

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum

Thursday 10th January 2008

Held at Civic Hall, Llandeilo, 6.00pm

Present:

Geoffrey Williams (GW) – Chairman
Jamilah Samuel (JS) – Vice Chair
Gary Carlsen (GC) – Secretary
Enfys Stallard (ES) - Minute Taker

Members:

Owen Glyndwr Evans (GE)
Keith Morgan (KM)
David Foot (DF)
Pauline Sykes (PMS)
Cllr Clive Scourfield (CS)
Mark Hadley(MH)
Pat Arlette (PA)
Roy Jones (ROJ)
Alan Richards (AR)
Karen Burch (KB)
Rosemary Jones (RJ)
Chris Rankins (CR)
William Theophilus(WT)

Apologies (Members)

John Hollies (JH)
David Hunter (DH)
Edward Harries (EH)
Llew Thomas (LT)

Advisors/ Observers/Members of the Public

Phil Snaith
Phil Stone (PS) – CCW
Elwyn Hughes (REH) -CCC

Apologies

Eirian James (EWJ)

	ACTION
GW confirmed that the next 2 meetings had been booked and are to be held at the Civic Hall Llandeilo. ES to organise the remainder of the years meeting to be at this venue also. Apologies were taken and recorded.	All ES
Item 2 Minutes meeting 15/11/07 The Minutes were accepted as a true record.	
Item 3 Matters Arising From Minutes of 15/11/07 Cambrian Motor Vehicle Study MH asked if there was any news regarding the Consultant Report - GW confirmed that it has not come out yet and referred to an article he had seen in a magazine KB informed all that there was to be a meeting called on 26/1/08 on behalf of Ann Elias and the partnership to discuss the survey and the proposals.	
1/1/08 Draft Amended PROWIP REH handed out copies of the final draft and advised that detailed discussions had been held and the sub committee's comments largely met. Final comments from CCW were awaited. The	

<p>Plan would now be submitted to the County Council's Scrutiny Committee, Corporate Management Team and Executive Board.</p> <p>As time was moving on and given the Sub-Committee's detailed consideration the Chair asked the group to move that as the last draft was the strongest incorporating all the changes and that the language had been strengthened and that it could be accepted and put forward to the Council. Cllr CS moved to accept this draft document. KB was happy with this version. DF also seconded the document be put forward and endorsed</p> <p>Chair asked for a show of hands and that it be minuted that this document be unanimously accepted and put forward as the final Document to the Council.</p> <p>REH noted that the report will be subject to a formal annual review process and GW and Cllr CS both agreed that the group could evaluate the document ongoing throughout the year.</p> <p>JS asked if other forums will be doing the same process GW said that CCW will look at all documents and evaluate and coordinate issues raised.</p>	ALL
<p>2/1/08 Public Path Orders – Processes and Procedures It was decided that this item will be adjourned for discussion at the next meeting.</p>	PMS
<p>3/1/08 Gating Orders GC reported that he had enquired with various departments Trevor Sage (Head of Transport) was leading on this issue and had delegated John McEvoy to produce a statement of intent to be put before CMT recommending approval to establishing a Working Group.</p> <p>DF commented that LAF should be fully involved in the process and consultation – GC informed the Forum that LAF is not a Statutory Consultee such as the Emergency Services, but he would make enquires into becoming a Statutory Consultee. KB asked what are the priorities – GC said that it was for antisocial behavior, fly tipping and Urban Areas. GW asked if the forum should write to the Council to ask to be consulted – Cllr CS said that there would be enough time between LAF meetings to discuss issues as they arise. RJ asked about the right to challenge decisions made and to look at all view point not just from Ramblers side - Cllr CS stressed that all decision would have to be made for the correct social Reasons.</p> <p>GC asked the forum for any recommendations of groups/individuals that could sit on the Working Group</p> <p>GC to feed back to the LAF</p>	ALL GC
<p>4/1/08 Member Questionnaire GW handed out questionnaire responses which had been gathered from the completed customer satisfaction forms.</p> <p>The comments rated will be addressed and the exercise repeated again next year.</p>	GW
<p>5/1/08 Towy Trail REH reported that EWJ was away due to illness and GC handed out draft examples of the A5 Coastal Paths Leaflet that is being printed at the end of January.</p> <p>Copies of the booklets will be handed out to all at the next meeting</p>	GC
<p>6/1/08 Nant Groww Update GW stated that he had received many e-mails and that he had passed them all on to Mari Sibley and that he had requested an update on the position and has not received anything to date.</p> <p>GW has already written to the FC to express the concerns of the forum with regard to the failure of FC to settle this issue.</p>	GW

<p>CR said that she has been in contact with X -ray(on TV) to raise the publicity of the case.</p> <p>AR asked if it was wise to still have the sign posts up encouraging walkers, REH said that the signs were put up as part of the Grant Scheme and he believes that there is still access there. There is no registered PROW over the access road but access does exist because of the FC access rights that were confirmed by FC for the improvement grant scheme.</p> <p>JS was concerned regarding the recent situation of a person being barricaded in and that the Council should sort the issue, REH said that the Council was as concerned as the Forum but that it was an FC issue.</p> <p>It was noted that GW is to write on behalf of the Forum to Jane Davidson.</p> <p>GW requested that all keep him updated with any issues in future</p> <p>Issue to be brought forward to next meeting</p>	<p>GW</p> <p>All</p>
<p>7/1/08 Wales Coastal Path – Route Criteria Selection</p> <p>GW read out the responses in an e-mail he has received for Quentin Grimley and assured that the final draft would include all the text and points raised with regard to farming and wildlife issues.</p>	
<p>8/1/08 Countryside Unit Structure – Staff roles and duties</p> <p>Handouts were given to all which included updated structure of the unit.</p> <p>DF asked about the Definitive Map Assistant vacant post – he considered that maintenance of the Definitive Map was a statutory duty and therefore the vacancy should be filled asap and permanently not just for 6 months. REH said that the Council had to consider other duties as well and that the filling of grant-aided posts would also affect the timing of posts.</p> <p>REH said it was anticipated that there would be full funding available in the next financial year.</p>	
<p>9/1/08 Signposting Programme</p> <p>GC updated all that the signposting programme had commenced in September 2007 on the County walks and trails, where signs were missing, he noted that 150 requests had been received, 138 had been selected with 12 being too problematic to sign at present.</p> <p>78 have been put up and are still there and the another 60 were put up, 6 had structural issues and 54 were removed by land owners.</p> <p>EWJ to discuss way forward, a long discussion took place regarding the issues and the way forward for the Forum.</p> <p>It was recommended that GW asks the Council to write to Farmers Union, Community Councils, CCW and CLA.</p> <p>ROJ suggested he would be able to contact the NFU committee on which he sat and that he would try to get an article on the matter printed in the magazine 'Gwlad' to(1) publicise the problem and to educate all the landowners of the statutory duty of the County Council to signpost PROW. (2) inform landowners of the criminal damage/theft committed in their removal (3) advise farmers and landowners that the County Council would consider prosecution if evidence was available on theft/criminal damage.</p>	<p>GW/</p> <p>EWJ</p>
<p>10/1/08 Wheel Chair Accessible Walks</p> <p>PMS requested that all National Wheel Chair Accessible Walks to be added onto our website. GC advised the Forum the Walks could be connected to the CCC website with a hyperlink.</p>	<p>PMS/</p> <p>GC</p>

<p>11/1/08 AOB</p> <p>(i) <u>Gas Pipeline</u> -PMS asked when would the PROW be opened as the 6 month TRO had expired. GC would check the details of the TRO orders. A short discussion on the merits of allowing time for recolonisation of the ground by vegetation and patience amongst the users of the PROW affected by the pipeline.</p> <p>GC asked all for any examples of closures of difficulties experienced by next meeting</p> <p>(ii) <u>Vacancy - Vice Chairman</u> – GW asked All for nominations for Vice Chairman</p> <p>(iii) <u>Cross Hands claimed Bridle Way</u> – KB updated all with regard to issues on a claim which was lodged with planning in 2005 but has had planning permission to build on it recently granted,</p> <p>KB asked the Forum to support her request that the claim be treated as a priority.</p> <p>GC informed the Forum of his research into the claim stating it had a good possibility of success. He was waiting for replies from Asset Management and planning.</p> <p>GC to assist KB with technical aspects of the issues.</p> <p>GC and KB to arrange a site meeting to walk the route and report to next meeting</p> <p>(iv) <u>Open Access</u> - REH said that Mike Smith the Ranger for Gelli Aur was surveying all of the areas of Access Land. Mike to coordinate data and give update report to Forum soon</p> <p>(v) <u>Cambrian Mountain</u> – GC handed out maps showing the CCC boundary through the Cambrian Mountains and the registered Byways in that area that would be part of the survey. GC/KB/MH to attend the next consultation forum on 26/1/08 in Aberaeron where consultants/partnership will present to the forum the details of the processes and procedures of the survey, plus a report on the pilot survey already carried out by the consultants.</p> <p>MH commented that the unclassified roads weren't marked on the map – GC acknowledged this.</p> <p>GC/MH/KB to report details at next meeting.</p> <p>(vi) <u>Disability Training Course</u> – GC has received an e-mail from Peter Rutherford asking if any LAF members were interested in attending a course up in Tan Y Bwlch, cost £65 per person. GC suggested that a course be organised in South Wales area and would nominate PMS to attend on behalf of the forum.</p> <p>(vii) <u>Waymarker</u> – A member of the public asked if the CCC could run a pilot project of Waymarking PROW on the Black Mountains at Brynamman.</p> <p>GW stated that waymarking was a sensitive issue as permission would need to be sought from land owners to install waymarkers. Therefore CCC was reluctant to issue waymarkers directly to groups and individuals for fear of upsetting land owners, who hadn't been approached/ granted permission for their installation.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>All</p> <p>KB/ GC</p> <p>ERH/ MS</p> <p>GC/ MH/ KB</p>
<p>Details of Next Meeting: 13/03/08 @ 18.00hrs in the Civic Hall, Llandeilo.</p>	