

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum

Thursday 13th June 2019

Tywi Centre, Llandeilo, 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)
Geoff Williams (GW)
Michael Jones (MJ)

Secretary (interim)

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

Advisors/ Observers/Speakers/Members of the Public

Steven Pilliner (SP) – CCC Head of Transportation and Highways
Rob Williams (RW) – Trail Riders Fellowship (TRF)

Apologies:

Members:

Martin Murray (MM)
Jane Evans (JE)

Advisors/Observers:

Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths
Neil Thomas – CCC
Nigel Bailey
Russell Jones – Natural Resources Wales (NRW)

Absent:

Gerald Brown (GB)
Glyn Evans (GE)

*CCC in these minutes refers to Carmarthenshire County Council

** PRoW in these minutes refers to Public Rights of Way

ITEM	ACTION
<p>Items 1 - Welcome & Introduction</p> <p>MH welcomed all to the meeting and 'round-table' introductions were given.</p> <p>SP gave an introduction to the forum of his background, his present role and the challenges faced by the whole department from funding losses and budget pressures. He also outlined the key role the ROWIP will play in management of Countryside Access but added that parts of the document are aspirational and will be subject to funding availability.</p>	
<p>Item 2 - New Members/Resignations</p> <p>Caroline Evans has had to tender her resignation from the LAF</p> <p>MH & CF have both sent an email of thanks for her contribution to the forum</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>County Walks Marketing</u></p> <p>RL: why is this previously suggested agenda item not on the agenda for this meeting? There are many issues that need to be raised regarding mapping promotion. CF: ROWIP discussion is priority for this meeting, marketing discussion has been deferred to September's meeting, and marketing dept. will be invited to attend.</p> <p><u>LAF Terms of Reference</u></p> <p>PB: seems to be general agreement on LAF Terms of Reference MH: Item can come off agenda.</p> <p><u>Annual Report</u></p> <p>CF: Need to write Secretary's Foreword then send for Translation</p> <p><u>Double Yellow Lines at Pembrey</u></p> <p>CF: email from Neil Thomas provides link to Executive Board Member Decision online. SP: The yellow lines on the entrance roadway to Pembrey have been approved. Consideration of the proposed parking charges is ongoing.</p> <p><u>Tywi Valley Path (TVP)</u></p> <p>JE has reported that she has had no further communication regarding the possibility of an equestrian circular loop using a section of TVP and a nearby bridleway.</p> <p>DS: Read out comments from Carmarthenshire Cycle Forum regarding the perceived ideal width of a multi user trail that both cyclists and horses can use. The widths suggested extended up to as much as 10 metres if horses were given access alongside cyclists.</p>	<p>CF</p> <p>CF</p>

KB disagreed stating that the necessary width depended on the circumstances.

SP: There are lots of competing interests involved. Happy to Chair a meeting in order to re-establish communication with JE/BHS.

GW: An advice note that has been published by one of the Farmers Unions on equestrian access was very negative.

MH: The LAF Motion to support the TVP scheme was all agreed except the point around funding commitment.

SP: Nobody can commit to a level of funding for a service forever when the next financial year is an unknown. The Authority cannot commit 100% to TVP funding arrangements within a document when we are not in full control of budgets, it renders the document of no value.

RL: This is not what has been said in numerous previous meetings. RL raised at an early Public Meeting as flooding is a particular concern that will lead to ongoing maintenance costs. Councillor Gravelle categorically stated at the meeting that money for maintaining public rights of way (PROW) would not be used for this scheme.

JG confirmed that assurances have been given previously that no prow money would be used to fund TVP.

SP: LAF views will be taken on board but Authority cannot make a commitment. Extra funding has been secured this year but there are no guarantees for the future.

DS: Concerns have been raised about spending PRoW Capital budget on TVP.

SP: None of CA Capital has been used to date and there is no intention to do so.

RL: specific concerns were around maintenance but they were not pursued further as response provided was acceptable.

MH: Could the LAF have more information on prow budgets

SP: The information can be found in a public document online, published every February between 17th and 25th – budget cycle then explained to members.

MH: Could LAF have prow info on forthcoming budget plans?

SP: yes, some information could be provided.

MH: An option to move forward and possibly improve LAF support for the TVP project may be giving the LAF a closer look at each year's budget and discussing any CCC need to use the PRoW budget for TVP maintenance.

Public Space Protection Orders

MH: Letter sent from LAF to Mike Roberts supporting continuation of the current PSPO.

KB: It is unclear where PSPO's are in force, more promotion would be beneficial.

Cambrian Mountains

MH: Letter of support sent in respect of some form of Cambrian Mountains designation and notified that LAF comments will be taken on board. Cambrian Mountain funding ends this year so unsure how far idea will progress.

<p>JG: Dark Skies initiative also proposed which would be incorporated.</p> <p><u>Heads of Service Meetings</u></p> <p>Circulation of HoS meeting minutes to be discussed at next HoS meeting in July.</p> <p><u>Equestrian Access</u></p> <p>KB: Was John Morgan emailed in respect of Equestrian Access development opportunities in other Local Authorities in Wales?</p> <p>MH: Not yet, will do before next meeting</p>	<p>MH</p>
<p>Item 5 – ROWIP Consultation Feedback</p> <p>A table of the LAF’s comments to the consultation was circulated to members and there was an extended discussion around each comment including the final decision whether to implement a change to the draft.</p> <p>A summary of remaining 114 (non-LAF) consultation responses was then circulated and read out by CF including decision whether to implement changes to draft and reasons for decision.</p> <p>CF now to implement changes to draft</p> <p>MH: Thanked CF for compiling and summarising consultation responses.</p>	<p>CF</p>
<p>Item 6 – Brechfa Windfarm</p> <p>JG: Latest response from NRW does not address public liability concerns, email sent to clarify question again as understanding is it is a legal requirement for the landowner or windfarm operator to hold public liability insurance, there has been no confirmation of this. Will keep LAF updated.</p> <p>MH: Where does matter get taken next?</p> <p>JG: Don’t know</p> <p>DS: if public liability is a legal requirement then should Mynydd Ddu also have insurance in place?</p> <p>JG: Brechfa requirements are different as the windfarm layout doesn’t comply with guidance.</p> <p>SP: public liability insurance is to indemnify the landowner so any risk is the landowner’s</p> <p>JG: In the event of an incident involving the turbines, liability is likely to be deferred to smaller businesses with less capacity to defend a claim.</p>	

<p>Item 7 – Permanent TROs</p> <p>List of current, permanent TRO's circulated to members.</p> <p>MH: Members who have queries of other routes believed to have TROs to raise them with CF who can query them.</p> <p>MH: Electronic version would be useful, CF to send</p>	<p>All</p> <p>CF</p>
<p>Item 8 – PRowS Issue Reports</p> <p>RL: Latest reports show a decrease in outstanding issues since the last quarter's figures, good news. However reports received since May 2016 provide a richer picture; recent data shows a drop in outstanding issues but overall trend shows a steady increase since 2016. There has been a further increase in legal and maintenance issues outstanding which are over a year/ three years/ five years old. Increase in number of issues reported could be because of an increase in issue numbers, or could reflect increased use of the PRow network/countryside access; either way it is a matter of concern that the numbers of outstanding issues continues to increase.</p> <p>SP: Information from reports is extremely useful and does support making changes to how we deliver the service.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the annual Performance Indicator (PI). This had not been produced this year because of work pressures.</p> <p>SP: not necessarily possible to undertake PI each year, it should be completed as often as possible. He confirmed that it would be undertaken next year.</p>	
<p>Item 9 – County Walks Update</p> <p>CF Circulated list from Martin Murray detailing County Walks being promoted by CCC following recent review. To be discussed with Marketing team in September's LAF meeting.</p>	
<p>Item 10 – BOAT/ORPA Project</p> <p>MH: not yet heard back from Highways in respect of how useful the survey data and research assistance will be to their service.</p>	
<p>Item 11 – AOB</p> <p>MH: Glyn Jones NRW is no longer going to be one of NRW's representatives on the LAF, need to check if Russell Jones is going to continue?</p> <p>CF: CCC sent response to A483 Llandeilo By-pass consultation</p> <p>MH: Response to A483 consultation also sent on behalf of LAF</p> <p>MH: Next Heads of Service meeting is in July.</p> <p>GW: Ramblers plan to do another Big/Great path survey, has the data from the Big Pathwatch become usable now?</p>	<p>CF</p>

<p>CF: format of pathwatch data still not compatible with CAMS but Ramblers HQ are aware that they need to make the data they collect usable for Local Authority systems.</p> <p>MH: Are members aware of CCC's Cycling Toolkit? Include advice for businesses on how to attract more cyclists. Llanerchindda has implemented all of the recommendations but no new business as a result yet.</p> <p>JG: Research suggests Cyclists are day trippers who only spend on average £3 per person.</p> <p>JG: Brechfa Community Benefit Fund – 2 projects proposed</p> <p>1) Mapping Brechfa Forest CCC Digital Mapping Expertise would be useful for this.</p> <p>CF: Happy for prow team to provide some advice, no capacity for further involvement.</p> <p>2) Tourism Strategy for Forest Workshop/Open Event proposed Sept 2019 to gather info from users/providers Undercover areas will be available for displays Feedback on the best time to hold the event would be useful.</p> <p>KB: Weekends will be most accessible.</p>	
<p>Item 12 – Future Agenda Items</p> <p>Sufficient agenda items to fill next agenda due to being deferred to discuss ROWIP</p>	
<p>Item 18 – Next meetings</p> <p>19th September 2019 - Carmarthen Leisure Centre 5th December 2019 - Tywi Centre, Llandeilo.</p>	