

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum

Thursday 21st May 2015

Held at Carmarthen Leisure Centre, Carmarthen at 6pm

Present:

Jonathan Tudor (JT) - Secretary

Members:

Mark Hadley (MH) - Chair

Eric Davies (ED)

Keith Morgan (KM)

Becky Chunisingh (BC)

Chris Rankin (CR)

Jillie Gardiner (JG)

David Stacey (DS)

Caroline Evans (CE)

Glyn Evans (GE)

Advisors/ Observers/Speakers/Members of the Public

Michael Roberts – CCC Environmental Enforcement

Alan Evan – CCC Legal Department

Geoff Williams – Ramblers

Apologies (Members)

Karen Burch (KB) - Vice Chair

Alan Warner (AW) – CCC appointed member

Apologies (Advisors)

Phil Stone (NRW)

	ITEM	ACTION
Item 1	Welcome – MH welcomed all to the meeting.	
Item 2	New Member Becky Chunisingh was welcomed to the LAF and invited to introduce herself. Becky explained her background in Sport Wales and involvement and interest in leisure/health/tourism and the outdoors. Becky also has a particular interest in disabled access. The LAF were pleased to confirm Becky as a new member.	
Item 3	Dog Control Orders: Anti Social Behavior, Crime and Policing Act 2014 – Michael Roberts CCC Environmental Enforcement Alan Evans CCC Legal Department Michael provided an update on the public consultation and subsequent proposals on Dog Control measures that would be put before the relevant Scrutiny Committee. There were some 620 responses to the public consultation with bodies such as the Local Access Forum, Kennel Club, Crown Estate and Dyfed Powys Police also consulted. 82% of responses were from dog owners. After discussions with CCC Director of Environment, it was agreed that the main recommendations would be: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A county wide Order requiring people to clean up after their dogs on all public land within the County (Dog Fouling Order)2. A county wide Order requiring people to place their dog on a lead by direction when directed to do so by an authorised officer, which could	

<p>include local authority officers, police officers and/or PCSOs (Dogs on Leads by Direction Order)</p> <p>Discussion followed about whether the Council had sufficient resource to enforce such Orders. Particular problems had been identified at the Millennium Coastal Park where some owners allegedly just let their dogs out of the car and allowed them to roam free with instances of attacks on other dogs. Alan confirmed that Council tenants were only entitled to own one dog under their tenancy agreement.</p> <p>Michael and Alan explained that any measures had to be evidence-based and there would be further formal consultation on any proposals. The next steps are that a Report with recommendations will go to the Council's Scrutiny Committee. Then any recommendations/proposals from the Scrutiny Committee will be considered by the Council's Executive Board. Then draft orders would be published with a formal public consultation probably in September. Then responses would go back to the Executive Board who would make a final decision on implementation.</p> <p>MH asked if there were any changes in relation to beaches where there are existing bylaws. Michael said that there were no recommendations and existing bylaws at Llansteffan and Pembrey beaches would remain. The voluntary system at Pendine would remain. The proposed general Dog Fouling Order and Dogs on Lead by Direction Order would apply and should be sufficient. There was also the option of a Public Space Protection Order to deal with problems in a specific area if necessary. DS said that he believed that Llansteffan would continue with their existing bylaw on the beach there. CE said that Carmarthenshire Tourist Association had met that morning and would be feeding back their views to the Council. Members pointed out that Carmarthenshire promoted itself as 'dog friendly'. There had been concern about the possibility of draconian measures deterring tourists and visitors.</p> <p>Michael said that the legislation incorporates the ability to review the effectiveness of any Orders.</p> <p>MH thanked Michael and Alan for attending the meeting and explaining the current position.</p>	
<p>Item 4 Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were taken and recorded.</p>	
<p>Item 5 Consideration/Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 26th February 2015</p> <p>The minutes were checked and approved.</p>	
<p>Item 6 Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting held on 26th February 2015</p> <p>None</p>	
<p>Item 7 Contact with Town/Community Councils – update MH</p> <p>MH had written to all 72 Town and Community Councils in Carmarthenshire on 15th March introducing himself as Chair, explaining the work of the LAF and seeking further contact. So far MH had received 3 responses including an invitation to attend a future meeting of Trimsaran Community Council.</p>	

<p>Item 8 Recruitment</p> <p>See item 2 above. There had been no further applications to date.</p>	
<p>Item 9 Grant Works Programme</p> <p>CCC Countryside Operations team had provided a spreadsheet detailing Grant Funded improvements to the public rights of way network for 2014-2015. It provided details of routes and works carried out.</p>	
<p>Item 10 Annual Report</p> <p>It was a requirement to produce an annual report but the LAF had not produced one in recent years relying instead on Minutes of its meetings to illustrate its work. However, LAF members felt that an Annual Report could be a further way of promoting the work of the LAF. MH agreed to put a draft report together.</p>	MH
<p>Item 11 Archive Service</p> <p>KB had raised by email the issue of the current temporary closure of the County Archive Service building at Parc Myrddin but was unable to attend this evenings meeting. JT said that he would contact Jane Davies, CCC Senior Cultural Services Manager to seek clarification.</p>	JT
<p>Item 12 Glastir - Permissive Access - MH</p> <p>MH said that Jane Tibbott of Rural Payments Wales had, at the last LAF meeting, reminded the LAF should submit any desires it had for permissive routes. MH said that the LAF had previously agreed that there is a general lack of access within the North East of the County and would welcome increased access to the Countryside where possible throughout the County. There is also a lack of bridleways within the County and any route that provides an off-road connection between 2 public rights of way of any nature is of benefit. JT would make submission on behalf of the LAF.</p> <p>If LAF members had any other suggestions for specific routes or links they should let MH or/and JT have the details.</p>	JT ALL
<p>Item 13 BYWAY 58/14 (Carms) RUPP 63/17 (Ceredigion) – MH</p> <p>MH circulated a paper he had prepared regarding a reclassification Order in Ceredigion which was originally intended to reclassify a Road Used as a Public Path (RUPP) as a Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) to link with BOAT 58/14 on the Carmarthenshire side of the border. However, the Ceredigion Order was never confirmed due to 2 objections. Ceredigion believe that the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC) may lead to the route now only be confirmed as a Restricted Byway which would mean there was no cross-border route for motorised vehicles which seemed nonsensical. MH requested authority for Carmarthenshire LAF to write to Ceredigion and Planning Inspectorate as described in his paper.</p>	

<p>Item 14 Future Agenda Items - Discussion</p> <p>Suggestions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Travel Act 2013 – update required • NRW review of Recreation and Access publications – update from NRW. 	
<p>Item 15 AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Travel Act 2013 – DS had recently attended a consultation and training exercise organised by Sustrans in Swansea regarding the implementation of the Active Travel Act. The aim of the Act is to get 20% of all journeys less than 3 miles made on foot or by bike rather than by car with a focus on urban areas. The first stage of implementation is the identification and audit of existing routes. DS believes that Local Authorities have an obligation to consult with interested parties. Sustrans have worked with consultants to develop and audit tool to look at provision for walkers and cyclists. DS advises that Helen Davies has recently taken over as Sustrans area manager. JT would ask Simon Charles, CCC Transport & Infrastructure Policy Manager to provide an update for the next LAF meeting. • LAF Connection with Council – GE asked about the LAF’s connection with elected councilors/Scrutiny Committee/Executive Board. JT pointed out that Cllr D. Cundy, Chair of Community Scrutiny Committee had previously agreed to try to attend LAF meetings as an observer. However, with changes in the Council’s political composition and internal departments JT was ascertaining who it would be appropriate to invite in the future. 	<p>JT</p> <p>JT</p>
<p>Item 16 Date/Location of Future Meetings</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>27th August 2015 19th November 2015</p>	