

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum

Thursday 7th March 2019

Carmarthen Leisure Centre, 6pm

Present:

Members:

Mark Hadley (MH) – LAF Chair
Karen Burch (KB) – LAF vice Chair
Dai Stacey (DS)
Jillie Gardiner (JG)
Richard Leggett (RL)
Mo Rapley (MR)
Paul Barrett (PB)
Jim Shadbolt (JS)
Caroline Evans (CE)
Glyn Evans (GE)

Secretary (interim)

Caroline Ferguson (CF) – (CCC Acting Countryside Access Manager)

Advisors/ Observers/Speakers/Members of the Public

Lucy Pugh (LP) - CCC Acting Countryside Access Officer
Gruffydd Rees (GR) - CCC Countryside Access Ranger
Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths (PHG) – CCC Executive Board Member
Steve Rayner (SR) – Waterways and Environment Officer, Canoe Wales
Rob Williams (RW) – Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF)
Alistair Hare (AH)
Jason Winter (JW)
Chris Arnell (CA)

Apologies: Members:

Gerald Brown (GB)
Geoff Williams (GW)
Martin Murray (MM)
Michael Jones (MJ)

Advisors/Observers:

Cllr. Hazel Evans
Glyn Jones/Russell Jones – Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
Allan Haskins
Neil Thomas – CCC
Cllr Dai Jones

Absent: Jane Evans (JE)

*CCC in these minutes refers to Carmarthenshire County Council

ITEM	ACTION
<p>Items 1 - Welcome & Introduction</p> <p>MH welcomed all to the meeting and a round-table introduction was given.</p>	
<p>Item 2 - New Members/Resignations - None</p>	
<p>Item 3 - Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were taken and recorded.</p>	
<p>Item 4 – Matters arising from Minutes - not otherwise Agenda Items</p> <p><u>Equestrian Strategy</u> KB: Requested discussion to be included on next agenda</p> <p><u>£16k BOAT & UCR Works</u> Info from Alan Warner (CCC Recreation and Access Manager), works commencing on Monday 11th March.</p> <p><u>Double Yellow Lines at Pembrey</u> KB: Still a problem, lower car park not suitable, has written to Neil Thomas, Town Council and MP voicing concerns. Seems to be little communication between NRW and CCC. PHG: Situation is under review, attending a CCC meeting next week to discuss. LP: New Order provides more detail of weight and length restrictions.</p> <p><u>New Meeting Minutes Arrangement</u> MH: Approved minutes should be included with the next LAF invite.</p>	<p>CF</p> <p>CF</p>
<p>Item 5 – Canoe Wales, Recreational Access to Water Presentation</p> <p>SR presented to the Forum, presentation to be sent to CF and circulated to LAF members.</p> <p>CF: NRW have confirmed that Access to Water is considered a LAF issue despite wording in CROW Act.</p> <p>MH: Has Towy Valley Path (TVP) been considered as an opportunity to access river? PHG: Fair question</p> <p>JG: Worked on a project previously where rivers considered to be ‘main roads’. Where a PRow stops at a riverbank, likely the river was used to continue journey to next available highway/PRow?</p> <p>MH: What is issue with Llyn Brienne access?</p> <p>SR: (1) Covenant on land when dam was built to prohibit access for recreation. (2) Irresponsible use of spillway by canoeists</p>	<p>CF</p>

<p>(3) Dwr Cymru very risk averse</p> <p>CF: Why did negotiations around access to Llyn Brianne stall? Who was CCC contact?</p> <p>SR: Will get name and send to CF so negotiations can possibly re-start.</p> <p>MH: No reason for LAF not to support access to water</p> <p>CE: Access on Mersey Canals caused conflict with fishermen, took time to resolve</p> <p>SR: Not so much conflict in winter but still some, summer tourist paddling conflicts with fishing season.</p> <p>GR: Does canoeing cause damage to spawning areas?</p> <p>SR: Paddlers know to avoid sensitive areas.</p> <p>SR: Substantive reform on access to water not likely currently</p>	CF/SR
<p>Item 6 – PROW Network Issues Report</p> <p>RL: The number of outstanding issues is continuing its trend upwards, now at highest levels since reports began.</p> <p>CE: likely people are finding it easier to report issues.</p> <p>RL: The high level of signage issues is of concern, good signage gives people confidence to use paths.</p> <p>GR: many routes that require signposts have other issues too.</p> <p>CF Promoted routes should be signposted and useable.</p> <p>MH: a list of County Walks for next meeting would be useful</p> <p>(Observer) AH: Why are paths so bad in Carmarthenshire? Why do CCC not use Adopt a Path type scheme? Plenty of walkers would be happy to keep paths clear.</p> <p>GR: We are using volunteers more, lots of work completed in many areas.</p> <p>CE: Can Community Councils take on paths</p> <p>GR: Yes, work underway to do more of this.</p> <p>JS: Local Ramblers Association (RA) groups walk regularly and do not find excessive number of problems, many good routes.</p>	MM
<p>Item 7 - Appointment of Additional Members</p> <p>CF: representation on Carms LAF is not as balanced as is recommended. Addition of representatives from landowner/occupiers with public access, disability groups, nature and heritage conservationists, coastal landowners/occupiers/managers, transport, or health would be beneficial to the forum.</p> <p>MH: Welsh Chair of Chairs has advised we can publicise for additional members from specific groups to improve balance.</p> <p>CF: Does the LAF support this idea?</p> <p>All Agree.</p>	

<p>CF: will begin recruitment process asap</p>	<p>CF</p>
<p>Item 8 – LAF Terms of Reference</p> <p>CF: Current ToR circulated to ensure all members are familiar with the details. Are they sufficiently clear? Any members feel there should be anything added? Anything can be emailed and given consideration, any changes can be discussed at next meeting.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Item 9 – LAF Annual Report.</p> <p>MH: Draft circulated to members, no adverse comments. Will take to next Heads of Service meeting for approval before going on website.</p>	<p>MH</p>
<p>Item 10 – Express Dedication at Common Law (EDCL)</p> <p>KB: It is possible for a landowner to dedicate a PRow under Common Law, requires no consultations, simple process.</p> <p>CF: If land is Council owned Creation Orders have always been used to create new PRowS as Creation Agreements cannot be used. EDCL provides another method.</p> <p>KB: what is happening with EDCL in Cross Hands?</p> <p>CF: Awaiting confirmation of footpath diversion before upgrading route to Bridleway via EDCL. If a bridleway dedication was completed first then the existing footpath would require extinguishment which is far more difficult to achieve.</p> <p>MH: Should LAF write to support use of EDCL?</p> <p>CF: No need currently. No opposition to the use of EDCL currently, if there is opposition in the future then a letter of support might be useful.</p>	
<p>Item 11 – ROWIP</p> <p>CF: Out to consultation until end of April 2019</p> <p>PB: No acknowledgement received regarding his previous comments</p> <p>CF: Will forward a copy to Capita and raise with consultant</p> <p>MH: May need a subcommittee meeting to put together LAF response.</p> <p>KB: All should prepare their own notes so they can be amalgamated</p> <p>MH: submit comments before end March for meeting at Tywi Centre in April t.b.a.</p> <p>RL: Having a discussion to look at the issues could be more useful than simply sending in comments</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>Item 12 – Tywi Valley Path</p> <p>MH: minutes of meeting circulated</p>	

<p>All Agreed, MH to respond on behalf of LAF</p>	<p>MH</p>
<p>Item 15 – Cambrian Mountain Initiative</p> <p>MH: Are LAF supportive of idea? KB: Yes as long as existing access rights within area remain unchanged – no rights removed or prejudiced by designation. MH: Will provide statement of response</p>	<p>MH</p>
<p>Item 16 – BOAT/ORPA Project</p> <p>MH: waiting to hear back from Highways – is project useful to them? KB: should info on known routes be collated anyway? MH: Yes, existing CCC survey form from MM can be used, will circulate</p>	<p>MH</p>
<p>Item 17 – Joint LAF Chairs/Secretaries Meeting</p> <p>CF: Draft meeting minutes issued by NRW have been circulated for info. KB: Could other Authorities be approached at LAF Chairs meeting ?? to ask if they have similar issues with access for horse riders? MH: will email John Morgan to ask as unable to attend.</p>	
<p>Item 18 – Future Agenda Items</p> <p>Pembrey Double Yellow Lines Equestrian Strategy LAF Annual Report Access to Water – ROWIP Brechfa Wind Farm BOAT/ORPA project Staff update</p>	
<p>Item 19 – AOB</p> <p><u>Heads of Service (HoS) Meetings</u> MH: Has been asked not to circulate Heads of Service meeting minutes to full LAF (gave summary of discussion with Stephen Pilliner). KB: HoS meetings were brought about because HoS couldn't attend LAF meetings. Members requested that this be discussed further with Mr Pilliner and that it be explained that LAF members would like to see a copy of the minutes MH: will arrange next HoS meeting ideally for June.</p> <p><u>Staff</u> RL: When will vacant post be filled?</p>	<p>MH MH/CF</p>

<p>CF: Restructure due to complete by April 1st. Consultant helping to fill the staff gap whilst post is vacant.</p> <p>RL: Can we get an answer to issue numbers increasing.</p> <p><u>TROs</u></p> <p>MH: helpful to know which routes are TRO'd</p> <p>CF: need to get current list.</p> <p><u>BBNP LAF</u></p> <p>MH: attended BBNP LAF, good opportunity to see how another LAF operates.</p> <p><u>Gelli Aur</u></p> <p>RL: Now Open</p> <p><u>Green Infrastructure Plan</u></p> <p>CF: plan presently being drafted, was an opportunity to access funding (Green Infrastructure Capital Grant) but funding now amalgamated into EnRAW Grant.</p> <p><u>RA Britain's Best Walking Neighbourhood</u></p> <p>CF: Ramblers Cymru looking for nominations</p>	<p>CF</p>
<p>Item 18 – Next meetings</p> <p>13th June 2019 - Tywi Centre, Llandeilo</p> <p>19th September 2019 - Carmarthen Leisure Centre</p> <p>5th December 2019 - Tywi Centre, Llandeilo.</p>	