

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum

Thursday 21st November 2013

Held at Dinefwr Indoor Bowls Centre, Ammanford at 6pm

Present:

Jonathan Tudor (JT) - Secretary

Members:

Karen Burch (KB) - Chair
Mark Hadley (MH) - Vice Chair
Llew Thomas (LT)
Eric Davies (ED)
Rosemary Jones (RJ)

Advisors/ Observers/Speakers/Members of the Public

Ceri Daugherty – NRW (CD)
John Morgan – Ceredigion LAF Chair (JM)
Ian Dutch – Ceredigion LAF Secretary (ID)

Apologies (Members)

Keith Morgan (KM)
Glyn Evans (GE)
David Stacey (DS)
Dr. Catherine Nakielny (CK)
Caroline Evans (CE)
Chris Rankin (CR)

Apologies (Advisors)

Phil Stone - NRW
Mike Scott-Archer - BBNP LAF
Marie George - NRW
Russell Jones - NRW
Eirian James - CCC

	ACTION
Item 1 Welcome – KB welcomed all to the meeting.	
Item 2 Apologies – Apologies were taken and recorded.	
Item 3 Consideration and Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd August 2013 The minutes were checked and accepted as correct subject to the corrections below: Item 6 ‘Ceri Davies’ not ‘Ceri Dave’ Item 11 – additional words to be inserted ‘were added at’	
Item 4 Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting held on 22nd August 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Banc Farm Byway (15/31 and 15/32), Lliadiad Nenog, Brechfa. MH reported that the alternative permissive route along the edge of the field signed by Treadlightly was being used.• Amman Valley Cycleway – JT provided an update from Simon Charles, CCC Transport Strategy and Infrastructure Manager. CCC elements of the scheme were progressing well with almost all landowners in agreement to	

<p>sell parcels of land to allow completion of the final section on the CCC side of the county border at Brynamman in the vicinity of the Forge Washery/Cwmgarw Road. Funding was available this year to complete a number of these land purchasers (with the remainder to be completed in the new financial year). Aiming, subject to funding, to complete all CCC works by end of 14/15 financial year with future plans to look at promotion and marketing of the route. ED said he understood there was difficulty obtaining landowner agreement at the Forge and the cycleway would have to come out onto the road for that section. JT to obtain further update for next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Access Land – CD from NRW reported that they have received 1 appeal for Carmarthenshire against land that has been added to the Access Maps at Mynydd Pencarreg. They are waiting for confirmation of another 2 appeals but have not yet been told where these are. The Planning Inspectorate deal with appeals. There are 40 appeals across Wales. CD was asked if there was any cost to the landowner in making an appeal and what were the costs to the tax payer? CD also asked if Mynydd Pencarreg has any public access already. • Cross Hands West Development – KB reported that the Developer and CCC had agreed in principle to upgrade a footpath to a bridleway in another part of the development to compensate for the diversion of public footpath 33/24 which riders maintain they have previously used despite its footpath status. • Public Conveniences – CD of NRW was asked if public conveniences are marked on Wales Coast Path promotional maps. 	<p>JT</p>
<p>Item 5 RoWIP Review – KB</p> <p>Members had been asked to consider the RoWIP. KB felt it was important enough to either set up a sub-committee or set aside a meeting to discuss it. KB asked if a comments document that she had compiled could be circulated to members before the next meeting.</p>	<p>JT</p>
<p>Item 6 NRW Annual Grant Funding - JT</p> <p>Ceri Daugherty of NRW confirmed that the Countryside Partnership Programme, the grant funding from the former CCW, was part of an ongoing review of funding which would be concluded at later this financial year. In the meantime, funding would continue at 90% of the current level for the 2014/15 financial year. The position regarding the RoWIP Funding Programme was still to be clarified. Meanwhile, CCC's Countryside Service as a whole was going to have to find savings of close to £400k over the next 3 years.</p>	

<p>Item 7 LAF Chair - KB</p> <p>KB was looking for someone to take over from her as LAF Chair but wished to remain a member of the LAF. KB was experience difficulties in attending, for example, the LAF Chairs meetings because of her work commitments. MH, Vice Chair, also had difficulty attending due to his work commitments.</p>	
<p>Item 8 LAF Working Practices Questionnaire - JT</p> <p>JT reminded members that the NRW questionnaire had been discussed at the last LAF meeting and he would ensure that it was submitted by the 30th November deadline.</p> <p>JT confirmed that, because members felt that they had lost a direct link to elected Councillors since the retirement of Cllr Clive Scourfield, he had sent an invitation for Cllr. Meryl Gravell (current Executive Board Member for Regeneration & Leisure) inviting her to join the LAF.</p> <p>JT would supply KB with details of LAF attendance so that KB could contact members who had not attended recently.</p>	<p>JT</p> <p>JT/ KB</p>
<p>Item 9 LAF Recruitment Ideas</p> <p>Ian Dutch (Secretary, Ceredigion LAF) said that they relied on an advertisement to recruit members and usually got 20 to 25 applicants, including re-appointment of existing members.</p> <p>John Morgan (Chair, Ceredigion LAF) said that their LAF usually meets in the Council chamber and they find holding meetings at this one base effective. The Cabinet member for highways also regularly attends their meetings. They have a Memorandum of Understanding with the County Council which documents their relationship. They meet with and have the opportunity to address the Cabinet and the Housing and Environment Scrutiny Committee annually.</p> <p>MH asked if in addition to the usual advert for new members, an official press release could be arranged that could feature in the main body of a local newspaper. KB said that she would also use Facebook to publicise and recruit.</p>	
<p>Item 10 Byways/UCRs - Maintenance</p> <p>MH reported positive feedback on maintenance work carried out by CCC. He said that 4-5 routes in the Cambrian Mountain area of Carmarthenshire had been improved and wanted his thanks recorded.</p> <p>There is a separate Byway Users Liaison Group which regularly meets with the Director of Technical Services at CCC, representatives from CCC's Countryside & Recreation Unit and Brecon Beacons National Park. KB and MH are members of that group.</p>	

<p>Item 11 CCC Policies on Processing Orders – JT</p> <p>CCC policies for dealing with and prioritising legal orders affecting public rights of way are detailed in the RoWIP policies 13, 14 and 16. JT provided details of the criteria such as prioritising orders where development is due to take place. In recent years legal orders in connection with the Wales Coast Path have taken priority. There are 34 outstanding Public Path formal or WCP related Orders/Creations and 85 anomalies/issues which may require an Order. There are 22 outstanding formal DMMO applications and 89 non-formal identified anomalies/issues which may require an Order.</p>	
<p>Item 12 CCC Walking and Cycling Strategy – JT</p> <p>The Active Travel (Wales) Act 2013 completed passage through the National Assembly for Wales on 1st Oct. The Bill became an Act of the Assembly on 4th November and will come into force in Mid 2014. There will be public consultations on the statutory guidance needed to implement the Act. The Act makes it a legal requirement for local authorities in Wales to map and plan for suitable routes for active travel, and to build and improve their infrastructure for walking and cycling every year. It creates new duties for highways authorities to consider the needs of walkers and cyclists and make better provision for them. By connecting key sites such as workplaces, hospitals, schools and shopping areas with active travel routes, the Act will encourage people to rely less on their cars when making short journeys. In preparation, Carmarthenshire CC have commissioned Capita plc (a specialist property and infrastructure business) to create a Walking and Cycling Strategy for Carmarthenshire in line with Active Travel Act requirements.</p>	
<p>Item 12 – AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JT reported on behalf of Eirian James that CCC had carried out the following improvement projects during 2013/14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Swingbridge Llandeilo and community walks. Rural Development Plan funding £70k. - Newcastle Emlyn Riverside Walk and picnic area – improve and extend existing riverside walk – RDP funding £65,800 from Distinctive Rural Hubs Fund - New County Walk leaflets being produced for Laugharne, Llandeilo and Newcastle Emlyn 	
<p>Item 13 Date/Location of Future Meetings</p> <p>The dates of the next and future meetings were agreed:</p> <p>6pm Thursday 20th February 2014 – venue tba</p>	