p>MM – A certain amount...</p> <p>MH – Maintenance team should consider pooling their resources with Tourism and Marketing for Promoted Walks.</p>	
<p>Item 9 – LAF Members Recruitment</p> <p>There is no representation on the LAF for less abled people, nor from NRW.</p> <p>MH to invite NRW.</p> <p>CC to ask Chief Exec’s contact for suggestions for less abled representation.</p>	<p>MH</p> <p>CC</p>
<p>Item 10 – Countryside Access Team Recruitment</p> <p>CC – Officer post is awaiting interview. Searches Assistant post is out to advert with an agency staff member currently in place. A consultant will be used to assist with some Orders.</p> <p>MH – Can the person doing the Searches ensure that planning consultations are forwarded to the LAF via MH?</p>	<p>LP</p>
<p>Item 11 – PROW Network Issues Report</p> <p>Issues reports were circulated around the table.</p> <p>KB – can route status be added?</p>	<p>LP</p>
<p>Item 12 – ROWIP Update</p> <p>CC gave update – still out to consultation currently. Generally is still on track. Draft to be sent to LAF as soon as it’s available.</p>	<p>CC</p>
<p>Item 13 – Issues to take to Heads of Service Meeting</p> <p>PHG to attend.</p> <p>MH confirmed date of meeting (20th Oct) and outlined the issues to be raised:</p>	

- Staffing levels
- Increase in number of legal issues
- MoU discussion
- Tywi Valley Path – copy of report requested & future maintenance strategy?
- Brechfa wind farm – where is the money going – should be consulted upon.

PS suggested that funding is apportioned by length of network for roads and cycle tracks – “block grant”.

KB queried how much the Rights of Way / Countryside budget had been cut by.

KB – the LAF should consider having an equestrian strategy.

JG suggested that KB should outline to HoS timescales in which issues need to be sorted.

MM – urban footpaths would be best maintained by Highways rather than RoW section.

PHG – HoS meeting should decide who maintains what, and the remit of Town and Community Councils with regards to paths.

Item 14 Future Agenda Items

- Morfa Bychan TRO
- Equestrian Strategy
- Brechfa Wind Farm
- ROWIP Draft
- TRO Process

Item 15 - AOB

Nant Gronw

AM – Nant Gronw needs maintenance.

MM asked if NRW had been contacted to request maintenance?

AM – no – didn’t know who to contact.

MM gave brief history of Nant Gronw. NRW contact for maintenance is Russell Jones.

KB – signage from road pointing into the parking area has gone.

CC – NRW are responsible for that signage.

MH – Maybe NRW could send a representative to future LAF meetings?

Shooting at Whitemill

MH updated the LAF that Jason Lawday is dealing with this issue.

Wales Management of Sustainable Resources Consultation

MH – It would be appropriate for the LAF to respond to the sections on ROWIP and structure of LAF, and other members to respond individually according to their area of interest.

JG to return LAF's response.

KB – horse riders want different things to landowners when it comes to riding on footpaths.

CC outlined BBNP's response – that it is a nice idea in principle, but implementation would be difficult.

MM – a huge amount of money would be needed.

It was generally agreed that user groups would have to agree on specific routes that were suitable rather than a carte blanche approach.

CE – footpaths through graveyards shouldn't be available to horse riders and cyclists – should be places of peace and quiet contemplation.

MH read out a suggested response by Richard Leggett covering all points.

JG – Need more definition on what "parks and gardens" are when it comes to ROWIP.

PS – should extended use of footpaths (by cyclists and horse riders) be an opt-in or an opt-out system?

JG – should the ROWIP have a statutory status within the planning system?

JG will send draft response out for comment – to be returned by Sat AM and submitted by Sat PM.

Members / JG

Item 18 Next meeting

7th December 2017 – Twyi Centre, Llandeilo

Venue, date & time published on website:

<http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/leisure-outdoor-activities/public-rights-of-way/local-access-forum/>