

**Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Carmarthen Leisure Centre, 6pm**

**Present:**

**Members:**

Mark Hadley (MH) Chair  
Karen Burch (KB) Deputy Chair  
Dai Stacey (DS)  
Richard Leggett (RL)  
Michael Jones (MJ)  
Gerald Brown (GB)  
Glyn Evans (GE)  
Paul Barrett (PB)

**Secretary (interim)**

Caroline Ferguson - CCC (Acting Countryside Access Manager)

**Advisors/ Observers/Speakers/Members of the Public**

Jason Lawday – CCC Countryside Access Officer  
Russell Jones - NRW  
Andy Firth – TRF  
Peter Jones – TRF  
Sian Jones - TRF

**Apologies:** Cllr Hazel Evans, Cllr Hughes-Griffiths, Ian Jones (CCC), Martin Murray (CCC), Caroline Evans, Geoff Williams, Allan Haskins, Glyn Jones (NRW), Tony Rooney.

\*CCC in these minutes refers to Carmarthenshire County Council

| ITEM   | ACTION    |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Items 1 - Welcome &amp; Introduction</b><br><br>MH welcomed all to the meeting<br>and those present (as above) gave a round table introduction  |           |
| <b>Item 2 – New Members/Resignations</b><br><br>Mo Rapley’s application to join the LAF was read out. She was elected onto the LAF, proposed by MH and seconded by DS<br><br>Mo to be notified | <b>CF</b> |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Item 3 –Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies taken and recorded.</p>   |   |
| <p><b>Item 4 – Consideration and approval of minutes from 2 x LAF meetings held on the 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2018</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> minutes approved – no changes<br/> 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes – alterations made to minutes during meeting as identified by members. GW made request for amendments to minutes by email, these will be made before submission to translation.</p>  | <p><b>CF</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Item 5 – Matters arising from previous minutes</b></p> <p><u>Item 7 – Minutes</u></p> <p>RL - query raised as to why no minutes have been put onto the LAF website since September 2017</p> <p>CF explained that this had been the result of a delay in translation services. Suggested that minutes could be circulated electronically to secure translation and publication on website earlier.</p> <p>Suggestion approved by forum and will be taken forward</p> <p>PB – stated that it appeared that an incorrect link to the Annual Report had been put up which takes you to 2007-2017 ROWIP.</p> <p>Needs to be corrected</p> <p><u>Item 9 - NRW</u></p> <p>MH is to check for an email that was sent to NRW (Glyn Jones)</p> <p>RJ - NRW meeting between Jane Evans BHS Rep and NRW is for BHS only</p> <p>MH - proposed that it be investigated whether or not a similar dedicated meeting be set up with NRW and LAF</p> <p>RJ said that he would look into the proposal, but could not see that it would present a problem. He would take the matter up with Glyn.</p> <p><u>Item 9 – LAF Chairs Meeting</u></p> <p>August LAF Chairs’ meeting was cancelled. No date for reconvening the meeting has been set.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CF</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CF</b></p> |

Item 10 - Bridleways Report

CF circulated the report and plan in its current form

KB will arrange a meeting Lucy Pugh (LP) to discuss the claim and any further details required with a view to progressing the report content, and presenting it to the LAF at the next meeting.

MH enquired of the possibility having a similar map and report for BOATs?

CF suggested that this is achievable, although gathering the evidence and information together would be more difficult as details of BOATs are spread between Highways and PRow

GB would Roman Roads be in the report?

CF – not unless registered as BOATs

MH has some information available from research that he has undertaken himself regarding historic public roads. He will provide this to GB

RL asked whether it was possible for the BBNP to provide similar information on their issues.

CF confirmed that BBNP will be starting to produce reports in this vein in the New Year, format unknown but will provide sufficient detail for LAF.

Item 18 - Glastir

RL - could NRW present information on Glastir to LAF?

JG –Glastir would be subject to change after BREXIT, WG consultation due imminently.

RJ – has no involvement in Glastir Scheme, will find out relevant person and let us know

GB – Glastir will continue post Brexit as many farmers are midway through the 5 year scheme

JL - CAMS shows Glastir Farms

DS – number of access issues coming out of Glastir seems small.

CF - LP can show Glastir layer during CAMS demonstration (to be in the December meeting after CAMS update in October).

**MH**

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <p><b>Item 6 – Countryside Access Legal &amp; Maint Teams Update</b></p> <p>CF confirmed that the staffing levels were unchanged from June meeting.</p> <p>The merging of maintenance and legal sections is imminent. The EBM will be Cllr Hazel Evans –</p> <p>MH requested to ask her to attend the next LAF and HoS meeting.</p> <p>PB - are we losing a Ranger?</p> <p>CF - Don't have official details yet, possibly.</p>  | <p><b>CF</b></p> |
| <p><b>Item 7 - Consultant update</b></p> <p>JL - for those not aware, CCC using consultant to help (agreed during low staff period), allocated funds not fully spent.<br/>Report for Cardi Bach produced by consultant with recommendation.<br/>Matter taken to EBM decision meeting, decision will be published within 5 days.</p> <p>MH – should the LAF have been consulted by Burchill?</p> <p>JL – not yet – still at informal stage</p> <p>JL – Consultant has now moved onto Edwinstford BOAT which has alignment/status anomalies</p> <p>PJ – has used route.</p> <p>KB – has ridden route</p> <p>RL – The registered route has stiles and steps, not useable</p> <p>CF – this is why the route is being investigated.</p> <p>CF - There is a limit to spend for the Consultant but we hope to continue to use her until the approved budget runs out.</p> <p>JG – What is archive situation?</p> <p>JL - The majority of the archive material is now available, but not currently stored in Carmarthenshire. Most appears to be held in the Glamorgan Archive, in Cardiff, with some held in the Pembrokeshire Archive, in Haverfordwest. Although it is good that the materials are now available, the locations mean that it can take longer to access. It also appears that some documents are missing or miss-filed. The Finance Act maps and schedule books will be in Haverfordwest in the next few weeks.</p> |                  |

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <p><b>Item 8 – Issues Report</b></p> <p>RL – had produced an analysis of the figures in the issues reports that had been circulated. He spoke briefly about his analysis which had also been circulated. Maintenance issues outstanding have been broadly stable. Legal issues continue to rise. Longstanding (over 3 years) issues are over half total.</p> <p>CF – legal issues being reported can be attributed to highways network meetings and better reporting generally – valuable information but creates data that appears negative. Hopeful that Decembers figures will be better, given staffing.</p> <p>MH – can we say how many issues are from public and how many self-generated?</p> <p>CF/JL – Don’t know for sure</p> <p>MH – can we find out?</p> <p>Check with LP</p> <p>RL Concerned over number of missing signposts; without PRoW signage the public lack confidence to walk footpaths. This creates a vicious cycle that paths aren't walked, so fall into disrepair, so people then find that paths are difficult to walk.</p> <p>MH – improving signage maybe an education exercise with all</p> <p>RL – Losing National requirement for PIs is a shame, National LAF’s should raise this to put pressure on minister to reinstate.</p> <p>MH – LAF chair of chairs meeting agenda item suggestion</p> | <p><b>CF</b></p> <p><b>MH</b></p> |
| <p><b>Item 9 – Penstacan Proposal</b></p> <p>JL- Outlined Penstacan case to group</p> <p>MH wanted research and results explained</p> <p>JL gave explanation of legal process behind many BOAT registrations and problems surrounding Penstacan. Change in case law (Reubinstein) allows the case to move forward, so JL commenced with new investigation and research process to resolve “no through route” issue. New consultation</p> <p>MH concerned this may set a precedent in BOAT reclassification.</p> <p>JL – this is unique to Penstacan in level of available documentation. No others we are aware of in same position.</p> <p>MH – Can LAF make a shared representation? Can they agree?</p> <p>KB – Agrees LAF unlikely to reach agreement, horse riders will be made aware of consultation</p> <p>RL – Propose that case be put to individual groups, LAF won’t make a representation.</p>   |                                   |

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <p>All Agreed.</p> <p>** Remove from Agenda</p>   |                  |
| <p><b>Item 10 – Heads Of Service Meeting</b></p> <p>Forthcoming meeting on Nov 7<sup>th</sup>. Group came up with suggested agenda items:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continued use of consultant(s)</li> <li>2. Issue reports</li> <li>3. ROWIP</li> <li>4. TVP</li> <li>5. BOAT funding – Highway contribution?</li> <li>6. Speed of LAF minutes &amp; other LAF documents being translated and appearing on website</li> <li>7. Delegation Agreement</li> <li>8. Rural Affairs Conference, all things countryside / any invites?</li> <li>9. BOATS and ORPAS Mapping exercise</li> <li>10. Volunteers</li> </ol> | <p><b>CF</b></p> |
| <p><b>Item 11 - ROWIP</b></p> <p>CF updated group – ROWIP draft has been approved at CMT, now must go to Pre Exec Board on October 8<sup>th</sup> and Exec Board later in the month to be signed off. If it is signed off with no amendments it can be translated and will go out to 12 week statutory consultation, hopefully through Dec, Jan and Feb.</p> <p>Loosely aiming for March 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 for completion (end of 2018 financial year) but consultation responses will dictate how promptly the document can be finalised and published.</p>   |                  |
| <p><b>Item 12 – Recreational Access to Water, ROWIP &amp; LAF Representation</b></p> <p>MH read out letter received from Canoe Wales</p> <p>CF - Recreational access to water within the remit of ROWIP so we will need to incorporate some reference to it within our revised plan after it has been out to consultation.</p> <p>MH – We should go back to Steve and ask who represents Carms?</p> <p>JG - Should fishermen be involved?</p> <p>DS – would be disagreements between fishermen and canoeists, rowers etc.</p> <p>RL - for Canoe Wales to suggest possible member for Carms LAF?</p> <p>CF – Also ROWIP consultee?</p> |                  |

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <p>MH Same applied to fishing clubs/groups, need a LAF member and ROWIP consultee</p> <p>Canoe Wales can be a consultee for the ROWIP and they can put forward relevant members for LAF membership and/or consultations if they have any.</p>   | <b>CF/Capita</b> |
| <p><b>Item 13 – Tywi Valley Path update (TVP)</b></p> <p>MH raised questions re: budget and timescales, the written update did not provide answers</p> <p>KB – we need more detail on ongoing maintenance arrangements</p> <p>KB - is it all on road so far?</p> <p>DS – no, uses a section of quiet unclassified road but largely off road.</p> <p>JL –works complete to Whitemill filling station</p> <p>JG – are cyclists being directed along roads?</p> <p>DS – one quiet lane section, not the A40.</p> <p>MH – Can we ask that Sam attend next LAF to present project so far?</p> <p>CF – something to raise at next Heads of Service meeting.</p> <p>DS – all additional activity as a result of TVP will generate health benefits for the population</p> <p>CF – also another attraction for visitors to Carmarthenshire</p> |                  |
| <p><b>Item 14 BOATs and ORPAs</b></p> <p>MH has not taken matter further forward since June.</p> <p>Possible date for first meeting 21<sup>st</sup> November 2018 at MMWP 12 pm. Meeting room needs to be booked and invite sent once venue confirmed.</p> <p>MH - Who would like to be involved? Need horse-riding, motorbike 4x4 representatives...</p> <p>(1) <b>RL</b><br/> (2) <b>MH</b><br/> (3) <b>KB</b><br/> (4) <b>JG</b><br/> (5) <b>PJ</b><br/> (6) <b>MJ</b><br/> (7) <b>Llanelli Ramblers Representative</b><br/> (8) <b>CCC Representative - JL</b></p>  | <b>CF</b>        |

|   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <p>PJ – attitude towards motorised users elsewhere is better. Isle of Man, motorbikes permitted on all routes which helps keep them clear. Users should all help each other.</p> <p>JG – trail bikes could do condition surveys quickly</p> <p>MH/KB both stated they would need agreed survey forms.</p> <p>MH – need a meeting first to start the process.</p> <p>RL – do we have ORPAs on CAMS to interrogate as part of exercise? Should highways attend?</p> <p>CF - ORPA's are on a CAMS layer but they are not definitive as it is not the relevant legal record and there is no data held against them that can be interrogated.</p> <p>MH – Highways should be brought in at a later date if it is felt they are needed.</p> <p>JG Highways should be notified of exercise</p> <p>CF – Will add to Heads of Service agenda for notification purposes.</p> <p>MH will tidy up his spreadsheet re BOAT network before group meeting and send to KB in advance.</p> |                                   |
| <p><b>Item 15 – Volunteers</b></p> <p>CF read out Maintenance update re: volunteers provided in MM's absence.</p> <p>CF added information about the recent volunteer arrangement set up with Pride in Your Patch and Keep Wales Tidy. Too early to report on success but is a promising scheme.</p> <p>TRF may be interested in volunteering as a group.</p> <p>MM to follow up – contact PJ</p>  | <p><b>MM</b></p>                  |
| <p><b>Item 16 – Bridges</b></p> <p>CF read out Maintenance update re: bridges provided in MM's absence.</p> <p>MH – can a table of proposed bridge works with grid refs be provided to LAF?</p> <p>KB – can maintenance provide method of how to request bridges for LAF?</p>   | <p><b>MM</b></p> <p><b>MM</b></p> |
| <p><b>Item 17 – WCP</b></p> <p>CF read out Maintenance update re: WCP provided in MM's absence.</p> <p>DS – roadside 'light up' signs are not working</p>   |                                   |

Needs to be reported to Traffic Management as they are responsible for the signs

**CF**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Item 18 – Future Agenda Items</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CAMS Demo (LP)</li> <li>2. Rural affairs presentation (NRW)</li> <li>3. Canoe Wales – possible attendance</li> <li>4. Tywi Valley Path Presentation (SP)</li> <li>5. Pembrey Double Yellow Lines</li> <li>6. Brechfa Windfarm Public Liability Insurance (RJ)</li> </ol>  |   |
| <p><b>Item 19 – AOB</b></p> <p>MH – congratulates Carms on organisation surrounding Tour of Britain</p> <p>CF will pass onto Highways and Transport team</p> <p>CF will circulate written maintenance updates read out during meeting for info</p> <p>KB – Pembrey Country Park double yellow lines, can't park having purchased permit from NRW</p> <p>MH – Propose LAF supports horse riders on objection to lines – unless alternative provision for parking made available</p> <p>GB – Seconded</p> <p>MH – Good news, 16K budget being spent on 5 vehicular routes based on MH/KB suggestions. Can Alan tell LAF when works being done so users can be advised to stay away?</p> <p>DS – has spoken with people in other countries who have used PRoW network in UK/Wales and commented on how enjoyable/valuable it is.</p> <p>PJ – Similarly, visitors to Carms on trail rides express appreciation of network to TRF</p> <p>JG – Public Liability Insurance issue at Brechfa Wind Farm needs addressing. Going to impact on the various user groups. Proximity of turbines to public access compromises individual insurances Can LAF make an approach to NRW?</p> <p>RJ confirmed he would be the contact for this</p> <p>JG will to send letter/email to RJ</p> | <p><b>CF</b></p> <p><b>CF</b></p> <p><b>CF/MM</b></p> |
| <p><b>Item 20 – Next Meetings</b></p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Tywi Centre, Llandeilo.</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 – Carmarthen Leisure Centre</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> June 2019 - Tywi Centre, Llandeilo</p> <p>19<sup>th</sup> September 2019 - Carmarthen Leisure Centre</p> <p>5<sup>th</sup> December 2019 - Tywi Centre, Llandeilo.</p>   |   |