

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum (LAF)

Meeting Minutes

Thurs 22nd January 2026

Carmarthen Leisure Centre, Johnstown – 4pm

Present: Members:

Mark Hadley (MH) – LAF Chair
Richard Leggett (RL) - Deputy Chair
Phil Snaith (PS)
Sean Brown (SB)
Julie Sweet (JS)
Jillie Gardner (JG)
David Gravelle (DG)
Wyn Owen (WO)
Karen Burch (KB)
Tara Sutcliffe (TS)
Sandra Downey SD)
Laura Grant (LG)

Secretary – Caroline Ferguson (CF) – CCC Countryside Access Manager

Advisors/ Observers/Speakers/Members of the Public:

Christopher Nelson (CN)
Gary Baxter (GB)
Ray Davies (RD)

Apologies: Members:

Julie James

Advisors/ Observers/Speakers:

Cllr Edward Thomas
Cllr Aled Vaughan-Owen
Neil G Thomas

Note:

CCC in these minutes refers to Carmarthenshire County Council

PROW in these minutes refers to Public Rights of Way

NRW in these minutes refers to Natural Resources Wales

WG in these minutes refers to Welsh Government

ITEM	ACTION
<p><u>Item 1 – WELCOME & APOLOGIES</u></p> <p>MH welcomed forum.</p> <p>MH / CF read out apologies received.</p> <p>Disappointment that elected members not in attendance however observed that member attendance is much improved from previous terms. Earlier diary markers for meetings may help.</p> <p>CF to issue diary marker 1 month before</p>	<p>CF</p>
<p><u>Item 2 – CCC Grounds and Access Management Presentation</u></p> <p>GB introduced himself to forum members, gave an introduction to CCC Public Realm division and outlined its vision, key duties, functions, strategies, policies and plans.</p> <p>Summary of access opportunities under Public Realm responsibility and how it is managed and maintained.</p> <p>Challenges faced in managing access under Public Realm control and delivery of new approaches outlined.</p> <p>Follow up Q & A</p> <p>Slides to be shared</p> <p>Share Public Realm Terms of Reference with LAF</p> <p>GB to check whether penalties for non-compliance on transferred CCC sites</p>	<p>GB/CF GB/CF GB</p>
<p><u>Item 3 – TVP UPDATE</u></p> <p>Written update read out.</p> <p>Final sections to Open in March, grand opening in May (after Senedd elections) with seating scheduled before final sections open and approval for bins at access points.</p> <p>Update well received by members</p> <p>PS suggested route to be extended from Abergwili into Carmarthen making Town the origin of the route.</p> <p>Several concerns raised around dog walker behaviours along path, e.g. extendable lead usage, no available stats for dog related incidents.</p> <p>MH highlighted guidance in respect of Dogs being given the opportunity to ‘run free’.</p> <p>Suggested LAF advice note re: dog control on TVP.</p>	<p>MH/RL</p>

<p><u>Item 4 – EQUESTRIAN STRATEGY UPDATE</u></p> <p>CF has met with BHS following approval of strategy to discuss next steps.</p> <p>BHS offered assistance in putting out call to action for user and volunteer groups detailed in the strategy.</p> <p>Comms initially scheduled for Jan but looking at March due to delays in translation of document before it can be published online.</p> <p>Members suggested existing bridleway groups could feed into User Group.</p> <p>Enquiry re: what is being done with existing BR data. Strategy is much broader than only re-opening bridleways, but issue data is being gathered and will feed into improvement projects.</p> <p>New Road Safety Strategy highlights importance of more off-road provision for all vulnerable road users. Current Active Travel consultation does not mention equestrians although UK guidance includes horse riders in Active Travel.</p> <p>Dispute amongst members that guidance is UK, some suggest it is English guidance. TBC</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><u>Item 5 – PROW PERFORMANCE REPORTS</u></p> <p>Reports not produced for this quarter due to server upgrade affecting report template.</p> <p>To be run at a later date and circulated via email.</p>	<p>CF</p>
<p><u>Item 6 – Kidwelly Byways</u></p> <p>LAF members asked to re-consider risk assessment produced in relation to BOAT 11/8, Kidwelly.</p> <p>2022 independent risk assessment concluded that re-opening route to all users would present an unacceptable level of risk.</p> <p>Strongly held view of LAF members that mitigation could alleviate risk sufficiently.</p> <p>Members to provide all mitigation suggestions to CF so they can be considered by Traffic Management team – Deliverable? Affordable?</p> <p>DG suggested GLASS would consider funding deliverable mitigation measures.</p> <p>Mitigation suggestions to be presented to Traffic Management, findings to be shared.</p> <p>In meantime, LAF members happy for route to be considered for temporary TRO to reflect current condition.</p> <p>Decision to move wider Kidwelly Byways project discussion to Byway User Group meeting for in depth consideration of proposals, Kidwelly Byways on next BUG agenda.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>CF</p> <p>CF/ Highways</p> <p>CF</p>

<p><u>Item 7 – CCC BRIDGE MAINTENANCE</u></p> <p>KB agenda item suggestion – querying CCC maintenance and management of bridge structures/assets.</p> <p>CN outlined the established regime of scheduled inspections for Highways bridges (only). Confirmed specific Bridges budget for inspection, maintenance, repair and replacement.</p> <p>Group discussed differences in bridges management across different departments and suggested a value in having one central point of contact and responsible dept for issues/concerns on CCC bridges.</p> <p>No action suggested.</p>	
<p><u>Item 9 – ACTIONS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING</u></p> <p><u>Item 6 – PROW Projects update</u></p> <p>AM action re: collaborative working with BHS/TRF, no update brought to meeting, CF to discuss with AM and circulate current position.</p> <p><u>Item 9 – Wind-farm Grid Connection – effect on access</u></p> <p>MH/RL action not yet complete, defer discussion to next meeting.</p> <p><u>Item 12 – Cabinet member Responsibilities</u></p> <p>Cabinet portfolio detail not yet obtained, CF to follow up.</p> <p><u>Item 13 – Carms LAF Logo</u></p> <p>LAF Logo, CF yet to receive from MH. Once received, CF to send for translation</p>	<p>CF</p> <p>MH/RL</p> <p>CF</p> <p>MH/CF</p>
<p><u>Item 10 – ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS</u></p> <p>Recent PROW surveying Volunteer event discussed, very successful.</p> <p>Enforcement Strategy to be delivered 2026 – LAF will be consulted on draft document</p> <p>BUG meeting needs to be scheduled asap.</p> <p>Continued engagement with volunteers, what will future volunteer model look like, not much detail available on future roles. Presentation at next LAF meeting suggested.</p> <p>Highway Records Assessment, what stage has been reached, what outcomes have been achieved. Written update to be circulated/presented to LAF.</p>	<p>CF</p> <p>CF/AM</p> <p>CF/CN</p>
<p><u>Next Meetings</u></p> <p>8 April 2026 – 3.30pm Llandeilo</p> <p>July 2026 – tbc</p> <p>October 2026 – tbc</p> <p>January 2027 – tbc</p>	