

**Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2008**

**Held at Civic Hall, Llandeilo, 6.00pm**

**Present:**

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

**Members:**

Owen Glyndwr Evans (GE)  
Keith Morgan (KM)  
David Foot ( DF)  
Rosemary Jones (RJ)  
Cllr Clive Scourfield (CS)  
Mark Hadley( MH)  
Pat Arlette (PA)  
Karen Burch (KB)  
Chris Rankin (CR)  
David Hunter (DH)  
Pauline Sykes (PMS)  
Llew Thomas (LT)

**Apologies (Members)**

John Hollies (JH)  
Edward Harris (EH)  
Jamilah Samuel ( JS)  
Eric Jones ( EJ)  
Roy Jones (ROJ)  
William Theophilus(WT)  
Alan Richards (AR)

**Advisors/ Observers/Members of the Public**

Eirian James (EWJ) -- CCC  
M W Thomas – Public  
K Greenlaw – Public  
Mike Smith - Ranger

**Apologies**

	<b>ACTION</b>
Apologies were taken and recorded.	<b>ES</b>
<b>Item 2 Minutes meeting 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008</b> The Minutes were checked and amendments were noted for the following items :-  <b>Item 6/1/08 Nant Gronw</b> – insert ‘no access’ words to text.  <b>Item 2/1/08</b> Pauline Sykes will be making a ‘presentation’ and not a ‘talk’.  <b>Item 6/3/08 point 10</b> – EWJ wanted to clarify that the figures quoted by Elwyn Hughes at the last meeting may be misleading and are dependant on securing funding from WAG and this funding was not guaranteed at present.	<b>ES</b>    <b>PMS</b>
<b>Item 3 Matters Arising from Minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> March 2008</b>  <b>9/1/08 Sign Posting Programme</b> GC updated all that the Rangers were not aware of any more incidents of damage and are currently working on the next programme which is ongoing all year - GC had also investigated the possibility of having a logo printed on the road surface and it was decided that this was not advisable and could distract drivers. It was also noted that it may not be permissible as per Section 27 of the 68 Countryside Act.  DF said he had observed posts with no signs on them in St Clears area - EWJ confirmed that the	

signs would be installed asap once stocks had been renewed.

**1/3/08 Cambrian Pilot Project**

GC attended a recent meeting between the partnership and the consultants. The survey commenced on the 7/4/08.

The Draft Strategy Report will be ready by the 26/8/08. Following this, 3 consultative forums will be arranged for September, one in each County.

The consultants will present the Strategy to each Authority's Full Council in Oct/Nov.

GC will update All -on the locations of the drop in venues.

DF commented that the LAF should be involved in the consultation process – GC said that the consultants would charge for individual consultations. DF suggested that the LAF should have a brief statement and opportunity to feed comments back on the draft

EWJ suggested that Ann Elias should come and make a presentation to the LAF Forum.

GC

GC

**1/5/05 Illegal Off Roothing**

The Brecon Beacons National Parks have been meeting with Police Officers and formulated a policy for Illegal Off Roothing – GW has not yet seen the draft.

MH – said that a section in Powys had been used for years and had recently had signs put up stopping off roading – this was being looked into.

KB - said that Cynhordy Riders had reported that Police were stopping Motor Bikes using the paths and this was successful. The Police, Forestry Commission and local users are working together in Crychan Forest and other areas should consider this also.

**1/1/08 ROWIP**

GC reported that the document was delayed and is currently being translated –GC was waiting to discuss with EWJ the printing and distribution of the report. CCW have not yet decided on the Action Points they would be funding - awaiting decision from CCW on those priorities.

**Monitoring Improvement Plan**

This can not be discussed further until we have had CCW feedback on priorities.

**3/1/08 Gating Orders**

GC attended a site meeting with the working group at Vale of Glamorgan, GC was very concerned that they use Traffic Regulation Orders which require no consultation and not Gating Orders, to justify installing gates on all back alleys in a suburb. GC deduced the main reason for the orders were due to minor problems of youths hanging around street corners/back alleys and not the specific purpose of the orders which is to prevent crime such as burglary and drug taking.

GC said that the zoned gating had displaced the problem to other areas. The VOG Officers claimed the crimes had changed in that area from burglary to credit card crime. DH said that CCC should be congratulated for being cautious and thoroughly researching the setting up of a pilot project before implementing a strategy across the County. GC will keep the forum informed of progress of the Working Group

GW – will write to Ramblers of Vale of Glamorgan and report back

**5/1/08 Strategic Trails**

EWJ confirmed that Gomer Press were printing 25000 leaflets which would be ready for distribution by the next meeting.

GC

GW

<p><b>6/1/08 Nant Gronw</b> GC had enquired with FC if the dispute over access with the landowner had been resolved. FC had stated the issue had been resolved and was waiting for the signing of agreements between FC and Mr Howells before the site is open to the public.</p> <p><b>11/1/08 Gas Pipeline</b> CG -had passed a list of priority paths for opening to the contractors who had confirmed that the paths will be open in time for the Llanelli Festival of Walks.</p> <p>GC - has asked about the use of temporary matting – he has not received a reply as yet.</p> <p>GW - confirmed that the pipeline contractors have polluted 3 rivers in the BBNP with soil – GW to report back on this.</p> <p>GC - confirmed that the Water Board have requested a 2 month closure in the Llangadog areas to renew water main in July and August.</p> <p>PS - commented that this was the worst time for tourists.</p> <p>MH – requested if a list of the closed routes when known could be sent out to all members.</p> <p>KM – was concerned regarding soil compaction and shrinkage and asked was there a way of monitoring this – GW said that the Gas pipeline company had a clear monitoring programme to look at the effects of this work and disturbance and should act accordingly.</p>	<p><b>GW</b></p> <p><b>GW</b></p> <p><b>GC</b></p>
<p><b>2/5/08 Access Land - Presentation by Mike Smith Ranger on progress of survey work</b></p> <p>Mike presented a well documented report of his findings - All were impressed.</p> <p>Chairman thanked Mike for his interesting presentation.</p> <p>EWJ confirmed the information will be available in due course on the corporate web pages.</p>	
<p><b>3/5/08 Problems with Public Path Orders - Presentation by forum member Pauline Sykes.</b></p> <p>Pauline presented a slide show of a selection of diversions which in her opinion were not satisfactory. EJ asked for a copy of the presentation which can be looked at in more detail by Officers. It was agreed that PMS would produce a draft checklist for the ROW staff to consider adopting as part of the PPO process. Chairman thanked Pauline for her interesting presentation.</p> <p>CR asked about the policy of replacing stiles with gates – GC reported that in most cases where stiles need replacing or new furniture is required, landowners are offered gates. However, the land owner has the ultimate say in the matter.</p>	<p><b>PMS</b></p>
<p><b>4/5/08 Disability – Youth Hostel Symbols</b> GW asked LAF members to consider the suitability of using Youth Hostel disability symbols on literature - All to look at symbols and to discuss at next meeting.</p>	<p><b>ALL</b></p>

<p><b>5/5/08 - Chairs Report</b> of LAF Chairs Meeting on 4/4/08 GW could not attend the meeting but gave a synopsis of the minutes.</p> <p><b>Training Module for new LAF members</b> - a copy will be sent out to all members for information.</p> <p><b>ROW Committee</b> - Powers to reinstate –ROW committee in LAs</p> <p><b>Dogs in Country side</b> - Difficulty of controlling dogs on rights of way- WAG to pursue with Defra</p> <p><b>Agri Environment Schemes</b> – GW asked all for comments, all schemes must have permissive paths on web sites for cross compliance.</p> <p><b>Lost ways</b> – unclear of cut off date</p> <p><b>Alley Gating</b> – Concerns to loss of open areas for recreation opportunities - LAF should be Statutory Consultees.</p> <p><b>Case Specific</b> It was noted that LAF members should not discuss and be involved in case specific cases at their Meeting and in some areas it was noted that reports are not strategic.</p> <p><b>Standard application form</b> - for Planning Apps one form for all types – GC has raised this also.</p>	<p><b>GW/ GC</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
<p><b>6/5/08 AOB</b></p> <p><b>1)BHS – Dog attack forms</b> KB/CR stated that the BHS have brought out a new form for any body to use who has been attacked by a dog, this form can be given to and used by the Police, for monitoring the incidents and recording cases.</p> <p>CR to bring copies to next meeting for distribution</p> <p><b>2)Horse Riders</b> KM suggested opening up more woodland areas for horse riders to use – this would encourage more insect life in the areas,</p> <p>KB said that all access to riders would be encouraged – EWJ reminded all that Mynydd Mawr Woodland Park, Llyn Llech Owain, and Pembrey Country Park encouraged horse riders.</p> <p>KB – requested update on Bridle way in Pontarsais. Agreed to discuss directly with EWJ.</p> <p>KB- wanted to make all aware that the road surface currently used by the Council ,SMA (Stone Mastic Asphalt) makes it very difficult for horses to grip and is very slippery in patches.</p> <p><b>3)E-mail access</b> PMS stated that CCC was still not accepting her e mails. GW/GC to investigate again.</p> <p><b>4)St Illtyd Walk</b> Which goes from Pembrey Country Park to Margan Country Park – PA expressed her concern that St Illtyd walk is no longer going to be promoted. EWJ said that the route came into being by Colin Davies from outside the Authority and is walked mainly on roads the issue is with the OS license fee and the route may not appear on the Ranger and Explorer maps in future.</p>	<p><b>CR</b></p> <p><b>GW/ GC</b></p>

