

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum

Thursday 20th January 2011

Held at the Black Mountain Centre, Brynaman 6.00 pm

Present:

Members:

Geoffrey Williams (GW) – Chairman
Karen Burch (KB) - Vice Chair
David Foot (DF)
Llew Thomas (LT)
Pauline Sykes (PS)
Glyn Evans (GE)
Cllr Clive Scourfield (CS)

Eric Davies (ED)
Keith Morgan (KM)
Mark Hadley (MH)
Roy Jones (RJ)

Jonathan Tudor (JT) Secretary
Eirian W James (EWJ) CCC

Advisors/ Observers/Members of the Public

David Davies (DD) Cwmaman Town Council

Apologies (Members)

Eric Jones (EJ)
Rosemary Jones (RJ)
David Hunter (DH)
John Hollies (JH)

	ACTION
Item 1 Chairman's Welcome - the Chairman thanked all for attending the meeting.	
Item 2 Apologies – Apologies were taken and recorded. Resignations - GW reported that Par Arlette had resigned as a member of the Forum.	
Item 3 Consideration and Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 14th October 2010 The minutes were checked and accepted as correct.	
Item 4 Matters Arising Natural England Report/Website Lost Ways – DF asked why it was not on the Agenda for this LAF. EWJ referred to Item 9 of the minutes which stated that Phil Stone (CCW) would be contacted. EWJ had now arranged for Phil Stone to provide an update at the next LAF meeting on 7 th April 2011. Treadlightly Invitation – MH reported that Mark Margetts (who was to be invited to a future LAF meeting) no longer takes such a prominent role in Treadlightly. JT said that he had contacted Robin Hickin (Project Manager Treadlightly) who was arranging for a presentation to be given at the next LAF meeting on 7 th April 2011, probably by a local Treadlightly representative. Proposed Horse Riding Strategy for Carmarthenshire – KB asked if the LAF would support writing a letter to Richard Workman (Director of Technical Services, Carmarthenshire County Council) requesting an update on the proposed Horse Riding Strategy. It was agreed that a letter would be written on behalf of the LAF. Signposting and Waymarking in Brecon Beacons National Park - KB stated that she had met with Eifion Jones, Senior Access Officer at BBNP and his manager Julian Atkins along with BHS staff to discuss waymarking bridleways round the bogs. It was resolved from that meeting that the areas at issue would be identified and arrangements would be made to walk the routes with BBNP staff to look at the option of waymarking or possibly re-aligning the route to make it safe.	JT

<p>Glastir Update - GW confirmed that he had attended the meeting in Builth on 19th October referred to. It had been confirmed that any Permissive Access routes in relation to Glastir will be on the Internet in a more visible and usable form. The question of insurance cover had also been raised and was still to be resolved.</p> <p>Crosshands Development – KB had spoken to Gorslas Community Council who have asked for the proposed Cefneithen entrance to be a non-motorised user access. KB said that Llannon Community Council has asked for a horse-friendly route through the site.</p> <p>Local Development Plan – KB reported from her communications with Planning/Highways that horse riders are not considered as transport in terms of roads. They were only considered if a bridleway or byway was involved. KB contrasted this with the position of cyclists and walkers whose interests are taken into consideration. KB has written to the Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) who stated that it was a matter that the Local Authority should consider. However, KB stated that Planning say that they only consider what they are told to by WAG. The issue was still to be resolved.</p> <p>Cycle Track in Brynaman – EWJ said that Phil Snaith would be invited to the next meeting to clarify the position regarding the missing link by the rugby club.</p>	<p>EWJ/ JT</p>
<p>*Some items on the Agenda were brought forward and renumbered to accommodate a member who had to leave the meeting early.</p> <p>Item 5 Brechfa Windfarms – GW update</p> <p>CS formally declared an interest in the matter as a Councillor stating that he could not speak at this meeting as it would preclude him from speaking in Council.</p> <p>GW circulated copies of a proposed resolution stating that the Forum wished to submit an objection to Planning Application E/24195 concerning the proposed erection of 12 Wind Turbines known as 'Brechfa Forest East Wind Farm'. DF asked whether the objection could also be applied to the other Brechfa planning application E/239417 concerning 21 Wind Turbines at Bryn Llewellyn, Llanllwni. It was agreed that the LAF should object to both applications for the reasons detailed in the resolution.</p>	<p>JT</p>
<p>Item 6 Glastir/Tir Gofal - discussion</p> <p>JT stated that Alistair Sibley (Tir Gofal/WAG) was invited to attend this meeting which was the reason the item was on the agenda. However, he was unable to accept the invitation but has agreed to attend the next LAF meeting on 7th April 2011 to provide information on Tir Gofal and an update on Glastir.</p> <p>ED said that he understood that the uptake of Glastir was low and that there were too many problems especially in relation to common land. EWJ said that there had been a problem in knowing where the permissive access routes were. CCW (Countryside Council for Wales) had failed to make matters clear. ED said that WAG was reviewing Glastir. DD said that the expression of interest on Commons starts soon. It was expected that the uptake would be low. Also many commons do not have a Commoners' Association and it is a condition of entering Glastir that they do.</p>	
<p>Item 7 LAF Wales Manifesto - GW</p> <p>GW reported that the Manifesto was self explanatory and that it was being sent to all National Assembly Members and candidates for the National Assembly.</p>	
<p>Item 8 Wales Coastal Path – EWJ update</p> <p>EWJ went through a report on progress on the Wales Coastal Path prepared by Ian Morgan (Wales Coastal Path Access Improvement Officer). EWJ said that Ian Morgan will attend the next LAF meeting and asked that sufficient time be allocated to enable Ian to give a full report.</p>	
<p>Item 9 Countryside Access Management System (CAMS) – JT update</p> <p>JT stated that there was a new release of CAMS (version 5.4) due on 3rd February 2011 had additional functionality and distributed a flyer giving details. The new features included:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability for the public to access interactive, intuitive mapping and report problems. • Projects Module to enable specific or grant related projects to be tracked. • 'My Tasks' console featuring to do lists for users which would improve visibility of active tasks. • Improved Legal Module. <p>JT reported that the API (Application Programming Interface) which enabled the interactive mapping was optional and had cost implications which would need to be considered. The aim was to get the Public Rights of Way network online via CAMS. At present, the routes on CAMS were being validated against the Definitive Map.</p> <p>JT stated that he had also arranged a meeting with Jon Young (Director of Exegesis – the software provider) to review our current/future requirements and discuss the capabilities of CAMS.</p> <p>JT stated that 5 of the 6 members of the Public Rights of Way Team had now been trained on the Legal Module and it was hoped to begin to use this for the recording of legal issues and the process of public path orders. This would enable the CAMS to become the hub of the units work.</p> <p>MH asked when mapping would be available. JT said that it was hoped to complete the validation exercise before the end of the year.</p> <p>EWJ added that he believed that great strides were being made in the use of CAMS within the Unit and that this year it would be possible to extract information on Performance Indicators (PIs) from the system. He hoped that mapping would be available later in the year.</p>	
<p>Item 10 Funding/RoWIP/Volunteers - EWJ</p> <p>Funding – EWJ reported that the CCW grant had been reduced to £127,716 for the coming financial year and that the Rural Development Fund part of the grant was £10,000 for the next 3 years. He understands that RoWIP funding will be reduced from £99,185 to in the region of £53 or £54k but is awaiting written confirmation.</p> <p>Volunteers – EWJ circulated a paper entitled 'Volunteers and potential voluntary work on access and recreational matters within Carmarthenshire'. In summary, he explained, that International Volunteers work alongside Rangers/Contractors on 2 or 4 week residential work camps. Approximately 74 countries had sent volunteers. EWJ said that the council also welcomed using local groups or community groups such as the Ramblers, Carmarthenshire Riders and Treadlightly. EWJ said that groups would need to nominate at least 6 people for maintenance work and/or 2 to 3 people for survey work with a maximum work group of 12 persons. ED said that it was a golden opportunity for local people to learn skills. GE said that he still received Christmas cards from volunteers who had worked on previous projects. All agreed that volunteering was a useful contribution to countryside access and recreation.</p> <p>GW invited members or the Forum to contact EWJ if they or their organisations have ideas or projects where they believed that they could make a contribution.</p>	
<p>Item 11 Walking & Cycling Strategy</p> <p>A report had been circulated from the WAG Walking & Cycling Conference 2010. GW said that he had attended the conference. EWJ said that he had heard from those that had attended that the general feeling was that too much had been crammed into the day.</p>	
<p>Item 12 Process on Order Pre-Consultations/Protocols/Sub-Committees</p> <p>PS referred to the presentation that she had given to the LAF in 2008 on 'Problems with Diversions', with particular reference to the Cwmdru diversions a copy of which had now been sent to JT. It was decided to carry this item forward to the agenda for the next meeting to enable JT to view the original presentation.</p>	
<p>Item 13 AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority Policy - MH referred to a question that KB (who had left the meeting) had left with him concerning a policy for prioritising Definitive Map Modification Orders. JT said that drafting such a policy was one of his priorities and he was aiming to make progress on it shortly. • Ploughing - DF referred to the arable use of land and questioned whether farmers and questioned whether farmers knew the rules regarding ploughing of fields with public rights of way. DF asked if 	

the Local Authority could publicise and enforce the rules. EWJ said that the CLA and the Farmers' unions made their members aware of the rules. Enforcement action would be taken where appropriate.

Item 14 Date/Location of Next Meeting

DF suggested that the start time of the above meeting forward to 4.30pm from the normal 6pm. This was agreed.

4.30pm 7th April 2011 Laugharne Millennium Hall

Future Meetings

30th June 2011 Bronwydd Village Hall

22nd September 2011 Cwmifor Village Hall

15th December 2011 Tumble Hall

The above may be subject to change.