

Carmarthenshire Local Access Forum (LAF)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday 16th March 2023

Leisure Centre, Carmarthen. 6pm

Present: Members:

Mark Hadley (MH) – LAF Chair
David Stacey (DS)
Wyn Owen (WO)
Richard Leggett (RL)
Mo Rapley (MR)
Phil Snaith (PS)
Dave Gravelle (DG)
Peter Griffiths (PG)
Jillie Gardner (JG)

Secretary – Jason Lawday (JL) – CCC Countryside Access Officer

Advisors/ Observers/Speakers/Members of the Public

Alan Richards (AR) – Pontardulais Walking Club
Phil Morgan (PM) – NRW Land Management Team Leader
Jenny Bringloe (JB) (attended remotely)

Apologies: Members:

Tara Jane-Sutcliffe (TS)
Karen Burch (KB)
Sean Brown (SB)

Advisors/Observers:

Neil Thomas
Councillor Edward Thomas (ET) - County Councillor & Cabinet Member for
Transport, Waste, and Infrastructure Services

Note:

CCC in these minutes refers to Carmarthenshire County Council

PROW in these minutes refers to Public Rights of Way

NRW in these minutes refers to Natural Resources Wales

ITEM	ACTION
<p>Item 1 – WELCOME & APOLOGIES</p> <p>MH welcomed forum and introduced JL as Interim LAF Secretariat (ILS). MH read out apologies received.</p>	
<p>Item 2 – ROWIP REVIEW PRESENTATION</p> <p>JB - Introduction and slide presentation with narration. Clarified that ROWIP remains the same and the review is of the action plans only. Has made summary of high-level findings using RAG (Red, Amber, Green) system for low, medium, and high priorities. Has taken into account feedback from the Countryside Unit and the LAF on implementation and prioritisation. A small number of priorities have changed. The review will be incorporated into the ROWIP as an appendix. MH advised that the Byway User Group (BUG), which is referenced in the report, has reformed. JB advised that the review relates to the previous period.</p> <p>MH – Is happy with Review, which mirrors topics regularly discussed in LAF. Referenced 100% survey, JB advised that action plan elements should be achievable. 100% survey is a very high standard, but achievable. One of the high priority issues is the shortfall of funding to increase the proportion of footpaths open, accessible and signed.</p> <p>RL – What are the next steps and process for engagement after the review has been completed? Where does it go in the Council business Lack of resources will have an effect on delivery.</p> <p>Action Point – Circulate presentation and Review (when complete) to LAF. Action Point – Kirsten Stiles (KS) to attend next LAF meeting. Action Point – Agenda Item for next meeting.</p> <p>Item 3 – LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (LDP)</p> <p>MH – Attended LDP meeting. Landscape Designation has not been finalised and has not been included in current LDP documentation. Queried Tywi Valley designation as a Special Landscape Area (SLA)? Relayed query from KB – has Access / PROW been included in the LDP?</p> <p>Action Point – Clarify LDP position regarding Landscape Designation and Access / PROW inclusion.</p> <p>Item 4 – PROPOSED PYLON INSTALLATIONS IN THE TYWI VALLEY</p> <p>MH – Brief overview followed by general discussion. Could have negative impact on Access and tourism. LAF to have a watching brief on the project.</p>	<p>ILS ILS ILS</p> <p>MH</p>

Action Point – Respond to developer to ensure that LAF is included as consultee.

MH

Item 5 – KIDWELLY BYWAYS TRAFFIC REGULATION PROPOSALS

MH – participated in a site visit with other LAF members to inspect the routes on 05/03/2023. Has provided a feedback report with recommendations to KS. LAF recommendation that the Authority needs to carry out more engagement and research before making a final decision. Queried the fact that route 11/8 had not been included and suggested that other methods could mitigate the road junction safety issues. Queried why byway signposts had been installed on routes that were not fully accessible.

JL – Advised that operational responsibility for byways is with Highways, not Countryside Access.

Action Point – Follow up with KS.

Item 6 – ACTIVE TRAVEL PROPOSALS, CARMARTHEN

PG – Attended Zoom meeting and presentation. Provided overview of project. The current consultation is taking place online and in the Hub in the former Debenhams store, Carmarthen (consultation period from 20/02/2023 to 02/04/2023).

Some items of concern:

- No mention of secure bike storage.
- Charging points (5 in total) are difficult to find.
- CCC to provide some electric 'Cargo Bikes' that are currently in Llanelli.

PS – explained background regarding the 'Cargo Bikes'. Has concerns that the LAF were not consulted and recommended that people should get engaged with the consultation. Queried why three previously constructed and well-established cycle routes (Glangwili, Riverside, Morfa Farm), and the cycle bridge, have not been included in the proposals.

Item 7 – ACTIONS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

2) A48 CROSSING CLOSURE CONSULTATION

MH - Are consultants aware of the requirement that pedestrian crossings must be retained and maintained?

JG – Suggested that the LAF write to Atkins.

MH – Suggested that Cllr Thomas should be briefed.

PS – Outlined proposals for speed restrictions and junction closures.

JG – Suggested that 'Pegasus' signage / signals should be used at crossings for equestrians.

Action Point – Contact Cllr. Thomas.

MH

3) ISSUE REPORTS

MH – There are no new issue reports.

RL – Can we have issue reports before the end of March?

Action Point – Provide Issue Report.

ILS

5) PROJECT UPDATE

MH – What is current position regarding the ten proposed projects?

<p>Action Point – Obtain an update from Alan Warner (CCC).</p>	<p>ILS</p>
<p>6) LAF CHAIRS MEETING MH – Memorandum to wait until the new Head of Service is in post. Action Point – Wales Coast Path Officer to be invited to next LAF.</p>	<p>ILS</p>
<p>7) HORSE RIDING PROPOSALS IN CCC PARKS MH / general discussion. PS – problems at Mynydd Mawr relating to a shared use path that will need upgrading of surface. Action point – Contact NT.</p>	<p>MH</p>
<p>PROW MARKETING MEETING MH – Informed LAF that new draft of walking leaflet has been received. It is positive that the Tourism team are now engaging with the LAF. General discussion. Everyone quite positive about leaflet, although there are various minor errors / typos.</p>	
<p>CYCLING ON FOOTPATHS PS – Outlined legal position regarding CCC constructed cycleways. Cycling not lawful until legal work has been completed by CCC / Transport for Wales. Has alerted the Assembly Member and the Active Travel Wales officer. Routes will need redesignation, either as Cycleways or Bridleways.</p>	
<p>BROWNHILL WOODLAND SITE PM – NRW are working with consultants to plan the site and proposed plan will be shared with the LAF. Volunteer tree planting is taking place (native broadleaf). New National Forest Officer has been appointed to expand National Forest by including private land adjacent to publicly owned Welsh Government forestry managed by NRW.</p>	
<p>COMMON LAND MAP JG – What will digitised maps include? What will happen with the original documents, will they be transferred to the County Archive? Action Point – Contact CCC Common Land Officer, Andrew Paterson.</p>	<p>ILS</p>
<p>ARCHIVES VISIT JL – has received some interest, but no fixed date. General discussion - it was decided that dates should be suggested and LAF members recontacted to arrange the visit. Action Point – Contact Archives to establish suitable dates and arrange visit.</p>	<p>ILS</p>
<p>CURRENT LIVE PERMANENT TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS MH / Byway User Group – has requested a list of existing TRO's. MH explained that Highways legal team are extremely busy carrying out the new 20mph project, with over 600 Orders to process. Therefore, this list is unlikely to be made available this year.</p>	
<p>ITEM 8 – ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS MH – Queried why there was nothing in the previous Minutes about NT presentation. Has received an email detailing CCC sites managed by NT. Pendine Visitor Centre to be launched Thursday 23rd March.</p>	

EQUESTRIAN STRATEGY

JL – Explained that this is being devised and led by Caroline Ferguson (CF), who is now on maternity leave. Has discussed current position with Richard Waters, CCC Highway & Transportation Manager. The draft needs a complete redraft and is not yet ready for scrutiny committee / public consultation.

General discussion, LAF unhappy at how long the process is taking.

ACCESS REFORM

JG – Would like an update on current situation / revision of CROW Act 2000.

Action Point – Follow up on request.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

PG – **Hospital access and parking.** Three new hospital sites have been proposed, and this is an opportunity to improve sustainable transport options.

PS – There is a public right of way crossing the proposed site in St. Clears, which could be improved as part of the development. This could include a pedestrian overpass of the A40 where there is currently a hazardous footway crossing.

PM – **BRECHFA WEST** NRW are in the final stages of the creation of a 12-mile walking route around Brechfa West forest. NRW website is being updated. Site operators RWE will have an official launch, but this has been delayed due to current forest harvesting work. Cyclists are also using the route.

JG – raised concerns regarding insurance in relation to the turbines, as some routes pass close to the turbines, and within TAN 8 recommended safe distances (topple height plus 10%).

PM – visitors would be covered by NRW / RWE insurances.

MH – Local businesses promoting visitors use of the site could place a disclaimer on any material they provide stating customers use the sites at their own risk.

Action Point – Update LAF regarding the official launch.

MH / ILS

PM

Next Meeting Monday 6th June,
Tywi Centre, Llandeilo