

**Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

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

**Present:**

Jonathan Tudor (JT) - Secretary

**Members:**

Mark Hadley (MH) - Chair  
Karen Burch (KB) - Vice Chair  
Keith Morgan (KM)  
Chris Rankin (CR)  
Jillie Gardiner (JG)

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

Geoff Williams (GW) – Ramblers  
Phil Stone (PS) - NRW

**Apologies (Members)**

Caroline Evans (CE)  
Alan Warner (AW) – CCC appointed member  
Eric Davies (ED)  
Becky Chunisingh (BC)  
Ed Percy (EP)

**Apologies (Advisors/Observers)**

Cllr Deryk Cundy

\*CCC in these minutes refers to Carmarthenshire County Council

ITEM	ACTION
<b>Item 1 Welcome</b> – MH 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 21st May 2015</b>  The minutes were checked and approved subject to minor amendment.	
<b>Item 4 Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Dog Control Orders</b> - CR stated, regarding item 3, that she had raised the issue of the control of dogs around horses.</li><li>• <b>Contact with Town/Community Councils</b> - MH said that he had yet to attend a suggested meeting with Trimsaran Community but hoped to in the future.</li><li>• <b>Annual Report</b> – MH was drafting an Annual Report</li><li>• <b>Glastir</b> – JT advised that, in his capacity as CCC Countryside Access Manager, he had met with Rural Payments Wales (RPW) and obtained a referral form to report obstruction issues with public rights of way on land within Glastir, if necessary. Potentially, RPW could withhold repayments under the scheme.</li><li>• <b>BOAT 58/14 (Carms) RUPP 63/17 (Ceredigion)</b> – MH had been in contact with Ceredigion County Council regarding the issue.</li></ul>	<b>MH</b>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LAF Connection with Council</b> – JT said that Cllr Deryk Cundy who had previously attended a LAF Meeting, as an observer Chair of the Community Scrutiny Committee which has public rights of way within its remit, has been re-appointed and had been invited to tonight's and future meetings. Unfortunately, he had had to give his apologies for this evening's meeting but hoped to attend some future meetings.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Item 5 Dog Control/Public Space Protection Order – Update MH</b></p> <p>MH reported that the LAF had objected to 2 additional recommendations from the relevant council Scrutiny Committee proposing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dogs to be kept on leads at all times on all sports pitches, parks and Playgrounds.</li> <li>• Dogs to be kept on leads at all times on all public highways</li> </ul> <p>MH had subsequently received confirmation from Eifion Bowen, Interim Director of Environment, that the Council's Executive Board had decided not to proceed with those 2 recommendations but that the following main proposals would be going forward to formal statutory consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A county wide order requiring people to clean up after their dogs on all public land.</li> <li>• A county wide order requiring people to place their dog on a lead (of no more than 2m in length) when directed to do so by an authorised officer, which could include local authority officers, police officers and/or PCSO.</li> <li>• An order excluding dogs from enclosed children's play areas.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Item 6 Active Travel Act 2013 - Update</b></p> <p>JT gave an update based on an email from Simon Charles, CCC Transport Strategy &amp; Infrastructure Manager. Welsh Government had appointed Sustrans to map out existing routes. That work has now been completed and CCC then had to audit those routes. The aim is to complete that process by the end of September to be followed by a period of consultation to which the LAF will be invited to contribute. The completed existing route map has to be submitted to Welsh Government by January 2016.</p>	
<p><b>Item 7 Welsh Government Green Paper: Improving Opportunities to Access the Outdoors for Responsible Recreation - Consultation</b></p> <p>WG had produced a Green Paper with wide rangers options for changes in the legislative framework governing public rights of way and countryside access. The closing date for the consultation was 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015. GW said that he had attended a Ramblers meeting to discuss their response. MH felt that there was insufficient consideration of mechanically propelled vehicles within the document. KB did not find much obvious within it to improve the situation for horse riders. JT said that the consultation document presented various options to consider which ranged from procedural changes to existing process to a radical wholesale change in access rights. MH suggested that this could be discussed at a separate meeting of interested members or a sub-committee which he would arrange so that sufficient time could be devoted to considering the document.</p>	<p>MH</p>

<p><b>Item 8 NRW/Welsh Government: Developing Guidance for Local Authorities on Public Rights of Way</b></p> <p>PS introduced a consultation from NRW which concerned updating the advice from WG to local authorities on public rights of way. MH suggested that this could also be discussed further meeting referred in 9 above.</p>	
<p><b>Item 9 Big Pathwatch - Presentation</b></p> <p>GW gave a presentation on the Ramblers' Big Pathwatch project. The aim of the project is to find out the state of the path network by encouraging volunteers to survey paths using a phone app which standardises the survey approach and makes it easy for users. Ramblers will collate the information and send reports to Local Authorities. The information will also be used by Ramblers for campaigning purposes to make the case for proper funding of public rights of way throughout England and Wales. The LAF thanked Geoff for an interesting presentation and some members hoped to participate.</p>	
<p><b>Item 10 Public Rights of Way Mapping Online – i-Local Demo</b></p> <p>JT, as CCC Countryside Access Manager, announced that mapping for the public rights of way network was now available online via the i-Local facility on the Council's web and provided a demonstration. MH agreed that this would be a useful facility and wished the thanks of the LAF to be recorded.</p>	
<p><b>Item 11 Grant Works Programme - Update</b></p> <p>Alan Warner, CCC Countryside Operations Manager, was unable to attend the Meeting but had provided a report of planned works/improvements on the public rights of way network for 15/16. Further information to be provided at the next LAF meeting.</p>	<b>AW</b>
<p><b>Item 12 Archive Service - Update</b></p> <p>KB had previously raised the issue of the closure of the County Archive at Parc Myrddin due to mould growth damaging some material. JT provided an update from CCC which was relayed to the forum. A specialist contractor has removed and is cleaning affected documents. Unfortunately, Parc Myrddin has been identified as unsuitable for the cleaned documentation and options are being considered for alternative accommodation. KB was particularly interested because it affected access to Finance Act Maps and other documents which were used in evidence for claims for unrecorded public rights of way.</p>	
<p><b>Item 13 Recruitment</b></p> <p>JT said that there had been recent expressions of interest in joining the LAF and 3 application packs had been sent out. Any applications received would be forwarded to the Chair and Vice Chair for approval/comment and new prospective members invited to attend future meetings for the LAF to hopefully confirm membership.</p>	

<p><b>Item 14 Future Agenda Items – Discussion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Paper</li> <li>• Dog Control Orders</li> <li>• Legal Case – Herrick v Somerset County Council</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Item 15 AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>LAF Conference</b> – The annual LAF conference arranged by NRW was taking place on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2015. Hopefully, an update would be available for the next meeting.</li> <li>• <b>Public Path Diversion Orders</b> – MH advised that he was consulted as LAF Chair by the CCC Countryside Access Team about Legal Orders and that he would forward such consultations by email to LAF members for any comment.</li> </ul>	<b>JT</b>
<p><b>Item 16 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>19<sup>th</sup> November 2015</p>	