

**Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2013**

**Held at Llandeilo Community Education Centre 6pm**

**Present:**

Jonathan Tudor (JT) - Secretary

**Members:**

Karen Burch (KB) - Chair  
Mark Hadley (MH) - Vice Chair  
Keith Morgan (KM)  
Eric Davies (ED)  
Glyn Evans (GE)

Caroline Evans (CE)  
Chris Rankin (CR)  
Llew Thomas (LT)  
Jillie Gardiner (JL)

**Advisors/ Observers/Speakers/Members of the Public**

David Stacey (DS)  
Phil Stone – NRW (PS)

**Apologies (Members)**

Rosemary Jones (RJ)

**Apologies (Advisors)**

Mike Scott-Archer (BBNP LAF)  
Marie George (NRW)  
Russell Jones (NRW)  
Eirian James (CCC)

	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>Item 1 Welcome</b> – KB welcomed all to the meeting.	
<b>Item 2 Apologies</b> – Apologies were taken and recorded.	
<b>Item 3 Consideration and Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2013</b>  The minutes were checked and were accepted as correct.	
<b>Item 4 Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2013</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Banc Farm Byway (15/31 and 15/32), Lliadiad Nenog, Brechfa. JT reported that Tread Lightly had placed signage on alternative permissive route agreed with landowner to encourage use of 15/31 then the permissive route west to rejoin 15/32 (rather than using that part of BOAT 15/32 that crosses the centre of the field).</li><li>• Bronwydd and Newchurch paths – JT provided update.</li><li>• Amman Valley Cycleway – KM reported that there was no agreement with some landowners on the Carmarthenshire side of the border. JT to obtain update from CCC Technical Services department.</li><li>• Least Restrictive Access – JT reported that in 12/13 financial year improvement works on paths were carried out in Ynys Dawela Nature Park, the Reserve in Bryamman, Quarter Bach and Blaen Esgair Forest/Picnic</li></ul>	JT

<p>Site, Newcastle Emlyn. For 13/14 financial year there was no budget or programme but Newcastle Emlyn riverside walk will incorporate a least restrictive access.</p>	
<p><b>Item 5 RoWIP Review – KB</b></p> <p>KB explained that she had responded on behalf of the LAF to a RoWIP and RoWIP Funding evaluation received from consultants acting for Natural Resources Wales (NRW). JT had provided information from CCC to assist.</p> <p>KB thinks that some of the Action points in the RoWIP, which was produced in 2007 and runs until 2017 are now out of date. KB suggested that the RoWIP should be reviewed and asked members to feedback comments on the actions in it. JT said that the RoWIP had been useful in focusing policy and actions to improve public rights of way and countryside access. It had also raised the profile of these issues within the Council. A further use was as a bidding document to obtain funding to complete actions/improvements. However, some of the actions in RoWIPs were too vague and there was no sanction for non-completion. PS from NRW said that RoWIPs were a useful working document for Councils which they should re-visit and review/renew.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p><b>Item 6 LAF Conference Report - JT</b></p> <p>JT had attended Local Access Forums in Wales conference at Builth Wells in June. There was a keynote Speech from Ceri Davies, Executive Director for Knowledge, Strategy and Planning, NRW who provided an update on the new organisation’s remit and approach.</p> <p>Catrin Dellar of the Welsh Government had provided an update on proposals for new outdoor access legislation focusing on 4 elements – wider access, green spaces, rights of way and allotments. Welsh Government will be consulting on proposals to see if there is an appetite for legislative change.</p> <p>Quentin Grimley of NRW provided an update on the success of Wales Coast Path and the next stage was a 2 year improvement programme to re-align some routes, upgrade furniture and establish links to villages/communities in the 2km coastal zone. There was £1.15m funding for the 2 year programme across Wales.</p> <p>There were further presentation of ‘Landscape Character Assessments’, ‘Shared User Routes’ (and a possible code of conduct), and Accessible Routes projects in Powys and Denbighshire. (Conference Notes would be distributed).</p>	
<p><b>Item 7 Local Development Plan – KB/JT</b></p> <p>JT advised that there was a 6-week consultation period on Carmarthenshire’s Local Development Plan which had commenced on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013. The Plan included recognition of access stating <i>‘rights of way also place an integral role in enhancing health and wellbeing and their role should be considered within the context of the LDP.’</i> Full details available on the Carmarthenshire County Council web site.</p>	

<p><b>Item 8 ORPA (Other Routes with Public Access) - MH</b></p> <p>MH presented an ORPA paper giving an update on his previous analysis in June 2011. MH had established that a significant number of the routes are recorded on CCC's List of Streets which should provide them with some protection. Further work will be necessary to establish if the recorded routes are actually open on the ground. Further details are contained in MH's paper dated 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2013 which had been distributed. If a route was recorded as an unclassified road there were arguably vehicular rights over it. However, each route needed to be considered on a case-by-case basis. For example, some or parts of them were too narrow for vehicular use.</p>	
<p><b>Item 9 Consultation on Rural Policing - KB</b></p> <p>KB referred to the current Dyfed Powys Police consultation on Rural Policing and urged members to respond. It consisted of 13 questions. As well as quite specific questions, there is also an open question inviting comments on any rural policing issue. Various issues had been raised such as footpaths close to properties which entitled any member of the public to access at any time of the day or night; agricultural vehicles and MOT requirements; safety of horse riders on roads.</p>	
<p><b>Item 10 Review of LAF Working Practices</b></p> <p>JT had circulated the NRW Review of LAF Working Practices. The LAF went through the 20 questions. There were a further 19 questions for the LAF Secretary to complete. NRW had requested replies by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2013.</p> <p>The covering letter referred to problems with some LAFs because of difficulties recruiting new members. In some areas of Wales LAFs had been disbanded.</p> <p>Members felt that LAF members should make the effort to attend meetings as there were usually only 3 or 4 meetings a year. It was agreed that if a member misses 3 meetings without sending apologies the Secretary should write to them asking them to consider if they wished to continue membership.</p> <p>Members felt that it would be good if we could get young people involved in the LAF. Agreed that LAF Recruitment should be on the agenda for the next meeting.</p>	<p><b>JT</b></p> <p><b>JT</b></p>
<p><b>Item 11 Open Access Maps – PS (NRW)</b></p> <p>PS from NRW gave an update on NRW's 10-year review of Open Access Maps. Carmarthenshire's had not changed significantly though 60 hectares of land were added at Mynydd Pencarreg. The maps were now at the provisional stage and NRW have written to affected landowners.</p>	
<p><b>Item 12 – AOB</b></p> <p><b>Brechfa Wind Farms</b> – KB and JG referred to the plans to connect the Wind Farms to the national grid.</p> <p><b>Cross Hands West Development</b> – KB referred to the ongoing Town &amp; Country</p>	

Planning Act 1990 footpath diversion application to enable development to take place.

**Public Conveniences Closures/Transfers** - members expressed concern about the County Council's plans to transfer responsibility to Town/Community Councils and feared this could lead to the closure of some facilities. LT would draft a letter to be sent to the County Council.

**New Member** – David Stacey had applied to join the LAF and introduced himself. David is a keen cyclist and member of Sustrans. The LAF approved his application and welcomed him as a new member.

**Item 13 Date/Location of Future Meetings**

The dates of the next and future meetings were agreed:

6pm Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2013 – Dinefwr IBC, Ammanford

6pm Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2014 – venue tba