

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum

Thursday 12th March 2009

Held at Civic Hall, Llandeilo, 6.00pm

Present:

Gary Carlsen (GC) – Secretary
Enfys Stallard – Minute taker

Members:

Geoffrey Williams (GW) - Chairman	Cllr Clive Scourfield (CS)
Keith Morgan (KM)	David Foot (DF)
Mark Hadley (MH)	David Hunter(DH)
Pauline Sykes(PS)	Llew Thomas (LT)
Eric Davies (ED)	Chris Rankin (CR)
John Hollies (JH)	Roy Jones (RJ)
Glyn Evans (GE)	
Rosemary Jones (RoJ) ?	

Apologies (Members)

Karen Burch (KB) - Vice Chair

Advisors/ Observers/Members of the Public

Apologies (Advisors)

EW James (EWJ) (Carms CC)
Phil Stone (CCW)
Mike Roberts – (MR) Area Environmental Officer (Carms CC)
Alan Evans – (AE) Assistant Solicitor (Carms CC)
Ryland Jones- (RYJ) Sustrans Cymru
Eleri Davies – (ELD) Landscape Partnership Manager (Carms CC)
Ed Saunders – (ES) Forestry Commission
Russell Jones - Forestry Commission

	ACTION
Item 1 The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting. No apologies were received from Eric Jones or Pat Arlett.	ALL
Item 2 Apologies were taken and recorded.	
Item 3 Minutes meeting 15th January 2009 The minutes were checked and amendments were noted for the following items. Add full title for Phil Snaith - Strategic Project officer. KB requested a map of the Wales Coastal Access Route. EWJ to provide her with a copy at the next Carmarthenshire Riders group meeting. Item 13 typing error Sun should read Sub. GW will send out a list of acronyms to ALL soon and were distributed at the meeting.	ALL GW
Item 4 Matters Arising 6/5/08 Gelli Aur It was confirmed by both EJ and DF that the gate was unlocked GC reported that the Farm Manager had agreed that the gate would remain unlocked and erect Waymarking discs would be placed at the access point. Item 15 Publicity for the Forum EWJ confirmed that 6 venues will be booked at locations around the county and approx 12 neighbouring Community Councils will be asked to send representatives to receive 2 separate presentations from the Countryside Unit and the LAF at each of the meetings. GC reported he'd	 GC

<p>received minutes from Ceredigion CC LAF who are also seeking to increase their profile with their own Community Councils. GC has requested a copy of their paper on the topic.</p> <p>Item 12 ROWIP update There will be a print run of 1000 bilingual hard copies and 500 CDs in a pdf format which will be available from 1/4/09.</p> <p>Item 14 Routes for disabled Publicity and signage. GC has had no reply to his 2 e mails to the disabled ramblers group. He will be asking Jo Leeuwerke to attend the next LAF (site visit and meeting) to give a presentation on PROW furniture and its suitability for the disabled Eric Davies asked if the arrangements for maintenance would change in the future, EWJ confirmed that it would only change if it was necessary to improve the service.</p> <p>Minutes were accepted.</p>	<p>EJ</p> <p>GC</p>
<p>Item 5 Ed Saunders – Nant Goronw Ed Saunders local area manager for Carmarthen and Pembrokeshire Forestry Commission confirmed that the Deed of Variation had been signed on 12/3/08 and this would allow uninhibited public access on foot and on horse, with 15km dedicated to horse riding tracks. He confirmed that once it was opened it would be nationally advertised for all to use, as a note he also confirmed that Brechfa Bike Project had 20,000 visitors last year.</p>	
<p>Item 6 Presentation – Dog Control Orders Alan Evans(AE)- assistant Solicitor and Mike Roberts(MR) area Environmental Officer took us through the Summary of Proposed Dog Control Orders that was sent out to all as back ground papers.</p> <p>The following points were made:- MH asked did it apply to all footpaths or just within towns - AE said it will apply to All public highways but not PROW. MR confirmed that this doc was to control irresponsible dog owners who are a minority group. GW asked about the length of lead – MR confirmed that they are looking a stating a maximum length of lead. PS asked for a % figure for the land that this would be applied to within Carmarthenshire. GW said that this item will also be discussed at the National Access Forum. MH said that this would be very difficult to enforce and cause lots of problems and is very draconian. LT asked how this would affect hound hunting packs on the roads? AE confirmed that it would apply to all on the road and that the owners would have to clean up. DF confirmed that there will be limit of 3 dogs per person. GE asked whether the Animal Act 1971 is still legal and enforceable – AE said that he will look at this further.</p> <p>The general feeling of the forum was one of reservation and concern over where the orders would be applied and if they would work on the ground, It was felt that this order would move the problems from the urban areas to the countryside and cause more issues for land owners.</p> <p>LAF are now going to be Statutory Consultees on the issue and will raise some of the points made today.</p>	
<p>Item 7 Presentation – Sustrans Ryland Jones gave a presentation on the work of Sustrans – copy to be distributed out to all.</p> <p>KM stressed a need for more cycle ways in the Amman area. CR asked about horse riding – RJ confirmed that Sustrans fully support horse riders on their routes, but that some land owners have restrictions on their land. ED said that they should avoid issuing CPOs where possible.</p> <p>GC asked who negotiated with landowners the route between Glanamman and Ammanford, and, as the route was to be on existing public footpaths, why the Countryside Unit were not involved. RJ was not sure but was of the opinion it was Phil Snaith. EWJ/GC both requested that in future land negotiations the Countryside Unit is involved in order to secure multiuser rights. GC to write to Helen Davies of Sustrans with request.</p> <p>EJ welcomed a clear line on who is responsible for maintenance of the shared paths in the future.</p>	<p>GC</p>

<p>Item 8 Presentation - Tywi Afon yr oesoedd/ Tywi a river through time Eleri Davies Landscape \ Partnership Manager gave a presentation about the project and its aims. Members requested a copy of the map of the project area.</p>	GC
<p>Item 9 Rights of Way Improvement Programme 08/09 and Wales Coastal Access 08/09 EJ reported and updated all on both project the list of works to date on the Wales Coastal Access Programme copies will be sent out with the minutes of this meeting.</p>	
<p>Item 10 Future meetings. A discussion took place regarding the frequency of the meetings as it originally was every 12 weeks and was moved to every 8 week, but due to budget pressures it has been decided to review frequency. A motion was proposed by CS that the meeting frequency revert back to every 12 weeks as it was previously this was seconded by LT – A show of hands voted all for the change back and only one vote was against. Following the meeting of the 14/5/09, meetings will revert to every 12 weeks</p>	ALL
<p>Item 11 Chairman's Reports GW went through the report of the Welsh LAF's Chairs Conference held on the 24th February 2009. The report on the seminar on Managing Motorised Recreation in the Countryside which was held on the 12/02/09 was deferred until the next meeting.</p>	
<p>Item 12 AOB None</p>	
<p>Item 13 Date and venue of next meeting. The next meeting is to be a site visit commencing at 4.30pm in car park opposite Cwmdau Inn in Talley on the 14/5/09 which will look at furniture. Then the meeting will move to St Michael's Church Hall, Talley to commence at 6.00pm Thereafter.</p>	