

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum

Thursday 11th September 2008

Held at Civic Hall, Llandeilo, 6.00pm

Present:

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

Members:

Cllr Clive Scourfield (CS)
Karen Burch (KB)
Keith Morgan (KM)
David Foot (DF)
Mark Hadley (MH)
David Hunter (DH)
Pauline Sykes (PS)
Llew Thomas (LT)
Roy Jones (RoJ)

Apologies (Members)

Eric Jones (EJ)
John Hollies (JH)
William Theophilus (WT)
Owen Glyndwr Evans (GE)
Pat Arlette (PA)
Chris Rankin (CR)

Advisors/ Observers/Members of the Public

EW James – CCC (EWJ)
K Thomas - CCC
J Eric Davies – Public
A Price – Public
R J Parry – Public
L Wilberforce – Public

Apologies (Advisors)

P Stone-CCW

	ACTION
Apologies were taken and recorded.	ES
Item 2 Minutes meeting 10th July 2008 The Minutes were checked and amendments were noted for the following items :- Page 2 item 6/5/08 road reference is B4312 . Page 3 item 2/7/08 MH requested that a point be minuted regarding the fact that he feels that the tranquillity aspect of the survey is back to front as this will mean that the only routes left open are those near to houses / built up areas therefore encouraging people to use routes that go near to peoples house and not those that are out of the way. Page 3 item 3/7/08 GC to add words... <i>“GC reported the numbers would be few and within the capabilities of the LAF. “</i> Page 4 item 5/7/08 KB wanted to amend the text to read ‘it was accepted that a majority of the Forum support GW with this proposal’.	ES
Item 3 Matters Arising from Minutes of 10th July 2008 3/1/08 Gating Orders GC informed the forum that at the July meeting, the working party agreed in principle to ‘allegating’ in Carmarthenshire and to develop a policy. The WP will meet in September to formulate a report for Executive Board which will include policies.	

6/1/08 Nant Gronw

GC updated that he has written to Forestry Commission and had a reply from FCW's Land Agent.

All contracts in place ready to sign. The delay has been due to staff and others involved in the process being on annual leave. Completion will occur following their return to work.

4/5/08 Disability signs

Chris Ranking was due to present her finding after writing to the RDA, as she was absent from this meeting it will be deferred to the next meeting for discussion and closure as main item.

6/5/08 St Illtyd walk

EWJ reported that Pat Arlett had submitted an alternative route which could be supported, he has spoken to Neath and Port Talbot and Swansea Councils and they are happy to support this route also, Neil Perry is also supporting this route.

GW reported that Neath & Port Talbot had been felling trees and that it was impossible to find the existing route, this needs to be re identified – Llanelli Ramblers to look at this.

EWJ said that Martin Murray has spoken at length and written to both councils.

GW thanked EWJ and GC for their efforts to save St Illtyd Walk as it was a very important route.

Teifi Trails/Towy Trail

EWJ updated that Teifi Trail was a joint venture with Ceredigion CC but that Ceredigion had failed to get funding where as Carmarthenshire was successful in gaining a grant bid funding.

There had been issues with the map quality used in printing the Towy leaflets, it may be amended for future print runs.

KB asked if the routes were suitable for disabled users- PS said that it was best practice to give information but to let users decide their own suitability, there are parts that can be used.

DF stated that the trail passed through the Gelli Aur Agricultural College, but the gates were locked due to 'Biosecurity' measures. He also reported the route near Gronger Hill was impassable.

GW said that the ramblers were going to walk the trails soon and report back.

GW asked if LAF members could also report back any findings.

DF reminded the forum that it had previously agreed to the principle of setting up a Sub committee to vet/proof read/ advise at the next reprint of the booklet.

2/7/08 Cambrian Mountains update

GC updated that there had been 3 'drop-in' days as part of the public consultation. in Llandovery, Rhayadr and Devil's Bridge, where about 160 people attended the 3 days and that it generated a lot of interest.

GC has written a report to the Cabinet Member recommending approval of the draft report. .

ALL

The closing date of consultation is 13/10/08. Comments will be feedback to the consultants to consider before completing the final report.

GW said that he attended the Llandovery day with questions and that he is monitoring it from Carmarthenshire.

GW asked for volunteers to walk and survey all of the routes in the study. MH pointed out that the consultants had already walked all the routes on the ground in carrying out the surveys. GC expressed disappointment that the Cambrian Mt Society and the RA did not believe the findings of the Exegesis survey. GS also asked if the individual surveys by a number of different volunteers would be standardized. Otherwise the results would likely to be based on the surveyors subjective views. GW assured the forum the forms were standardised and non subjective.

GW did not trust the contents of the report and said that it should be challenged and checked.

RoJ was concerned that landowners had not been consulted – GC advised him that all Information was passed to the landowning organizations for them to disseminate to their members.

KB asked about the green dot routes and said that she would try to go on some routes on behalf of the horse riders and feed back to GW.

DF wanted to add that it was deplorable and regrettable that the County Council was supporting this activity and that it was anti sociable.

MH replied that MRV use brought many benefits to the County including revenue, and that the MRV users were only exercising their rights to enjoy the countryside in the same manner as any other user. CS moved that there should be a sub committee to look at this issue KM seconded this.

A sub committee of MH, LT and GW was formed to construct a response to the consultation report.

4/7/08 Walk & Trails meetings response

EWJ informed the group that the Walks and Trails meeting was very informal and that any body with an interest could attend that it discussed similar agenda issues to LAF.

It was decided for information that members of each committee shared and would see the agendas and minutes.

6/7/08 Carmarthenshire LAF Logo

DH went through other authority's LAF logos and explained background to his proposed design.

EWJ said that it should be printed on CCC headed paper.

KB suggested that the colours should be bolder.

CS said that it should not be confused with Llanelli Disabled Access Group.

GW asked all to vote 5 said yes to logo, costs should be low via photocopying and scanning, EWJ asked how was it going to be used. GW/GC replied that it would be used to give a separate identity to the LAF from CCC which would help reduce the confusion with the Llanelli Disabled Access Group and in other situations, such as the Planning Dept. during consultations.

EWJ said that he would get a design produced for the next LAF meeting.

7/7/08 ROWIP Printing/Publishing update

EWJ updated that the document would be ready by mid to end October, the photos

GW

KB

<p>5/9/08 Wales Coastal Access Improvement Programme 2008/09 update EWJ updated that there were 13 applications and that 4 had been short listed for interview w/b 15/9/08. Appointment will be made that week.</p>	
<p>6/9/08 European Regional Development Funding....Convergence Funding bids update – CAN / Visit Wales / Valleys Regional Park and other emerging sources such as CCC Environmental Works Project EWJ updated progress on possible Convergence bids and would keep members up-to-date of progress in future meetings as and when the need be.</p>	
<p>7/9/08 Report on meeting between EWJ & GW (29th July 2008) on Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum – The Way Forward. Discussion to follow on attached paper Discussion.....Carmarthenshire LAF - The Way Forward:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes within the Countryside Recreation & Access Unit – ongoing changes and the way forward as a result of ROWIP funding • Where the ROWIP funding is allocated for 08/09 • Subjects for discussion within the LAF for 08/09 will be matters referred to by:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Eirian James and/or Cllr Clive Scourfield on behalf of the CR&AU or Executive Board that are of strategic interest or matters that the LAF needs to know of (ii) matters arising from the members of the LAF on due notice being given to the Secretary (iii) matters from outside either points (i) and (ii) such as consultations (iv) matters coming from or to the Leisure Forum. • Members of the LAF should be informed of the role of the Forum and the subjects as pointed out in points (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv) above • Agreeing on a method of distinguishing matters that are confidential to the Council but that should be communicated to the Chairman and Vice of the LAF only. External matters i.e. consultative reports could be filtered through Wales Access Forum. • What subjects do LAF members wish to have presentations or talks/lectures on? • Consider (where agreed and appropriate) of producing member profiles for other members to see and be aware of each others backgrounds and expertise etc. • Members to note down (during meetings or bring with them) issues that are not necessarily for discussion at the LAF but pertinent to the work of the CR&AU that can be passed to or dealt by the appropriate officer if necessary. • LAF meetings to be kept to intervals of two months and to be no more than two and half hours in duration (where possible) 6p.m. - 8.30p.m. • Agendas to be publicised two weeks before meeting. Closing date for agenda items 4 weeks before meeting with draft forwarded to Chair and EJ. More information to accompany agenda bullets points so that members have a better idea of what will be covered/discussed. • The Secretary in discussion with the Chairman will decide whether issues are solely within the province of the Council, whether they are Wales wide and as such should be given wider publicity (such as contact with adjoining LAF's) or whether they need to be referred to the National; Representative or the Deputy NR. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All to feed back to EWJ or GW 	ALL
<p>8/9/08 AOB's</p> <p>1) Bwcabus CS wanted to promote this new scheme for people living in parts of rural Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion will find it easier to get to work thanks to a new and innovative Euro-funded bus scheme which will provide a unique door-to-door service. The new bus service, the first of its kind in Wales, this has been made possible with almost £450,000 of Convergence Funding through the Welsh Assembly Government. It will enable passengers to book their bus rides from home which will link up with conventional bus and train service in the surrounding area. The three year pilot project, known as Bwcabus is aimed at providing transport for people who live in rural communities and cannot access employment, education and training. It is set to start early next year when passengers will be able to ring a central number to book their journey in advance.</p> <p>2) Insurance RJ wanted to know had there been any progress on the insurance queries he put forward for farmers insurance and liability in the countryside and dangers of dogs where cows have calves. GW to look at this further.</p> <p>3) Promoting LAF KB suggested that a letter is written to other depts within the Authority updating them on forum activity, what they do and issues they cover and are involved with.</p> <p>4) KB also wanted to thank Streetscene (Aled Evans) for clearing a byway Meidrim.</p> <p>5) Paper from Clive Menzies GW to look at the paper 'Procedure of identified national issues and subsequent action' and report back next meeting.</p> <p>6) Training disability access training package CG updated all on the possibility of training opportunities. CCW putting out to tender for a contractor to provide LRA training</p>	GW
<p>Details of Next Meeting: November 13th 2008 @ 18.00hrs in the Civic Hall, Llandeilo.</p>	