

**Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**Tywi Centre, Llandeilo, 6pm**

**Present:**

**Members:**

Mark Hadley (MH)  
Karen Burch (KB)  
Jillie Gardiner (JG)  
Geoff Williams (GW)  
Paul Barrett (PB)  
Michael Jones (MJ)  
Richard Leggett (RL) - late arrival as per apology  
Dai Stacey (DS) - late arrival as per apology  
Jane Evans (JE) - late arrival as per apology

**Secretary (interim)**

Caroline Ferguson - CCC (Acting Countryside Access Manager)

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

Jason Lawday – CCC Countryside Access Officer  
Rob Williams – Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF)  
Mo Rapley - TRF

**Apologies:**

Caroline Evans (CE)  
Glyn Evans (GE)  
Gerald Brown (GB)  
Cllr Peter Hughes-Griffiths  
Cllr Allan Haskins  
Glyn Jones (NRW)

\*CCC in these minutes refers to Carmarthenshire County Council

ITEM	ACTION
<b>Items 1 - Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>  CF welcomed all to the meeting and outlined the election process for appointing a LAF Chair and Deputy Chair for the newly elected Carmarthenshire forum.	
<b>Item 2 – Candidates for LAF Chair</b>  MH only member to stand for Chair	
<b>Item 3 –Election of Chair</b>  GW proposed MH JG seconded MH  MH appointed as Carms LAF Chair	

<p><b>Item 4 – Candidates for LAF Deputy Chair</b></p> <p>KB only member to stand for Deputy Chair</p>	
<p><b>Item 5 – Election of Deputy Chair</b></p> <p>JG proposed KB MH seconded KB</p> <p>KB appointed as Carms LAF Deputy Chair</p>	
<p><b>Item 6 – Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies taken and recorded.</p>	
<p><b>Item 7 - Consideration and Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes were checked and agreed with no amendments.</p> <p>CF will send for translation and publish on website.</p>	
<p><b>Item 8 – Matters arising from Minutes not otherwise Agenda Items</b></p> <p>Brechfa Mountain Bike Trails</p> <p>MH – NRW provided use statistics and annual spend information</p> <p>JG – where is £40,000 being spent?</p> <p>GW – if routes are not maintained and there is an incident, will NRW be liable? Could they be sued?</p> <p>MH – routes are use at your own risk.</p> <p>GW – are signs being maintained to make that clear to users?</p> <p>MH – questions for Glyn at next LAF meeting.</p>	
<p><b>Item 9 – LAF Chairs Meeting</b></p> <p>MH attended, useful networking opportunity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CCC stats provision discussed, other LAFs felt Carms were lucky to receive these – no other Authority have the same information made available to them.</li> <li>- The continuation of the existing LAF between the end of their term and the election of the new LAF is fine, others do it too.</li> <li>- No WG rep was present, agreed that this was disappointing. Nothing coming out of Green Paper yet.</li> </ul>	

- LAFs encouraged to look at Glastir online. Are LAF being consulted on Glastir Woodland Creation Schemes? Carms are not.
- LAF of NRW attendance at LAF meetings highlighted

JE outlined NRW group that she (BHS rep) sits on to discuss access issues directly with NRW staff. Other Reps also attend.

MH asked if Jane could find out the name of the group and any other information the organisation of the group.

RL – should LAF Chairs Wales revise the Performance Indicator (PI) issue? PI’s give a measure Nationally which is very useful.

MH – this would be for the relevant minister to consider.

GW – Carms LAF can support CCC using CAMS data provided.

MH – John Morgan suggested the LA funding template be populated by the next Chairs meeting.

Next meeting 19/07/18, 10.30 til 3 – MH cannot attend, GW offered to go on behalf of Carms LAF, MH agreed.

**Item 9 – CCC Countryside Access Legal Team**

CF - Countryside Access Officer, Countryside Access Assistant and Countryside Searches Assistant posts all filled.

MH – Is that all posts?

CF – Managers post still effectively vacant, CF acting up from Officer post.

RL – not satisfactory that all posts are not filled.

MH & KB – LAF persistence has helped to get recruitment this far, a positive result.

**Item 10 – PROW Network Issues Report**

MH – Maintenance figures are good news. Legal issues still increasing more rapidly than are being resolved, a concern.

CF – the staffing situation whilst CF on maternity leave and recruitment process not completed has led to rapid increase in recorded legal issues that remain unresolved. Also stats don’t account for Order making work which is time consuming and takes away from time available to deal with issues.

JL – Legal Orders take time

CF – will ask that the Order stats are added onto each issue report to provide a fuller picture of the work achieved by the legal team. Figures should improve with the improved staffing within the team.

PB – Ramblers have offered volunteers to work on the PROW network for no expenses. In Powys volunteers given money for PPE.

GW – this may be considered mis-spending of public money.

**CF**

JL – PPE is important so doesn't seem unreasonable.

CF – volunteers are an ongoing discussion with Maintenance unit, some work is being done on the ground.

KB – requested a CAMS report on Bridleways open in the County

CF – Lucy undertaking that piece of work at present.

**Item 11 – Quality of BOAT Network**

MH – showed the result of process that began in Byway User Group (BUG) meetings, currently a paper exercise to identify location of all BOATs and ORPAs in Carms and whether they are on the List of Streets.

Now a need for a LAF subcommittee to take the process forward and add condition information to the existing records.

RL – is this for BUG?

KB – more for user groups

MH - routes of interest to all

JL – Network Review being undertaken, includes all routes, identifies anomalies.

KB – what happens to anomalies?

JL – if PRoW problem, issue placed on CAMS

JG – how do the public know if there's a problem?

JL – CCC have nothing in place presently, OS can be notified if their maps have an error.

RL – suggest a meeting is arranged to go through all BOATs and ORPAs. Objectives of meeting should be set beforehand.

MH – Meet in the Autumn.

**Item 12 – ROWIP update**

CF – not completed as planned, publication in January 2018 didn't happen, questions raised over completeness of consultation by NRW. Cliff Cleaton (CC) and Martin Dolan (MD) met with Carys Drew (CD) whilst CF still on Mat Leave, CD identified areas of concern.

CF, CC, MD and Steve Pilliner met to discuss, agreed plan to move the process forward taking account of points raised by CD. CF notified CD of plan, CD pleased with proposed actions and changes.

RL – Spoke with CD, told that NRW had not had sight of draft document

<p>CF – MD confirms he consulted NRW using their ‘enquiries’ inbox, document was not directed within NRW to the relevant people. That issue has now been resolved with CD.</p> <p>MH – has MD actioned the LAFs concerns over missing Open Access Land content?</p> <p>CF – not aware of the outcome of that meeting as was not present but would check. Document is only in draft at present and will be subject to consultation so details/items can be added if necessary.</p> <p>Once finalised, draft document needs to be signed off at CMT before consultation can start. Work still to do before then.</p>	
<p><b>Item 13 – Tywi Valley Path update</b></p> <p>Written update circulated beforehand.</p> <p>KB – would like pictures of work so far.</p> <p>MH – still has budget questions, should invite Sam Palmer (SP) to come and present at the next LAF.</p> <p>GW – what is situation with equestrian access?</p> <p>JE – possibilities looked at but no connecting routes or suitable access points exist.</p> <p>KB – Bio-security cited as a reason to not allow equestrian access</p> <p>MH – positive step that information is now being provided.</p> <p>GW – perhaps consideration should be given to access to the Towy (launching) from the route (Access to Waterways).</p> <p>MH – LAF will raise this.</p> <p>PB – signed up on CCC website for TVP information, nothing received yet.</p>	<b>CF</b>
<p><b>Item 14 – BBNP Delegation Agreement</b></p> <p>CF – process completed, new Agreement in place. Will be subject to regular review to ensure it is effective in managing BBNP’s network.</p> <p>LAF would like to see Agreement now that it is finished.</p> <p>CF – will ask if it can be viewed by LAF members.</p>	<b>CF</b>
<p><b>Item 15 – LAF Annual Report</b></p> <p>Document is awaiting translation.</p>	

<p><b>Item 16 – Project Updates</b></p> <p>a) Brechfa West Windfarm – JG queried insurance implications in regards to turbines and Open Access land. Who is responsible NRW as landowner or owners of turbines? MH queried site map and made recommendations which will appear in future leaflets.</p> <p>b) Morfa Bychan – JL provided update. No immediate progress, as consultation still continuing. National Trust have installed locked barrier gate.</p>	<p><b>JL</b></p>
<p><b>Item 17 – “Days Out” Tourism Leaflet</b></p> <p>??</p>	
<p><b>Item 18 – Future Agenda Items</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Glastir Forest Creation (NRW)</li> <li>2. CAMS Demo (LP)</li> <li>3. Tywi Valley Path Presentation (SP)</li> <li>4. Bridges update (MM)</li> <li>5. Wales Coast Path update (MM) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Road Signs not working</li> <li>- Verge maintenance</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	
<p><b>Item 19 – AOB</b></p> <p>JG – met with Claire Goodman-Jones, who said that she would be happy to attend a future LAF meeting.</p> <p>JG – has attended Cambrian Mountains Initiative meetings. There is to be one overarching map showing activities and details of providers, with map on one side and advertising on the reverse, to be paid for by suppliers. There will also be three separate maps with information about nature, heritage and access.</p> <p>RL – HOWL Trail – opens 26/06/18. Opening event in Llandoverly. Overlay of route on CCC website not working. Needs attention.</p> <p>MH – Notify LAF if no progress in resolving issue.</p>	<p><b>LP</b></p>
<p><b>Item 20 – Next Meetings</b></p> <p>20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 - Carmarthen Leisure Centre</p> <p>6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Tywi Centre, Llandeilo.</p>	