

**Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum**

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014**

**Held at Carmarthen Leisure Centre, Johnstown at 6pm**

**Present:**

Jonathan Tudor (JT) - Secretary

**Members:**

Caroline Evans (CE)  
Glyn Evans (GE)  
Keith Morgan (KM)  
Eric Davies (ED)  
Jillie Gardiner (JG)  
David Stacey (DS)  
Llew Thomas (LT)  
Rosemary Jones (RJ)

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

Marie George (MG) - NRW  
Lowri Thomas (LT) – CCC Senior Tourist Information Asst.  
Geoff Williams (GW) – Ramblers

**Apologies (Members)**

Karen Burch (KB) - Chair  
Chris Rankin (CR)  
Ed Percy (EP)  
Catherine Nakielny (CN)  
Eric Jones (EJ)  
Mark Hadley (MH) - Vice Chair

**Apologies (Advisors)**

Cllr. Deryk Cundy (DC) – CCC Chair of  
Community Scrutiny Committee  
Rory Dickinson (RD) – CCC  
Countryside & Coast Manager  
Cllr. Meryl Gravell - CCC Executive  
Board Member  
Phil Stone - NRW  
Ceri Daugherty (CD) – NRW

	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>Item 1 Welcome</b> – JT welcomed all to the meeting.	
<b>Item 2 Apologies</b> – Apologies were taken and recorded.	
<b>Item 3 Consideration/Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2014</b>  The minutes were checked and approved.	
<b>Item 4 Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2014</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Amman Valley Cycleway</b> – KB reported that there was an issue with a bridge on the Neath Port Talbot part of the route.</li><li>• <b>Brechfa Wind farm Connection Project</b> – JT drew attention to a Western Power Distribution public consultation concerning their proposals closing on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2015. LAF members could respond individually or send their responses to me to be collated.</li></ul>	<b>JT</b>

<p><b>Item 5 LAF TERM</b></p> <p>JT confirmed that the LAF’s 3-year Term expires on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2014. An invitation to existing members to rejoin the LAF for its next term had been sent out. A public notice would be placed in the local press in line with the relevant regulations inviting applications from new members. JT, MH and KB had provided material for a press release to the Council’s press officer.</p> <p>The regulations require that a LAF should have at least 10 members and a maximum of 20, in addition to a Chair and Vice-Chair and Secretary.</p> <p>If members had any suggestions of potential candidates JT would send out application forms and associated documentation.</p> <p>The new LAF Term would run from the date of the next meeting when a Chair and Vice Chair would also need to be appointed.</p>	<b>ALL</b>
<p><b>Item 6 Dog Control Orders</b></p> <p>An update on the position was provided in the form of an email from Michael Roberts, CCC Environmental Enforcement Policy and Strategy Officer. In summary, the Anti Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 had introduced a new regimen and repealed previous legislation. The Council was awaiting the relevant statutory instruments to be made available and for legal advice as to how the legislation can be applied. Michael Roberts has offered to attend a future LAF meeting to provide an update in due course.</p> <p>A discussion followed about the extent of any future orders and NRW’s recent consultation of a Dog Walking Strategy.</p>	
<p><b>Item 7 Open Access Maps</b></p> <p>JT reported that NRW had completed the review of Open Access Land and that the conclusive access maps were published on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Hard copies were available at the meeting and details were also available on NRW’s web site. It was understood that the changes in Carmarthenshire were fairly limited but that an additional 60 hectares of open access land had been added at Mynydd Pencarreg.</p>	
<p><b>Item 8 General Update – JT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Common Agricultural Policy – Cross Compliance Consultation Response -</b> The consultation included a future proposal that public rights of way should be Included under cross-compliance, as they are in England where they are subject to the requirement to keep land in Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition. The majority of responses to the consultation disagreed with the proposal. The Welsh Government’s response stated:  <i>‘The Welsh Government intends to review the mapping constraints to designating Public Rights of Way as a landscape feature (including requirements not to obstruct or deviate). Once these constraints are resolved an amendment to the Cross Compliance requirements under GAEC 7 to include the Public Rights of Way requirement subject will be considered, subject to further consultation with stakeholders.’</i></li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Maintenance Update</b> – JT distributed a spreadsheet provided by the Countryside Operations Team listing routes on which improvement works had been carried out.</li> <li>• <b>St Iltyd’s Walk</b> – The Swansea Ramblers initiative was continuing and meetings including representatives of the relevant local authorities were ongoing.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Item 9 AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ceredigion on Horseback</b> – an article in the Carmarthen Journal about this project was referred to. A point was made about the relative lack of bridleways in Carmarthenshire.</li> <li>• <b>Tourism</b> – Lowri Jones referred to the success of the Walkers are Welcome initiative with Llandeilo and Llandovery official Walkers are Welcome towns in Carmarthenshire.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Item 11 Date/Location of Future Meetings</b></p> <p>The dates of the meetings for next year would be confirmed in due course.</p>	