

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum

Thursday 11th February 2010

Held at CAVS Office , The Mount Carmarthen 6.00pm

Present:

Members:

Geoffrey Williams (GW) - Chairman
Karen Burch (KB) - Vice Chair
Chris Rankin (CR)
Mark Hadley (MH)
Cllr Clive Scourfield - (CS)
Keith Morgan (KM)
Rosemary Jones (RoJ)

John Hollies (JH)
Eric Davies (ED)
Glyn Evans (GE)
David Hunter(DH)
Llew Thomas (LT)
David Foot (DF)

Enfys Stallard – Minute taker
Gary Carlsen (GC) Secretary
Eirian W James (EWJ) (Carms CC
Ian Morgan(IM) – Coastal Access Officer

Apologies (Members)

Cllr Allan Speake
Cllr Peter Hughes-Griffiths
Pat Arlett (PA)
Eric Jones (EJ)

Advisors/ Observers/Members of the Public

Caroline Evans Brechfa Forest Energy Action
Phil Stone – CCW
Phil Snaith - CCC

Apologies (Advisors)

Russell Jones (Forestry Commission)

| | ACTION |
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| Item 1 The Chairman thanked all for attending the meeting. | ALL |
| Item 2 Apologies were taken and recorded. | |
| Item 3 Minutes meeting 12th November 2009 Item 13 Amended words- A vote of thanks be given to KB for all the work she has undertaken on S33 RT A88 rally consents. The minutes were checked, amended accordingly and accepted as correct. | |
| Item 4 Matters Arising Forum Logo The chairman asked all to look at various designs that had been suggested and examples of logos used by neighboring Forums and to comment on suitability. Item 11 Land Rover Club Representation As agreed MH has written a draft letter and this is currently with GC to send on behalf of LAF.MH asked if there had been any response to this - GC to send out follow up letter Item 12 Brechfa Forest Wind Farm GW confirmed he had written to Developers requesting to be included in all further consultations on Brechfa site. And has had no reply to date – GW to email and ask for update | All GC GW |

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| <p>Item 8 Chairman's reports MH requested information on Western Area Advisory Forum – GW to send out</p> <p>Item 7 Annual Reports DH asked if 08/09 Annual report could be signed off the same time as 07/08 - GC to finalise all reports asap.</p> <p>Item 12 Nant Gronw - Update (CR) CR reported that visitors are parking outside the locked gates the hinges are very small and difficult to read and see - CR has emailed lots of people with the correct times of opening – GW suggested sending a letter to the Forestry Commission. – GC to request copy of access agreement and send out letter EWJ said the brown tourist sign should be re-instated – highways should be contacted.</p> <p>Item 15 Local Community Strategy GW reported that he has received no comments from the group – Asked All again to respond.</p> | <p>GW</p> <p>GC</p> <p>GC</p> <p>ALL</p> |
| <p>Item 5 Finance And Staff Appointments - update EWJ gave a verbal report of the section finance and structure</p> <p>DH wanted to record that it had taken a long time to change the structure.</p> <p>KM asked about the work carried out For Quarter Bach Com Council and that they not happy about the confusion re the arrangements on the ground – KM to speak to EWJ.</p> <p>The Chairman noted that not all Community Councils are happy with the changes and a mixed discussion took place and all agreed that it would be better to monitor the progress once the new structure had had time to settle down and for staff to have worked on the ground.</p> <p>GE would like to thank the Ranger Service for the works they have undertaken in the Bronwydd area.</p> <p>KB asked about the 3 compensation payments in WCAP – could these paths sustain horse use – EWJ said that they would not.</p> <p>ED said that Quarter Bach were having complaints EWJ said that CCC are having talks with National Parks re paths in that area.</p> | <p>EWJ</p> |
| <p>Item 6 12 month Annual Work Programme The chair asked for suggestions as to what the forum should be looking at over the next 12 months so that items can be planned for the agenda, they should be proactive and not reactive items - All to send suggestions to GC/GW .</p> <p>GW listed all the items being discussed in the Chairs meeting on the 25/2/10 at Builth Wells</p> <p>EWJ said that Green Space Assessment will impact on topics raised in the future</p> <p>EWJ also suggested sending out a news letter to publicise the works carried out by LAF</p> | <p>ALL</p> |
| <p>Item 7 Membership GW updated that there had been discussions to identify which interest groups were not currently represented by the forum - Phil Snaith has suggested a cycling representative – Phil Evans who works @ County Cycles in Crosshands – GC confirmed that he has sent out an application form to him but had not been returned.</p> <p>All agreed that it would be a good idea to have cycling representation.</p> <p>CR suggested reps from the Pony Club</p> <p>JH and Phil Stone suggested looking at representatives from youth groups.</p> <p>GE suggested reps form the YFC – LT to approach the group</p> <p>GC to investigate all suggestions further.</p> | <p>GC</p> <p>GE</p> <p>GC</p> |
| <p>Item 8 Coastal Path – Ian Morgan - update</p> | |

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| <p>Update given, in usual W to E order: Marros- We are hoping to start work on new route through Garness farm late in 2009-10 fin year. This will be a new route cutting across Marros Mill land [where agreement previously obtained] and then down the boundary between both properties and eastwards to near the base of the NT land at Ragwen Point. At Ragwen Point, we are trying to obtain NT agreement to proceed on a short, but very wet, section that is the source of regular complaints. Ideally we would like to do this NT section at the same time as the Marros/Garness work immediately to the W – it would then make one complete section up to WCP standards. The path on Ragwen Point, E of the difficult NT section, is 99% in good condition. At Pendine and eastwards, the WCP will follow a route shared with that being developed to provide better linkage between Pendine and Llanmiloe villages. East of Llanmiloe, we are negotiating with three landowners [and MoD] to provide an off-road link to the Plashett/Coygen area. We are optimistic about these discussions. Currently, we are also in negotiation with MoD regarding the clearance of an existing route just inside the MoD property. This will link up to an agreed new route on the seawall back towards Laugharne. Next fin year [2010-11] we are intending to carry on northwards from the Brixtarw area [both N of Laugharne], creating a mostly new route on the upper side of the Laugharne Corporation-owned Whitehill Down and onwards towards St Clears. Other planned 2010-11 improvements/new creations are at Trefenty [‘Pilgrims Graves’]; Pendine cliffs [E section] and N of Ferryside. Discussions have also been in progress recently relating to WCP improvements in that area – at the quay and southwards towards the Gwendraeth Estuary and Pembrey Forest. There have been discussions too, with a major UK conservation body relating to habitat provision/visitor/interpretation improvements near Kidwelly and elsewhere in the ‘Three Rivers’. A brief summary of ideas relating to the WCP route from Pont King Morgan to the Pibwrlwyd area was outlined. WCP Newsletter – a copy of a ‘pre-draft’ [!] newsletter was shown, and it was explained that this initial version was still subject to modification [changes, additions etc]. Aspirations regarding the content of future newsletters was outlined [such as reviews of ‘work on ground’] and an invitation was extended to LAF members to provide some material relating to the WCP for inclusion. This would be sent to the WCP officer for editing.</p> <p>DH asked for map of the coastal path to be used in presentations</p> <p>A discussion took place re the news letter and whether it would be beneficial to add a LAF page and Countryside page to this publication with LAF feeding in articles</p> <p>It was resolved that one Newsletter would be produced incorporating articles and news items for all three elements of Countryside, CoastPath and the LAF. The Chair will collate responses from the members for the first year and will ask all members for contributions and comments.</p> <p>All to provide e-mail address - if not already done so to GC</p> | <p>IM</p> <p>ALL/ GW</p> <p>ALL</p> |
| <p>Item 9 Forum Discussion on chairman’s report on Site Visit- Cwm Du country walks site visit</p> <p>GW and GC handed out the reports addressing the points raised.</p> <p>Phil Stone confirmed that CCW were not happy with the wording in the original report and were not responsible for the works carried out and only made recommendations which had been accepted by CCC.</p> <p>DH made the statement that the documents must have been signed off without checking of the facts in the documents.</p> <p>GC handed out the Llety Wen Diversion Works and highlighted the lessons learned and best Practice.</p> <p>All agreed that the site visit was very beneficial for the LAF to see what issues could arise and what best practice should be undertaken.</p> | <p>GC</p> |
| <p>Item 10 Dogs in the Countryside – Control Orders & Discussion on NAFA Statement.</p> <p>GC informed the meeting that legal advise has indicated that it will not be possible to produce</p> | |

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| <p>'blanket orders' to cover the county, as the area covered by an order must have defined boundaries.</p> <p>GC handed out a paper which detailed the statement from National Access Forum for Wales On 'Dogs in the Countryside'. The general view of the NAF was that existing legislation is adequate to deal with current issues, but needs greater enforcement. More education of dog owners and clearer advise to landowners & livestock keepers on issues involving dogs and livestock.</p> <p>KM asked about the position of dogs on leads – GW confirmed that they have to be in control on the road and on a 2 meter lead on land</p> <p>Chair asked KM to enquire with the Farming Unions the situation of reports of cattle contracting disease from dog faeces.</p> <p>The Chair asked for comments on the paper.</p> <p>GW reported that on National Park stiles there is a notice warning owners to keep dogs on leads.</p> <p>Phil Stone confirmed the regs on access land, that dogs only need be on a lead when stock present and at nesting time.</p> <p>RoJ said that advise from farming unions is that dogs should be let off their leads in the presence of cattle if there is a risk of cattle attacks on dogs.</p> <p>GC said that the legal section will update LAF on the Dog control orders as and when.</p> | <p>KM</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>Legal</p> |
| <p>Item 11 AOB</p> <p>Glas Tir – which replaces Tir Gofal Paper handed out to all KB asked for a copy of the map – GW to ask for copies at the conference</p> <p>DF was critical of the previous agri-environmental schemes as they only provided permissive paths which are withdrawn at the end of the scheme. KB commented that permissive paths are not clearly signed or promoted - A map showing permissive paths is on the Assembly web site.</p> <p>GW to enquire what representation is on the Stakeholder Working Group.</p> <p><u>Chairs conference 25/2/10</u> All to feed comments back asap to chair</p> <p><u>Pembrey Canal CycleRoute Planning Application</u> Notes handed out at meeting to be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p><u>Ferry House</u> GW to attend the court case when it is being heard</p> <p><u>Cycle Track</u> ED asked about an update on the Cycle track in Llandybie – Phil Snaith said that figures have allocated and £260,000 will be spent on the route.</p> | <p>ALL</p> <p>GW</p> |
| <p>Item 12 Date and venue of next meeting. The next meeting is to be on 29th April 2010 at ST Clears Craft Centre to start at 6pm</p> | |