

**Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

**Held at CAVS, 18 Queen Street, Carmarthen at 6pm**

**Present:**

Jonathan Tudor (JT) - Secretary

**Members:**

Mark Hadley (MH) - Chair  
Karen Burch (KB) - Vice Chair  
David Stacey (DS)  
Chris Rankin (CR)  
Glyn Evans (GE)  
Eric Jones (EJ)

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

Jane Tibbott – Welsh Government – Rural Payments  
Phil Stone – Natural Resources Wales (NRW)  
Geoff Williams – Ramblers  
Jason Lawday – Temp Countryside Access Assistant

**Apologies (Members)**

Eric Davies (ED)  
Keith Morgan (KM)  
Caroline Evans (CE)  
Ed Percy (EP)  
Alan Warner (AW)  
Jillie Gardiner (JG)

**Apologies (Advisors)**

Cllr. Deryk Cundy (DC) – Chair of  
Community Scrutiny Committee  
Cllr. Meryl Gravell – Executive  
Board Member  
Lowri Jones – Senior Tourism  
Information Assistant

ITEM	ACTION
<b>Item 1 Welcome</b> – JT welcomed all to the meeting.	
<b>Item 2 Members Introduction</b>  As this was the first meeting of the new LAF Term members introduced themselves. The new LAF term runs for 3 years from the date of this meeting.	
<b>Item 3 GLASTIR – Presentation by Jane Tibbott, Welsh Government</b>  Jane is based with Rural Payments Wales, Welsh Government offices in Newtown, Powys and responsible for 5 Glastir Contract Managers. Jane said that here will be some significant changes for 2016 Glastir under the new Rural Development Plan which is awaiting approval from the European Commission. Glastir started in 2012 as a 5-year whole farm Scheme.  JT asked if there was a requirement in the scheme for landowners/farmers to keep public rights of way over their land open and accessible. If so, what was the enforcement mechanism? Jane said that there was a requirement in the scheme to keep public rights of way open and that if they were not the local authority could refer the matter to the Rural Payments Inspectorate - Wales. JT asked how the local authority would know that a farmer/landowner and the relevant land were in the Glastir scheme. Jane said that local authorities would not be supplied with datasets of which land was in the scheme as Glastir contracts and	

<p>information on landowner were private. Jane said that a referral could still be made to the Rural Payments Inspectorate – Wales and they would then check if the relevant land was in the scheme. JT said that would mean that the Local Authority would potentially have to refer every obstruction/closure of public rights of way to the Inspectorate on the off-chance that the land was within Glastir which would mean that the Inspectorate (a relatively small team) would be inundated with inquiries. This system seemed unworkable. JT said that in relation to Tir Gofal (a previous agri-environment scheme) the Local Authority had been provided with datasets of who was in the scheme.</p> <p>Jane was also asked about permissive access. LAFs had previously been asked to identify useful specific permissive access routes. However, the feedback from LAFs had been variable. Again LAFs had encountered the same problem that if they could not identify if land was in Glastir they would not know if it was worth proposing a route. Again, the process seemed unsatisfactory. Jane said that the LAF could submit general desire statements identify areas of the county where permissive access would be useful e.g. for horse riders. Further, if a farmer wished to offer permissive access under Glastir (and receive the associated payment) he/she had to contact the LAF first for the LAF to approve the proposed route. However, the ‘access’ objective in Glastir Advanced is voluntary/optional. Jane was thanked for attending the meeting and explaining the evolution of Glastir. A copy of Jane’s presentation is attached with further details.</p>	
<p><b>Item 4 Election of Chair and Vice Chair</b></p> <p>Mark Hadley was elected Chair and Karen Burch as Vice-Chair. Mark introduced himself as Chair and set out some of his priorities for the future of the LAF including recruitment and establishing the LAFs role as a consultee with Council departments.</p> <p>The LAF thanked Karen Burch for her contribution as Chair over the previous 3-year term,</p>	
<p><b>Item 5 Apologies</b> – Apologies were taken and recorded.</p>	
<p><b>Item 6 Consideration/Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014</b></p> <p>The minutes were checked and approved.</p>	
<p><b>Item 7 Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2014</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dog Control Orders</b> – JT had provided an email update from Michael Roberts, CCC Environmental Enforcement Policy and Strategy Officer, which he had received that day. It stated that the issue was to be discussed at Scrutiny Committee tomorrow and that a report had already been submitted. The LAF were dismayed that they had not been consulted about the report and resolved that a meeting should be sought with Michael Roberts to discuss their concerns.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MH/ JT</b></p>
<p><b>Item 8 Maintenance/Grant Work Update</b></p> <p>Jason Lawday, a Countryside Access Ranger, provided information on recent grant/improvement works carried out by the CCC Countryside Operations Team. MH and KB asked that this should be a regular LAF agenda item and if information could be provided in a spreadsheet format in future. JT would ask the CCC Countryside Operations team to provide information in that form.</p>	<p><b>JT</b></p>

<p><b>Item 9 AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>i-local</b> - JT said that the Countryside Access team would be arranging for public rights of way mapping to be made available online through the Council's new website and i-local mapping facility.</li> <li>• <b>Active Travel</b> – JT provided an email update from Simon Charles. WG had just issued a clear directive from WG regarding mapping requirements.</li> <li>• <b>Cross Compliance</b> – JT said that Welsh Rights of Way Managers Working Group had met with Welsh Government to discuss how the requirement to keep public rights of way open and unobstructed could be included in the Single Farm Payment (now Basic Farm Payment) scheme in the future (as it is in England)</li> <li>• <b>BOAT 58/14</b> – MH had been in contact with Ceredigion CC regarding this Byway which on crossing the border becomes a RUPP (Road used as Public Path) which they are planning to reclassify. MH will provide further details at the next LAF meeting.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MH</b></p>
<p><b>Item 11 Date/Location of Future Meetings</b></p> <p>The dates of the meetings for the remainder of the year, all scheduled for 6pm on Thursdays at Carmarthen Leisure Centre are:</p> <p>21<sup>st</sup> May 2015  27<sup>th</sup> August 2015  19<sup>th</sup> November 2015</p>	