

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum (LAF)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday 8th July 2021

Online via Microsoft Teams, 6pm

Present:

Members:

Mark Hadley (MH) – LAF Chair
Karen Burch (KB) – Deputy Chair
Richard Leggett (RL)
Mo Rapley (MR)
Jillie Gardiner (JG)
Paul Barrett (PB)
David Stacey (DS)

Secretary - Caroline Ferguson (CF) – CCC Countryside Access Manager

Advisors/ Observers/Speakers/Members of the Public

Councillor Hazel Evans (HE) CCC Executive Board Member for Environment
Sue James (SJ) – Community Officer, Llannon Community Council

Apologies:

Members:

Steve Barratt

Advisors/Observers:

Stephen Pilliner – CCC Head of Transportation and Highways
Neil Thomas – CCC Senior Outdoor Recreation Manager
Andrew Paterson - CCC Common Land Officer
Helen Grey - NRW
Phil Morgan - NRW

*CCC in these minutes refers to Carmarthenshire County Council

**NRW in these minutes refers to Natural Resources Wales

| ITEM | ACTION |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| <p>Items 1 - Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>MH welcomed all to the meeting</p> | |
| <p>Item 2 (3 on agenda) - Proposal for Urban Park at MMWP</p> <p>MH introduced Sue James, a Community Officer for Llannon Community Council</p> <p>SJ gave an online presentation about the proposed Riot Urban Sports Park in Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park.</p> <p>Some members agreed this could be a good amenity for young people in the area if it was well designed and managed.</p> <p>Some members raised questions about the public consultation exercises undertaken to date and further consultation opportunities.</p> <p>Concerns in respect of existing users of the park who might be adversely affected by the proposed park were highlighted.</p> <p>The requirement to fence the site from the surrounding parkland and the additional costs that might incur was raised.</p> <p>SJ detailed the consultations carried out to date, including a very busy drop-in event, and agreed there are a lot of existing users of the park and their views have and will be considered. Any comments received from the LAF will be taken on board and public comments will continue to be evaluated before any final decisions are reached and/or a planning application is made. The fencing requirement was unknown and a very useful piece of additional information.</p> <p>Members asked if the presentation could be circulated for further reading.</p> <p>SJ happy for CF to email the file to members.</p> | <p>CF</p> |
| <p>Item 3 (item 2 on Agenda) - Actions arising from Minutes</p> <p><u>Digital (non-definitive) map of Common Land</u></p> <p>CF – file not received from Andrew Patterson yet, will chase up and circulate once received.</p> <p><u>Permissive Cycling on Footpaths.</u></p> <p>MH – No response to date having requested further information on this, will be included in queries for HoS after meeting.</p> | <p>CF</p> <p>MH</p> |

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| <p>Some responses from equestrian businesses as well as non-horse-riders/drivers which will also be useful to provide a complete picture and shape the strategy.</p> <p>No response from Town & Community Councils or Elected Members yet. CF will see if some sort of promotional material can be circulated to encourage more participation.</p> | <p>CF</p> |
| <p>Item 7 – 2021-2022 Projects</p> <p>CF outlined the 5 top scoring projects for delivery in 2021-22 including Kidwelly project delayed from last FY.</p> <p>A report in respect Kidwelly project is nearing completion and will be circulated to members for comment, hopefully by end of July.</p> <p>All other projects are in the preparatory stages with the whole team making every effort to ensure each project can be delivered.</p> <p>There will be promotion of each project upon completion ensuring the public hear and see what we have done.</p> <p>Members generally pleased to hear what is forthcoming on the network.</p> | <p>CF</p> |
| <p>Item 8 – Issue reports</p> <p>RL outlined latest findings from issue stats and illustrated the of the long-term picture of issue reporting/resolution through an Excel spreadsheet and graph.</p> <p>Key points of note are the continued rising pattern of recorded issues, outstanding signage issues have risen over 20% in two years and the number of BOAT issues have seen a significant rise.</p> <p>CF – the BOAT issue increase could be because of surveys being undertaken in preparation for forthcoming projects.</p> <p>The project-based work patterns going forward is likely to create a pattern in statistics where issues drop suddenly due to the delivery of a project(s) but otherwise steadily increase while preparatory works like surveying and speaking with landowners is being undertaken.</p> | |
| <p>Item 9 – 100% Network Survey</p> <p>CF – As previously discussed our first major piece of work for volunteers will be the 100% network survey.</p> <p>CAMSweb delivery is scheduled for completion end of August, and this is the software we intend to use to manage volunteers as it can allocate their work and they can retrieve jobs and update them when they completed.</p> | |

The training we are going to set up with Ramblers Cymru will provide a bespoke training package, free of charge, for volunteers undertaking the surveys and with the CAMSweb installation underway we are about to meet with Ramblers to discuss what the training needs to include.

We hope the surveying can begin in the Autumn.

KB – how long will it take.

CF – unable to say, depends on volunteer numbers, efficiency and weather. Completion by the end of 2021-22 FY would be ideal but unable to say if that is realistic at this stage.

Item 10 – AOB

CCC PROW team are in the early stages of producing an '**Information for Landowners**' leaflet, outlining legal responsibilities and ramifications. Will hopefully help reduce high number of time-consuming general enquiries in respect of responsibility as well as formal enforcement issues.

Members generally agreed this was a positive move.

Election of the new LAF was deferred at the last meeting to the end of the year as permitted by COVID rules. Advertising for new LAF members will begin in the Autumn with a view to completing appointment of new members prior to the Winter LAF (usually Dec). As LAF secretary CF should consider and approve appointments, this has been done differently in the past but given current working practices perhaps this is the easiest approach for 2021.

Members generally agreed to this timeline and approach.

Highways dept. scrutiny document in respect of reviewing **Maintenance of Hedgerows and Verges** highlighted by JG prior to the meeting with some concerns over the absence of published consideration for horse riders and over the highway boundary text. KB also raised concern over verges as a refuge for equestrians.

CF – As far as exclusion of horse riders from use of verges, our road network is open to all so nobody is excluded, horse riders are not named and perhaps that can be reviewed in future – a possible action for the Equestrian Strategy.

In respect of highway boundaries/extents, the document does clearly state there is sometimes a lack of clarity regarding highway extents, broad assumptions exist to help provide clarity but 'it should always be borne in mind that these are only assumptions, and each case may need to be investigated'.

JG – there has been application of the broad assumption without further investigation in areas of Brechfa.

CF – Specific cases are not something for the LAF to debate, the document supports case by case investigation if the extent is not clear. Individual matters should be raised with the relevant dept.

PB asked if **Minutes could be produced more quickly** to allow more time for review before the next meeting.

CF agreed efforts would be made to do this.

MH will be writing a **follow up email to SP** to raise the various queries highlighted for him plus matter from previous meeting. If anybody has anything they would like raised, not already mentioned, email MH.

Item 11 – Next Meeting

September 9th