

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum

Thursday 10th July 2008

Held at Civic Hall, Llandeilo, 6.00pm

Present:

Geoffrey Williams (GW) – Chairman
Gary Carlsen (GC) – Secretary
Enfys Stallard (ES) - Minute Taker

Members:

Eric Jones (EJ)
Karen Burch (KB)
Keith Morgan (KM)
David Foot (DF)
Mark Hadley (MH)
Chris Rankin (CR)
David Hunter(DH)
Pauline Sykes(PS)
Llew Thomas (LT)
Alan Richards (AR)

Apologies (Members)

Cllr Clive Scourfield (CS)
John Hollies (JH)
Jamilah Samuel (JS)
Rosemary Jones(RJ)
Pat Arlette(PA)
Edward Harris(EH)

Advisors/ Observers/Members of the Public

Kevin Thomas (KT) CCC
J Eric Davies – Public

Apologies

Eirian James (EWJ) CCC

	ACTION
Apologies were taken and recorded. 4 members also not present – no apologies received (ROJ), (BH), (WT), (OGE)	ES
Item 2 Minutes meeting 8th May 2008 The Minutes were checked and amendments were noted for the following items :- KB wanted to amend and add text to item 1/5/08 . MH stated the title of 1/3/08 should be Cambrian Mountains Pilot Project and not Cambrian Motor Vehicle Study.	ES
Item 3 Matters Arising from Minutes of 8th May 2008 1/5/08 Illegal Off Roothing in part of the County within the BBNP. GW confirmed that he has still not received the draft report, he will make further enquiries on its Availability. 3/1/08 Gating Orders GW reported that he has written to the Ramblers of the Vale of Glamorgan and RA Cardiff Office and is awaiting a reply. GC was unable to attend the most recent meeting of the Working Group, but would summarise the minutes from that meeting at the next LAF .	GW GW GC

<p>6/1/08 Nant Gronw GW confirmed that there were no further developments, and that there are still negotiations outstanding with the land owner, there are conflicting signs indicating site open /closed.</p> <p>GC as secretary, to write to the Forestry Commission to outline position and to confirm when access is going to be open on that route.</p>	GC
<p>11/1/08 Gas Pipeline 'The chairman reported that he had no news from CCW or the Environment Agency as to the report on the pollution.</p> <p>4/5/08 Disability signs GW opinion was the 'National Accessible Scheme' symbols were more suited to buildings. All viewed the 'National Forest Walking Festival' leaflet from Derbyshire provided by KM, which was the forum's preferred option.</p>	CR
<p>CR confirmed that she had written to the RDA for examples of their signage for horseriders, but had no reply. She will follow up and report to next meeting.</p> <p>5/5/08 – Chairs Report 4/4/08 KB enquired what the definition of case specific meant in the context of the Chairs report.</p> <p>GW clarified the definition of Case specific and confirmed that it did not bind all LAF's to this. GW said that specific cases can be discussed when all other avenues of complaint have been exhausted or if it was of significant benefit to other LAFs.</p>	CR
<p>Training module leaflet Copies of the Document was handed out to all, it has been produced by Clive Menzies, GC said that he had noted many errors in it, but that it was still and useful reference document for all to use. GC didn't know if the errors would be rectified and the document adopted by all Welsh LAFs, due to Clive Menzies unfortunate resignation as the Chair of Chairs.</p> <p>6/5/08 St Illtyd walk GW reported that there were still ongoing issues, and that he has received an alternative route from PA which removed parts currently on the public roads.</p>	ALL
<p>DH informed the forum that the route of the All Wales Coast path is along the B**** which is a busy and dangerous route to walk due to the absence of an adjacent footway. It was agreed to write to the Highways Dept requesting such a provision, and also to the provision of signs warning traffic of walkers</p> <p>GC suggested that it should be commented upon in the consultation for the Local Transport Implementation Plan.</p> <p>All commented that there was more road walking on both the Towy and Teifi trails than on the section of the St Illtyd walk which passes through Carmarthenshire.</p>	GW
<p>It has come to light that some paths on the trails had already been blocked by land owners, CR to pass details onto Martin Murray to investigate.</p> <p>All agreed that the trail maps in the brochures were misleading and difficult to read. GC confirmed that there would be changes to future print runs.</p> <p>AR said that the brochures were good but the mapping could be improved.</p> <p>AR suggested that in future all new routes and leaflets should be put to LAF members so that they</p>	MM

<p>can be walked and commented on before they go to final print.</p> <p>CR has seen signs pointing the wrong way and has changed these accordingly.</p> <p>GW asked all to make notes of any errors and to report back so that they can be changed etc.</p> <p>Setting up a sub committee was suggested to look at the Towy, Teifi, and Coastal booklets in detail to identify all the errors and to propose improvements so that all can be addressed at the next print run. To be discussed at next meeting. MM to be invited.</p>	
<p>1/7/08 Hand Book for LAF member</p> <p>Copies of the cover and index were handed out. The handbook (75 pages) is for English LAFs but may be useful reference material for Welsh LAFs in the absence of an English version. It is only available electronically (web address provided), but for those wanting a hard copy should contact GC.</p>	ALL
<p>2/7/08 Presentation on Survey Results from the Cambrian Mountain Pilot Project (GC)</p> <p>GC presented the results through 'Powerpoint'. In summary, the results showed approximately 33% as Red Routes (unsustainable to vehicles), 33% as Green Routes (suitable for vehicular use), and 33% as Amber Routes (requiring more detailed research/study to establish potential for vehicular use). GC Reported that Ann Elias is moving on from Ceredigion CC. Ian Dutch will be invited to the next meeting to brief the LAF on the draft strategy report and answer questions from the LAF.</p>	
<p>3/7/08 Consultation with LAF on TRO proposals</p> <p>MH updated all that TROs are being put on routes at the request of landowners and suggested that in future the LAF should be a statutory consultee on all proposals.</p> <p>GW was concerned with the number of proposals the LAF would need to consider. GC reported the It was agreed to make the request to the Head of Streetscene</p> <p>It was noted that Carmarthenshire County Council has no legal obligation set up to consult with bodies but that the neighboring CC have arrangements and a code of conduct with regard to this. GC would obtain a copy of the consultation process adopted by Powys CC and also, via the County Surveyors Society, ask other Welsh LAs how they process TRO applications.</p> <p>GC reported the numbers would be few and within the capabilities of the LAF.</p>	GW GC
<p>4/7/08 Report from Walks and Trails meeting of 30/5/08</p> <p>GW went through the last agenda for the Walks and Trails meeting and many items were the same, and seem to overlap, it was noted that they discuss specific cases and that LAF are more general.</p> <p>Walks and Trails membership has a floating body of members and no fixed attendance.</p> <p>GW requested the minutes of the last meeting to be exchanged in order that it can be discussed further.</p> <p>GC pointed out that agenda items discussed on the W&Ts could be reported to the LAF or added to the LAF agenda for follow up discussions.</p>	GC
<p>5/7/08 Betws Wind Farm</p> <p>GW updated that he has submitted and objection on behalf of the LAF to the development on the</p>	

<p>grounds of obstruction to 6 footpaths, a bridleway and access land.</p> <p>GC queried the objection as his former manager, Bruce Wallace had made sure when consulted that if the development was approved the PROW would not be obstructed or affected.</p> <p>It was accepted that the Forum support GW with this proposal.</p> <p>GW will attend a public enquiry and may possibly give evidence as well.</p> <p>AR noted that the Mynydd Betws site was accepted by Carmarthenshire CC which voted for it but Swansea and Neath Port Talbot rejected it.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>GW</p>
<p>6/7/08 AOB</p> <p>1)BHS – Dog attack forms CR to bring copies to next meeting for distribution and to send link to GW</p> <p>2)Coastal Trail update DH to give update at next meeting</p> <p>3)Carmarthenshire LAF Logo GW asked whether the Forum should have its own logo and identity in order to remove the confusion that it is part of the County Council and to raise its profile with the public.</p> <p>Wrexham LAF logo was handed round to all as an example, GW to write to all Welsh LAFs requesting examples of logos and experiences.</p> <p>After a discussion re its purpose and that there were no funds available a vote took place to establish if this needed to be pursued further - DH offered to produce a draft design for next meeting.</p> <p>4) Local Development Plan Consultation DF advised generally there was no reference to the Forum or the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, and specifically references should be made in the chapters on tourism, transport and recreation.</p> <p>KB showed all the Public Notice that appeared in the Carmarthen Journal this week.</p> <p>GC confirmed that the Planning Dept had been requested to recognise the Rights of Way section and the LAF in the consultation process. GW to put forward proposals on behalf of the LAF to the Planning Dept by 18.07.08</p> <p>5) Local Transport Implementation Plan The reply date of this consultation is also 18/7/08. A print out of an e mail from the Transport Policy Planner which highlighted the pages of the Local Transport Plan requiring comment was handed out. GW asked for any comments to be fed back to him asap - GW to respond on behalf of the group.</p> <p>DF enquired what was happening with the ROWIP. GC referred to the previous minutes which noted the document was with translation. GC would discuss the printing and distribution with EWJ following EWJ return from A/L. and update the next meeting.</p> <p>6) Clive Menzies - Resignation GW confirmed that Clive Menzies was resigning as Chair of Chairs due to ill health, post is vacant at present.</p> <p>7) Jamilah Samuel - Resignation</p>	<p>CR</p> <p>DH</p> <p>GW</p> <p>DH</p> <p>GW</p> <p>GC</p>

GC confirmed that Jamilah had tendered her resignation from the group, and is looking for a suitable replacement.

8) Venues for forthcoming meetings

Discussion took place regarding the suitability of other meeting locations GW/GC/ES to look at further also asked all to bring suggestions to next meeting.

Details of Next Meeting:

Sept 11th 2008 @ 18.00hrs in the Civic Hall, Llandeilo.