

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum

Thursday 30th June 2011

Held at Bronwydd Village Hall, Bronwydd 6pm

Present:

Members:

Geoffrey Williams (GW) – Chairman
Karen Burch (KB) - Vice Chair
David Foot (DF)
David Hunter (DH)
Chris Ranking (CR)
Cllr Clive Scourfield (CS)
Jonathan Tudor (JT) Secretary
Eirian W James (EWJ) CCC

Eric Davies (ED)
Keith Morgan (KM)
Mark Hadley (MH)
Rosemary Jones (RJ)
John Hollies (JH)
Glyn Evans (GE)

Advisors/ Observers/Speakers/Members of the Public

Apologies (Members)

Pauline Sykes (PS)
Llew Thomas (LT)
Eric Jones (EJ)

Apologies (Advisors)

Phil Snaith

	ACTION
Item 1 Chairman's Welcome - the Chairman thanked all for attending the meeting.	
Item 2 Apologies – Apologies were taken and recorded.	
Item 3 Consideration and Approval of Minutes of Meeting held on 07th April 2011 The minutes were checked and accepted as correct.	
Item 4 Matters Arising Item 4 Brechfa Windfarms – DF asked if an acknowledgement had been received from Planning regarding the LAF's letter of objection to Planning Application E/24195 concerning the proposed erection of 12 Wind Turbines known as 'Brechfa Forest East Wind Farm' and to E/239417 concerning 21 Wind Turbines at Bryn Llewellyn, Llanllwni. JT said that no acknowledgement had been received but that he would ask for one.	JT
Item 5 Definitive Map Modification Orders – Priority Policy (JT) JT introduced a draft policy for prioritising DMMOs. He said that it was largely based on a policy produced and used by Bridgend County Council. It allocates points on the basis of various criteria and each application is awarded a score and prioritized on that basis. JT stressed that this was only a way of deciding the order in which applications would be dealt with. It did not affect the statutory requirement to consider all applications received. JT invited comments from members present. CR expressed concern about criteria 6 (A The Route – 1 point to be deducted) which suggested a point be deducted if the application concerned a route 'which if added or changed would expose the public to a significant cost either in repair or future maintenance, for example where it requires a bridge, extensive drainage work or repairs to the surface'. JT said it was a draft policy and may be amended after further consideration and discussions within the Public Rights of Way Team. KB asked if this policy would apply to Orders that were not the result of applications from the public but that were generated as a result of anomalies or errors discovered by the County Council Rights of Way Team. JT said that this policy only related to DMMO applications but that he was hoping that it could be adapted to deal with self-generated applications. He would also look to develop a policy for fee-paying public path orders such as diversions.	

<p>Item 6 Brynamman Cycle Track – Update (EWJ)</p> <p>EWJ referred to an email update received from Phil Snaith which stated that an action plan had been set out and progress needed to be made in negotiations which could not be discussed publicly at this stage. Neath Port Talbot County Council needed to deal with some matters in their area before further progress could be made. ED said that common land will need to be used on one section. KM says that the issue will be raised at his resident’s meeting.</p>	
<p>Item 7 Local Access Forums in Wales – Conference Report (GW)</p> <p>GW referred to the paper the that he had produced giving the highlights including discussions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RoWIP Funding • The current state of RoWIPs. • Use of Volunteers • Access to Inland Water – update • Countryside Access Management System (CAMS) • Review of LAF’s effectiveness and relations with LAs. <p>GW said that Ceredigion LAF had established a Memorandum of Understanding with their Local Authority which ensured that the LAF had a slot at Scrutiny Committee and with Cabinet. CS explained that if there was nothing to report, it would not be an Agenda item at Scrutiny. EJ also questioned how such a regular slot would function.</p>	
<p>Item 8 RoWIP Update (EWJ)</p> <p>EWJ reported that RoWIP funding had been substantially reduced for the current financial year from £99,185 to £61,106. There was no guarantee of funding for future years. EWJ said RoWIP funding had had a great impact and needed to continue. CCW had offered funding for the next 3 years but only year 1 was certain with future years under review: Year 1 £53,795, Year 2 £41,556, Year 3 £34,899. CCW may be merged with the Environment Agency and Forestry Commission.</p> <p>DH asked if the Ranger programme would be affected. EWJ said that it had not been affected at Present but the size of the schemes or projects undertaken may have to be reduced. At present there were no plans to reduce the workforce. DF asked if volunteer time could be used for matched funding. KB asked if there was scope for volunteers working out of hours. EWJ said he was meeting with GW’s Rambler volunteers to work out work that they could contribute to. EWJ provided an update on progress on the Wales Coastal Path. 94% was now in place. There were still some problems in the estuary areas which crossed good farm land. DF commented that the route from Amroth to Pendine was very good.</p>	
<p>Item 9 ORPAs (Other Routes with Public Access)/Lost Ways (MH)</p> <p>MH had produced an informative paper which he went through. Based on information provided by OS it explained the process by which ORPAs came to be shown on OS maps. It also provided examples of some anomalies in the recording of these routes by StreetScene (CCC). MH said that these routes were an important part of the public rights of way network with many of them linking public footpaths, bridleways and byways. It was important that they were protected and correctly recorded prior to the proposed cut-off date 1st January 2026 when unrecorded routes will be extinguished.</p> <p>KB proposed that the LAF write to StreetScene (CCC) and Ordnance Survey asking for copies of any records that they held. This was agreed. JT would prepare draft letters.</p>	<p>JT</p>
<p>Item 10 Use of Local Volunteers - (GW/EWJ)</p> <p>GW said that it was important that volunteers should be utilised. The Dinefwr Ramblers group have compiled a list of 16 volunteers and discussions were underway about how this resource could be employed. It may be possible that their time could be used as match funding. EWJ said that since 1996 a total 5,306 volunteers had been used from the International Volunteer programme and that he would also be happy to use local volunteers where suitable arrangements and supervision could be organised. EWJ was meeting with Dinefwr Ramblers to discuss.</p>	<p>GW/ EWJ</p>
<p>Item 11 Glastir – discussion on current/future permissive access routes</p> <p>JT said that he understood from Alistair Sibley of the Welsh Government that they will be requesting a further return from the LAF about areas where permissive access is desirable. DF said that there are some permissive routes where it is now not clear if they are still permissive. JT said he was still trying to obtain further information, such as grid references, about the existing Tir Gofal routes.</p>	

<p>Item 12 Review of the effectiveness of the LAF and its relationship with the Local Authority (GW)</p> <p>GW said that he had put this item on the Agenda in view of the discussion that had taken place at the recent LAFs in Wales Conference. It was agreed that it was difficult to quantify or directly trace the effects or influence of LAF actions/discussions/decisions on Council policy but CS said that the LAF had performed an important role in developing the RoWIP which set the agenda for CCC policy on countryside access for 10 years. Progress on RoWIP was assessed annually by the Scrutiny Committee. The RoWIP would also be reviewed itself in 2012.</p>	
<p>Item 13 AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Development Plan (LDP) - is currently on deposit and submissions can be made regarding it before 4.30pm on 19th August 2011. GW asked if members could contact him with any comments. • Llandeilo Footbridge – DF reported that they were now looking for funding via the ‘Walkers are Welcome’ scheme. CS formally declared an interest in that matter. • Public Footpath 43/4 – DF said that it had been ploughed right up to the hedge. JT would look into this. • Treadlightly Signage – MH asked if CCC had now agreed to this. • Rural Crime – EWJ suggested that we invite the Rural Crime Officer to a future LAF. This was agreed. 	<p>JT EWJ EWJ</p>
<p>Item 14 Date/Location of Next Meeting</p> <p>The date of the next meeting is 6pm, Thursday 22nd September 2011 at Cwmifor Village Hall.</p> <p>Future Meetings</p> <p>15th December 2011 Tumble Hall</p> <p>The above may be subject to change.</p>	