

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum

Thursday 19th November 2015

Held at Carmarthen Leisure Centre, Carmarthen at 6pm

Present:

Jonathan Tudor (JT) - Secretary

Members:

Mark Hadley (MH) - Chair
Karen Burch (KB) - Vice Chair
Jillie Gardiner (JG)
Jane Evans (JE)
Caroline Evans (CE)
David Stacey (DS)
Glyn Evans
Geoff Williams (GW)

Advisors/ Observers/Speakers/Members of the Public

Phil Stone (PS) - NRW
Cllr Deryk Cundy – CCC Chair of Community Scrutiny Committee

Apologies (Members)

Alan Warner (AW) – CCC appointed member
Eric Davies (ED)
Keith Morgan (KM)
Chris Rankin (CR)
Richard Leggett (RL)

Apologies (Advisors/Observers)

*CCC in these minutes refers to Carmarthenshire County Council

ITEM	ACTION
Item 1 Welcome – MH welcomed all to the meeting.	
Item 2 New Members Jane Evans introduced herself explaining that she has recently become the Carmarthenshire representative of the British Horse Society. Geoff Williams of Dynefor Ramblers, who had been attending the LAF as an observer but had previously been a member and former Chair, had applied to re-join as full member and was present. Richard Leggett, Chair of Carmarthen Ramblers group, had also applied to join but was unable to attend tonight's meeting. MH thanked them for their interest and the LAF confirmed all three as new members.	
Item 3 Apologies Apologies were taken and recorded.	

<p>Item 4 Consideration/Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 27th August 2015</p> <p>The minutes were checked and approved subject to minor amendment.</p>	
<p>Item 5 Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting held on 27th August 2015</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmarthenshire Archive Service – KB asked if a further update on the Archive Service (which was currently closed) could be obtained. Cllr Cundy explained that the current facility at Parc Myrddin had been identified as not fit for purposes. Local alternatives and other options were being considered. Cllr Cundy offered to obtain an update from relevant CCC officers. JT would email Cllr Cundy and circulate any update. • LAF Conference – JT had been unable to attend the conference on 15th September but would forward minutes if/when circulated by NRW. 	JT
<p>Item 6 Public Space Protection Order (Dog Control)</p> <p>MH referred to the consultation documentation that had been circulated with a closing date of 14/12/2015. MH confirmed that the Executive Board had accepted and followed the advice of the LAF and commended the proposals as sensible and measured i.e.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A county wide order requiring people to clean up after their dogs on all public land. • 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. • An order excluding dogs from enclosed children’s play areas. <p>Some members raises questions about enforcement and possible difficulties in complying for people exercising their dogs whilst riding horses, though other LAF members did not see that this affected the ability of people to, for example, clear up after their dogs. JT said that many questions were considered and addressed in the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document circulated with the consultation.</p>	
<p>Item 7 NRW Targeted Consultation on Draft Guidance for the Review of RoWIPS</p> <p>The consultation document had been circulated prior to the meeting. The closing date was 27/11/2015. GW said he would send MH the Ramblers’ response. MH would then respond on behalf of the LAF taking account of any members’ comments. JT would also respond on behalf of CCC’s Countryside Access Team.</p> <p>KB was concerned about how Carmarthenshire’s RoWIP integrated with the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority (BBNP) RoWIP. KB felt that the Black Mountain area was neglected within BBNP’s RoWIP.</p> <p>MH said that the LAF should comment on 2.16 of the consultation document which failed to give any commitment from Welsh Government to future funding, especially when the RoWIP review process was itself lengthy and costly.</p> <p>Cllr Cundy commented on the ongoing substantive cuts to Local Authority funding currently predicted at some 40% over the next 3 years. PS of NRW referred to cuts of 25%-40% over the next 5 years. NRW had however committed £900k to</p>	MH JT

<p>the Wales Coast Path over the next 5 years.</p> <p>KB said that the financial environment meant that it was even more important for the Council to work with users and volunteers to try to find solutions.</p> <p>There was also discussion about 4.20 of the draft which speaks of concentrating on areas where <i>'evidence identifies a demonstrable public need that is not being met'</i> rather than focusing on gaps in the network or a shortage of a particular status of highway per se.</p>	
<p>Item 8 Consultations – meaning of 'consultation' - MH Item 9 Brechfa Forest Wind Farm - update</p> <p>The above items were combined for discussion and a pre-meeting had taken place with PS of NRW to discuss the issue of consultation as it related to Brechfa Wind Farm.</p> <p>There was concern about there being sufficient clarity about what constituted a formal consultation with the LAF as opposed to information/briefings or presentations about a topic. The situation could be complicated as in some cases the LAF was required to be consulted by statute e.g. by NRW about the closure of 'Access Land'. However, in other cases which concerned access and public rights of way concerning access issues, there was not necessarily any statutory requirement for the LAF to be consulted though they often were as a relevant stakeholder. So a procedure was not necessarily defective through lack of formal consultation with the LAF.</p> <p>One definition of consultation was that it had to be at a point in any process when the outcome of any decision-making process could still be influenced.</p> <p>MH will write to RWE regarding Brechfa Wind Farm and explain the LAF's concerns about the content of the Access Management Plan and some of the references to the 'consultations' that took place.</p> <p>PS of NRW was asked how the LAF could ensure that it was consulted and given early notice of any plans/schemes on NRW land that affected 'access land'. PS would check with colleagues at NRW.</p> <p>The LAF asked if a representative from CCC Planning service could be invited to a future meeting to explain the process in relation to large infrastructure projects.</p>	<p>JT</p>
<p>Item 10 Grant Improvement Works Programme</p> <p>A report from Alan Warner (AW), CCC Countryside Operations Manager, was distributed detailing improvement works under the RoWIP and Joint Working Partnership Funding programmes. The LAF recorded its thanks for the information.</p> <p>MH asked if grid references could be provided on future reports. JT would ask AW.</p>	<p>JT/ AW</p>

<p>Item 11 Active Travel Act 2013 – Update</p> <p>JT read an email from Simon Charles (CCC Transport Strategy and Infrastructure Manager) referring to a consultation on existing routes as part of the Active Travel process. JT expected to receive the consultation shortly and would distribute. JT understood that CCC had to submit those routes to Welsh Government in January 2016 following the consultation.</p>	<p>JT</p>
<p>Item 12 Recruitment</p> <p>JT said that there were no outstanding applications beyond the 3 new members welcomed and confirmed earlier in the meeting.</p>	
<p>Item 13 Future Agenda Items</p> <p>The following were suggested: Active Travel, Towy Valley Cycleway, RoWIP Review, Annual Report, Statutory Consultees, Herrick v Somerset County Council - legal case.</p>	
<p>Item 14 AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAF Annual Report – MH was progressing and planning to publish in the new year. It was asked whether it could be made available online and possibly distributed to libraries. • Towy Valley Cycleway – DS attended a CCC consultation meeting on the proposal and reported that it was generally well-received. Much of the route will use the old railway line. Some farmers had raised concerns as currently it is a refuge for livestock during flooding. Horse riders had also asked if they would be allowed to use the route. • Cambrian Way – GW said that a new guide and website were being developed. • Penstacan Byway TRO – There was discussion concerning an incident on this route and a request from the landowner for a Traffic Regulation Order. This would be discussed at the Byway User Liaison Group. • Glastir Permissive Path – a consultation had been received from Welsh Government/Glastir about a permissive footpath in the Cilywm area being included in the Glastir Advanced scheme. This was a former Tir Gofal route to a viewing point. The LAF raised some queries but agreed to the proposal. • Green Paper – The LAF’s response to the Welsh Government Green Paper on ‘Improving opportunities to access the outdoors for responsible recreation’ had been submitted. It is understood that Welsh Government had received thousands of responses and that it would take the matter forward in the new year. 	
<p>Item 15 Date/Location of Future Meetings</p> <p>Dates for meetings in 2016 would be confirmed in due course.</p>	