

**Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum**  
**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016, 6pm**  
**Carmarthen Leisure Centre, Carmarthen**

**Present:**

**Members:**

Mark Hadley (MH) - Chair  
Glyn Evans (GE)  
Keith Morgan (KM)  
Jillie Gardiner (JG)  
Jane Evans (JE)  
Geoff Williams (GW)  
Caroline Evans (CE)  
Alan Warner (AW)

**Secretary (interim)**

Caroline Ferguson (CF)

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

Lucy Pugh – CCC Countryside Access Assistant (LP)  
Gerald Brown (GB)  
John Cook – Llanelli Ramblers (JC)

**Apologies (Members)**

Karen Burch (Vice Chair)  
Richard Leggett  
Ed Percy  
David Stacey  
Eric Davies  
Chris Rankin

**Apologies (Advisors/Observers)**

Marie George (MG) – NRW

\*CCC in these minutes refers to Carmarthenshire County Council

ITEM	ACTION
<b>Items 1 Welcome &amp; Introduction</b>  MH welcomed all to the meeting. CF introduced LP as minute taker for meeting as well as technical adviser for CAMS data. All present introduced themselves to new attendees.	
<b>Item 2 New Members/Resignations</b>  Two new Applications for Membership.  1) John Cook from Llanelli Ramblers – proposed by MH, seconded by CE 2) Gerald Brown from Bronwydd Arms – proposed by MH, seconded by JE	

<p>New members welcomed to the LAF. Members list to be updated</p>	<p>CF</p>
<p><b>Item 3 Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies taken and recorded.</p> <p>CE questioned absence of NRW representative.</p>	
<p><b>Item 4 Consideration &amp; Approval of Minutes (LAF meeting 12/05/16)</b></p> <p>Appreciation of good minutes! To be sent for translation asap.</p>	<p>CF</p>
<p><b>Item 5 Matters arising from Minutes</b></p> <p><b>Planning – Nationally Significant Development Projects</b> Email received from Richard Jones outlining his regret at receiving so much criticism of the Planning division and of old cases during a presentation he had prepared to provide the LAF with facts relating to major development. He advised that specific queries/concerns should be emailed to <a href="mailto:Planning@cararthenshire.gov.uk">Planning@cararthenshire.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Should LAF receive all planning applications? CF to chase numbers</p> <p>JG requested that where minutes state that she ‘alleged’, the wording be altered to ‘raised concerns’.</p> <p><b>PSPO’s</b> New leaflets (now publicly available) brought to meeting for members to take away. CF confirmed to KM that the Orders include the foreshore.</p> <p><b>Grant Improvement Works 2015/16 – Report &amp; Future Plan</b> Maintenance cost per metre this year compared to last year queried. GW would like to see figures and how they have had to alter with budget reductions. RA are monitoring each local authority in respect of funding reductions.</p> <p><b>LAF Annual report</b> CF confirmed LAF Annual Report has been circulated and published on website.</p> <p><b>Heart of Wales Trail</b> CE would like copy of HoWT brief.</p> <p><b>CAMS Issue Reports</b> GW queried anomalous issue “CAMS” in issue report, CF confirmed that issues logged under CAMS have been re-categorised correctly.</p> <p><b>Active Travel</b> CF spoke with Simon Charles who confirmed that the Integrated Network Map is not yet complete be should be ready to be presented at December meeting. CF to confirm and include in next agenda.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>CF</p> <p>CF</p> <p>LP</p> <p>CF</p> <p>CF</p> <p>CF</p>

## Bridges

AW confirmed £450,000 bridges budget – historical and dangerous bridges to be prioritised.

Quote received from CCC engineers to undertake a PRow bridges condition survey, figure of 2 men over 2 years at a cost of £360,000 – survey only

## Item 6 Grant Improvement Works Programme 2015/16

CCC Spend £54,000 ROWIP and £70,000 JWP (Joint Working Partnership)

- ROWIP spend

17 Footpaths - £41k

1 Bridleway - £3k

6 PRowS within Coastal Zone - £5.5k

Revised County Walks leaflets - £4.5k

- JWP spend

34 Footpaths - £35k

3 Bridleways - £7k

3 Unclassified Roads - £22k

1 PRow within Coastal Zone - £6k

Total of 65 routes improved in Carmarthenshire through 2015/16.

MH would like new County Walks leaflets given out – to be given to MH when they are ready.

GW would also like leaflets for RA groups

## Item 7 Allocation of Funding 2016/17

No JWP grant this year – replaced by Single Revenue grant.

£27,500 set aside for Ynys Dawela - this will be delivered by CA Maint team under SLA with Streetscene

£45,000 to be spent on footpaths – County Walks a priority

£4,000 on bridleways

£3,000 WCP

£2,500 older county walks leaflets

KM questioned what was proposed at Ynys Dawela

AW explained procurement framework issues delaying work but exception now in place allowing project to move forward.

KM pointed out problems with water on cycle path, also dog waste.

AW outlined plans to possibly giving the Countryside Rangers PSPO powers. LAF members keen to support AW in this.

<p>AW explained about reduction in Ranger numbers – likely that Communities will be asked to take some paths back to maintain ‘in house’.</p> <p>MH queried BOAT maintenance.</p> <p>AW explained that BOATs are not strictly his responsibility at the moment. Some monies will be given to CA maintenance under SLA with Streetscene for BOAT works – amount and routes yet to be agreed.</p>	
<p><b>Item 8 BBNP Delegation Agreement</b></p> <p>BBNP due to send formal business case to CCC. Next meeting in October, update at next meeting.</p>	CF
<p><b>Item 9 ROWIP Review</b></p> <p>CF gave outline of the requirements and aims of the review process and explained that approval had been given for the appointment of a consultant to carry out the review in Carms due to staff shortages.</p> <p>GW asked if there would be a consultation.</p> <p>CF explained that the LAF will be involved in the review process as per the guidance, this includes consultation.</p> <p>Guidance document to be circulated to members.</p>	CF
<p><b>Item 10 PRoW Network Issues Report</b></p> <p>Reports distributed.</p> <p>MH asked if the reports could be sent to members a few days in advance of the next meeting</p> <p>KM asked about trashing work, stated it needs to be done by June.</p> <p>AW agreed.</p> <p>MH asked if no. of outstanding issues is increasing year on year.</p> <p>CCC figures confirm.</p> <p>JG asked about apparent jump in figures 2015/16</p> <p>AW explained that Jason Lawday had input all his historical data recorded while he was Ranger. Also i-local has invited more complaints since it has gone live.</p>	LP
<p><b>Item 11 CCC CA Maintenance Team</b></p> <p>AW gave brief outline of current situation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Looking to gain approval to use contractors for annual grass cutting.</li> </ul>	

<p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Looking to hand back maintenance to Comm Councils at an agreed rate</li> </ul> <p>All provisional – either proposal would free up Ranger time for Capital works, minor enforcement and furniture improvement works.</p> <p>Possibility that a new structure can be supplied at next LAF.</p>	<p>AW</p>
<p><b>Item 12 Volunteers</b></p> <p>GW gave brief history of RA volunteers and confirmed that Ramblers HQ insure RA volunteer work parties.</p> <p>Bridge surveys are being carried out by specialists but could volunteers pinpoint bridge locations? To be discussed further.</p>	
<p><b>Item 13 CCC CA Legal Team</b></p> <p>CF updated – no change</p>	
<p><b>Item 14 Outstanding Orders</b></p> <p>Report showing Orders completed in 2016 financial year to date – copy provided to all members.</p> <p>Data can now be shown in the same format at any given time for any given time period, updates will be provided to LAF at each meeting.</p> <p>MH asked if LAF are consulted on TRO's</p> <p>CF confirmed that consultation with LAF only for permanent TRO's.</p>	
<p><b>Item 15 BHS Road Safety Campaign</b></p> <p>KB not present, item pushed on to next meeting</p>	
<p><b>Item 16 Improving Opportunities to Access the Outdoors for Responsible Recreation Consultation.</b></p> <p>MH gave overview to date in KB's Absence – remove from next agenda.</p>	<p>CF</p>
<p><b>Item 17 Cambrian Way</b></p> <p>GW Trustee of Cambrian Way, responsible for its condition in Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>GW improving way marking with CCC advice and permission.</p> <p>GW to supply map of intended way marking locations and supply to CA Legal.</p> <p>LAF will be updated at next meeting.</p>	<p>GW</p>

<p><b>Item 18 Brechfa Wind Farm</b></p> <p>MH informed members of email from Bethan Edwards, Development Project Manager for Brechfa WF - offering attendance at next LAF to discuss project.</p> <p>All agreed to accept invitation as long as time allows in next agenda.</p> <p>JG gave short history of forest.</p> <p>JG pointed out that LAF are Statutory Consultees on Open Access land and weren't consulted on connection project.</p> <p>MH asked if JG could draft a letter of concern relating to this and send to him – JG agreed.</p> <p>JG presented a letter she had drafted to NRW and expressed importance of raising issue of lack of consultation with NRW.</p> <p>JG also feels it is important that somebody from LAF joins NPower's community forum.</p> <p>CE raised awareness of Brechfa North – an amended proposal to develop a windfarm at Llanllwni.</p>	<p>JG</p>
<p><b>Item 19 LAF meetings 2017</b></p> <p>MH asked if all were happy with timetabling as it has been for 2016 (no summer meeting).</p> <p>All agreed to keep same schedule.</p> <p>Possibility of moving half of meetings to venue in Llandeilo, CF to look for suitable venues.</p> <p>Due to difficulties attending meetings AW suggested that an Area Ranger could attend each LAF meeting on a rotation basis to update group. He could then attend a LAF meeting on an annual basis when budgetary matters can be discussed. Group agreed that this was acceptable.</p> <p>Provisional Dates/Venues</p> <p>Feb 16<sup>th</sup> – Llandeilo  May 11<sup>th</sup> – Carmarthen  Sept 28<sup>th</sup> - Llandeilo  Dec 7<sup>th</sup> – Carmarthen</p>	<p>CF</p>
<p><b>Item 20 Future Agenda Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Staff Structures</b> – ongoing.</li> <li>• <b>3D Walking Campaign</b></li> <li>• <b>Road Safety Campaign</b> – KB initiative supported by BHS</li> <li>• <b>BBNP Delegation Agreement</b> –update</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Visit Wales featured Themes</b> – 2017 Myths and Legends, 2018 Year of the Sea.</li> <li>• <b>Brechfa Wind Farm</b> – presentation from Bethan Edwards (TBC)</li> <li>• <b>Heart of Wales Line Walking Trail</b> – Update and discussion.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Item 21 AOB</b></p> <p>CE raised concern over Towy Valley Transport Corridor coming out in Ffairfach but not linking to Llandeilo/Heart of Wales Line. Could LAF email Simon Charles to highlight concern over missing link?</p> <p>CF to email – likely Simon will attend the next meeting so can perhaps be discussed further then.</p>	<p>CF</p>
<p><b>Item 22 Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup> @ 6pm, Carmarthen Leisure Centre</p> <p>Venue, date &amp; time published on website:</p> <p><a href="http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/leisure-outdoor-activities/public-rights-of-way/local-access-forum/">http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/residents/leisure-outdoor-activities/public-rights-of-way/local-access-forum/</a></p>	