

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum

Thursday 20th February 2014

Held at Carmarthen Leisure Centre, Johnstown at 6pm

Present:

Jonathan Tudor (JT) - Secretary

Members:

Karen Burch (KB) - Chair	Chris Rankin (CR)
Mark Hadley (MH) - Vice Chair	Caroline Evans (CE)
Llew Thomas (LT)	Glyn Evans (GE)
Eric Davies (ED)	David Stacey (DS)
Jillie Gardiner (JG)	Keith Morgan (KM)
Rosemary Jones (RJ)	

Advisors/ Observers/Speakers/Members of the Public

Apologies (Members)

Dr. Catherine Nakielny (CK)
Eric Jones (EJ)
Don Lazenby (DL)

Apologies (Advisors)

Phil Stone - NRW
Mike Scott-Archer - BBNP LAF

	ACTION
Item 1 Welcome – KB welcomed all to the meeting. KB referred to the sad loss of Mr Eirian James, Senior Countryside Manager who had recently passed away. KB would write to the Authority and to Mr James' widow to express the sympathy of the LAF and gratitude for Eirian's contribution to improving countryside access. Meetings – It was agreed that in future the LAF would hold all its meetings in Carmarthen rather than at different locations throughout the County. It was hoped that this would encourage attendance.	KB
Item 2 Apologies – Apologies were taken and recorded.	
Item 3 Consideration/Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 21st November 2013 The minutes were checked and accepted as correct.	
Item 4 Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting held on 21st November 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Banc Farm Byway (15/31 and 15/32), Lliadiad Nenog, Brechfa. The permissive route around the edge of the field was in use and there was some wear which would be monitored.• NRW – JT went through responses received from Ceri Daugherty of NRW to some questions that had been raised about Open Access land and the Wales Coast Path.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- There was no cost or fee involved for a landowner in bringing an appeal against the inclusion of land as open access, unless the landowner chooses to appoint an Agent, in which case they might incur their own	

<p>fees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mynydd Pencarreg – there was no existing public access or any public rights of way. - Wales Coast Path – public conveniences were not specifically marked on WCP promotional maps produced by NRW, though they may be shown on the OS base maps used. - NRW will act in an advisory capacity in relation to recruitment and help to interpret the regulations on recruiting. If a LAF has a particular strength, NRW may suggest that as an example to good practice to other LAFs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross Hands West Development - KB reported that Sustrans had, despite concerns about the development, accepted the proposed diversion of public footpath 33/24 and associated cycle provision. • LAF Working Practices – JT reported that Ian Jones, CCC Head of Leisure & Sport agreed that the LAF did need clearer connections with the Authority including relevant elected members and managers/officers. Invitations would be sent for attendance at future LAF Meetings. Consideration would be given to a more formal Memorandum of Understanding if necessary. <p>KB had contacted members by telephone to encourage attendance at meetings and to identify what members felt was required to make the LAF more relevant. Most responses indicated that clearer lines of communication with decision-makers at CCC were desirable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAF Recruitment – KB asked members to contact potential new members within their own organizations/networks. CE suggested that the Carmarthenshire Tourist Association might be able to recruit appropriate persons. JG will progress this aspect. Others suggested a press release in the Carmarthen Journal – however, there were problems in getting newspapers to publish these. • CCC Walking & Cycling Strategy/Active Travel Act - members asked if a Simon Charles, CCC Transport Strategy & Infrastructure Manager, could be invited to a future meeting and/or provide an update. 	<p>ALL</p> <p>JG</p> <p>JT</p>
<p>Item 5 RoWIP Review – KB</p> <p>KB believes that the RoWIP needs to be updated and asked members to send her further comments before the next meeting. KB would then collate and report back to the next meeting.</p>	<p>ALL</p>
<p>Item 6 LAF Chair - Update - KB</p> <p>KB will now stay on as Chair until the end of the current LAF Term in Nov/Dec this year.</p>	
<p>Item 7 LAF Recruitment</p> <p>Already discussed during Matters Arising – see above.</p>	

<p>Item 8 Consultation on Possible Outdoor Access Legislation - JT</p> <p>JT said that WG had indicated that a decision on a Green Paper was now likely to be made in April but any Bill would not now appear until after the next Assembly Elections. There had been intense lobbying from groups such as Sustainable Access Campaign Cymru who are basically in favour of no change to the existing legal framework for access to the countryside or inland water.</p>	
<p>Item 9 Amman Valley Cycle way – Update ED and JT</p> <p>JT provided a brief update from Simon Charles, CCC Transport Strategy & Infrastructure Manager. CCC are currently in the process of purchasing land to complete the section from the Forge Washery to the Rose & Crown public house along the old railway line. Due to land and engineering constraints they plan to divert the route slightly from the Washery up to Cwmgarw Road (via an existing public right of way which will be improved) then along Cwmgarw Road itself where improvements in conjunction with a Traffic Management/Road Safety Scheme are proposed in order to provide a continuous link. It will then rejoin the old railway line via the line adjacent to and behind the small industrial estate a few hundred metres to the east.</p> <p>This year has seen monies primarily focused on minor works, design and land purchase. A bid is going in for the Local Transport Fund for 14/15 which, if successful, will see the completion of this final section of the AVCW on the Carmarthenshire side of the county border.</p>	
<p>Item 10 – AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Glastir – members asked if an NRW/WG representative could be invited to a future meeting to provide an update. • Nantgronw – CR reported that signs had disappeared. It was believed that this was NRW land and should be reported to them in the first instance. • Brechfa Windfarm Connection Project – There were various consultation events. MH said that the LAF should state that public rights of way should not be closed during construction. KB will respond. • Wales Coast Path – can it be a regular agenda item as it is a priority route. • Reports – asked if it was possible for CCC Rangers to provide quarterly reports on what is happening in their area. • Dog Control Orders – were there any in Carmarthenshire? • Wharley Point – DS raised issue of WCP and footpath at Wharley Point, Llansteffan which was discussed. JT confirmed that an application had been received claiming a stretch of path to the front of The Pheasantry as a public right of way. 	<p>JT</p> <p>KB</p> <p>JT</p>

Item 13 Date/Location of Future Meetings

The dates of the next and future meetings were agreed – Thursdays at 6pm at Carmarthen Leisure Centre as follows:

22nd May 2014
21st August 2014
20th November 2014