

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum (LAF)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday 13 January 2023

Tywi Centre, Llandeilo, 6pm

Present: Members:

Mark Hadley (MH) – LAF Chair
Karen Burch (KB) – Deputy
David Stacey (DS)
Wyn Owen (WO)
Richard Leggett (RL)
Mo Rapley (MR)
Sean Brown (SB)
Phil Snaith (PS)
Dave Gravelle (DG)
Peter Griffiths (PG)
Jillie Gardner (JG)

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

Advisors/ Observers/Speakers/Members of the Public

Neil Thomas (NT) CCC Senior Outdoor Recreation Manager (*Joined Remotely*)
Councillor Edward Thomas (ET) - County Councillor & Cabinet Member for
Transport, Waste and Infrastructure Services
Moisha Merry (MM) – Disability Coalition Representative
Alan Richards (AR) – Pontarddulais Walking Club

Apologies: Members:

Tara Jane-Sutcliffe (TS)

Advisors/Observers:

Stephen Pilliner – CCC Head of Transportation and Highways
Phil Morgan - NRW Land Management Team Leader

Note:

CCC in these minutes refers to Carmarthenshire County Council

PROW in these minutes refers to Public Rights of Way

NRW in these minutes refers to Natural Resources Wales

ITEM	ACTION
<p>Item 1 – WELCOME & APOLOGIES</p> <p>MH welcomed forum.</p> <p>MM & AR – new observers introduced themselves.</p> <p>CF & MH read out apologies received. Resignations from Geoffrey Williams, Paul Barrett, Andy Pughsley.</p>	
<p>Item 2 – A48 CROSSING CLOSURE CONSULTATION</p> <p>CF – Atkins unable to provide written response to LAF consultation responses until Welsh Government (WG) approve. Response will be circulated when agreed.</p> <p>Sub-group meeting with Atkins a possibility to discuss further with forum.</p> <p>MH – A meeting with Atkins would be welcome.</p> <p>Item 3 – PROW ISSUE REPORTS</p> <p>RL – Provided key information from his analysis of data. Figures overall going up, older issues increasing whereas newer issues are stabilising.</p> <p>Analysis takes account of impacts of various factors such as Covid19, introduction of Charging Policy, internal issue re-allocation, project-based working, and issue age.</p> <p>CF – Future reporting needs to change as the 100% network survey will reduce relevance of issue reports as they stand. Intention to deliver a new type of report that will illustrate more of the service trends. New reporting cannot be developed before April.</p> <p>In connection with Issue reporting, request received from forum to provide outcomes of Charging Policy since it was launched. Verbal report of key outcomes provided. Largely positive outcomes seen since Policy was launched.</p> <p>Members of forum complimentary of policy successes. Good news story, it would be good to share/publicise the success.</p> <p>Item 4 – ROWIP DELIVERY PLAN REVIEW UPDATE</p> <p>Review has been re-allocated to new WSP consultant due to staff changes. Review update been provided by new consultant, this will be circulated to members.</p> <p>Currently WSP aim to have a full review in draft circulated to the LAF by mid Feb, aiming for completion of final document before end of 2022-23 financial year.</p>	<p>Interim LAF Secretariat (ILS)</p> <p>ILS</p> <p>CF</p> <p>ILS</p>

Item 5 – PROJECT UPDATE

Weather has delayed project delivery that was scheduled to start Dec-Jan.

Revised schedule of project delivery provided.

LAF invited to provide project ideas for consideration and top 10 project proposals for 2023-24 to be brought to forum for comment/advice.

CF/ILS

Item 6 – LAF CHAIRS MEETING

RL attended LAF Chairs Meeting on behalf of Chair. Useful and interesting event to attend. Outline of key topics discussed at the meeting provided. Specific points of interest to CCC LAF – importance of memorandum of Understanding for LAF, PROW budget reductions/concerns across Wales, Wales Coast Path Review.

A MoU worthwhile for Carmarthenshire LAF so members and the Authority are clear on the purpose and goals of the LAF, recommendation by LAF Chair of Chairs. Members appreciated the extreme budget pressures being experienced elsewhere in Wales.

ILS

WCP Officer covering Carmarthenshire be invited to talk to LAF at next meeting.

CF

Item 7 – HORSE RIDING PROPOSALS IN CCC PARKS

Discussion regarding revised permissive equestrian access arrangements at Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park (MMWP). Friends of MMWP group have been involved in developing the site. Possibility of downloadable PDF or similar for equestrian users

Similar approach to development of permissive equestrian access at Llyn Llech Owain. Neither site have bridleways across them. Use has to be carefully planned to avoid conflict with other users and/or sensitive habitats.

Question raised about legality of carriage driving on Cefn Sidan. NT to check legal position – advised care would be needed if access was made available.

NT

Item 8 – ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR & PSPOS IN CCC PARKS

Discussion in respect of incidents involving aggressive dogs at MMWP. Incidents have involved both pedestrians and equestrians being harassed by dogs. Specific incidents reported to KB in her former Carms Riders role. A specific PSPO for MMWP suggested.

There are no permanent staff at MMWP to effectively enforce a PSPO.

Outdoor Recreation team are reliant on incidents being properly reported to them and the Police. Dangerous Dogs’ offences are criminal and therefore are a Police

matter. Police need incident reports to build a picture of a problem to plan the best course of action/enforcement.

Item 9 – ACTIONS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- Meeting between MH, KB & Steve Pilliner (following letter to Chief Exec)

A generally constructive and positive meeting with

- agreed clarification of LAF role,
- an explanation of issues around CCC Officer attendance at LAF meetings
- an assurance to produce meeting minutes and agendas earlier
- a commitment to reconvene the Byway User Group on a twice-yearly basis
- a commitment to consult the LAF on TROs given the specific interest of members and the relevance to public access.
- ideas for enhancing promotion of the work undertaken by the PROW team
- a discussion around budget pressures and how Welsh LAFs might be able to advise WG on the importance and needs around public access provision.

Minutes to be produced earlier, members agreed more standard minutes with less specific detail would be an agreeable way to ensure this. Members to feedback on revised minutes at next meeting.

Request also made to provide some context around agenda items to allow attendees to understand what is likely to be discussed.

CF/All

- Obtaining grant money

Further investigation needed into grant possibilities for Countryside Access improvement & enhancement. Invite an appropriate speaker to a LAF meeting.

ILS

- PROW Marketing Meeting

A productive and positive meeting with good ideas to move enhance promotion of CCCs promoted network.

ILS

Schedule of actions for group members has been circulated and a 2nd meeting is scheduled for January.

- Cycling on Footpaths

A FOI request has been issued to CCC by Cycling UK to obtain further details.

- Brownhill Woodland Site

MH & KB attended a site visit to better understand access proposals at the new site, feedback thoughts to forum members. Project planning is ongoing.

- Common Land Map

<p>Response received from Common Land Officer advising that the digital working copy of the Common Land map could not be provided to LAF members.</p> <p>Welsh Government developing an electronic common land register for Wales expected in 2023, will be available for members of the public to view free of charge online.</p> <p>The electronic register will take over as legal record, the paper-based register will become obsolete.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archive Tour 	
<p>Tuesday tour be arranged by LAF secretary for interested members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current live permanent TROs – List request 	<p>ILS</p>
<p>A previous request from forum members for a list of current permanent TROs on PROW & UCR network. Request yet to be progressed. LAF secretariat will need to request from Traffic Management team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maternity Cover 	<p>ILS</p>
<p>Cover for LAF Secretariat Maternity Leave still under discussion, forum members will be advised who interim secretariat will be in due course.</p>	<p>ILS</p>
<p>Item 10 – ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towy Valley Path (TVP) Consultation <p>Consultation event on 23 January, forum members discussed attendance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correspondence Response Times CCC staff <p>MH confirmed that CCC staff should respond to any correspondence within 10 days.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brechfa Forest Consultation <p>MH confirmed he has responded to consultation on behalf of LAF as agreed, requesting PROWs are improved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Meetings <p>Thursday 16th March – Carmarthen Leisure Centre</p>	

Monday 5th June – Tywi Centre, Llandeilo
Monday 18th September – Carmarthen Leisure Centre
Monday 11th December – Tywi Centre, Llandeilo

- Budget Consultation

KB raised the budget efficiency of vegetation cutting reduction as a saving.

Clarification provided, encroaching vegetation only, CCC aiming to enforce landowner responsibilities in this regard.

- Access Reform Briefing Note

Issued to LAF Chair and Secretariat.

Document requires review before being presented to forum members and discussed.

ILS

ILS

Next Meeting Thursday 16th March,
Carmarthen Leisure Centre