

Conwy East and Denbighshire Local Access Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held on
Thursday 7th September 2017

at

The Great Orme Visitor Centre, Llandudno
at 2:30pm

Local Access Forum Members

Tim Faire (Chair)
Gwen Butler (Vice Chair)
Heather Fitzgerald
Jo Hughes
Kevin Slattery
Max Grant
Kay Culhane
Tom Woodall
Jim Gaffney
Paul Frost
Duncan Barratt
Iona Pierce
Hilary Davies
Chris Marshall

Representing Denbighshire County Council

Hannah Arndt (Access Officer and LAF Secretary)
Howard Sutcliffe (Countryside Officer)
Helen Mrowiec (Senior Recreation Officer)
Adrian Walls (Rights of Way Manager)

Representing Conwy County Borough Council

Sian Williams (Access Officer)
Victoria Currie (Area Coordinator)
Caroline Turner (Definitive Map Officer)

Observers

Tom Culhane
Catrin Gilkes (Translator)
Paul Mitchell (NRW)
Peter Rutherford (SNP)
Rosie Frankland (NRW)

Apologies for Absence were submitted from: -

John Buckley, Cllr Martyn Holland, Cllr Donald Milne, Dan Hurst, Nick Lloyd, Toni Proffitt

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Chair asked if the notes of the last meeting were an accurate record. Proposed as accurate by Paul Frost and seconded by Gwen Butler. When working through the notes the following points were highlighted:

Action Point	Detail of Action	Current Situation
AP 4.1	AW to liaise with Llandyrnog Community Council regarding a definitive map of the parish	AW attending Community Council meeting 19/09/2017
AP 4.2	Tim Faire to check with Llanfair DC Community Council clerk if they require a definitive map	TF to check and liaise with AW
AP 4.3	HA and SW to speak with Rights of Way officers, locate CDs with routes of last Glastir. Also to provide details of dead end routes as starting points	DCC have old Glastir boundaries but not routes, CCBC couldn't find anything. HA to contact Jane Tibbott
AP 4.4	SW to check RoWIP review letter sent to statutory consultees	Letter had been sent, CEDLAF has not received a copy.
AP 4.5	HA to gain update on RoWIP progress in DCC	AW to provide an update to the Forum
AP 4.6	HA to circulate RoWIP review guidance document	Completed

AP 4.7	HA and SW to feedback comments from Forum members about LAF involvement and crossover working through the RoWIP review process	Completed
AP 4.8	HA to circulate Community Miles case study and Montrayx repost	Completed
AP 4.9	Agenda item for next meeting: Volunteering. HA to liaise with PF about location and speaker	Item added to list of future agenda items put forward by members. Not added to September meeting due to WG consultation.

Glastir Agri-Environment Scheme Update

Jane Tibbott from Welsh Government was unable to attend the meeting and sent apologies at the last minute. Jane asked to attend the next meeting to give an update.

Donate a Gate Scheme

Kevin Slattery (KS), CEDLAF member gave a presentation to the Forum about the Donate a Gate scheme which he visited on the Isle of Wight over the summer. In his presentation Kevin summarised that the scheme installs gates because stiles are sometimes difficult for people with restricted mobility to use and can increase the walk time when large groups are out walking. The scheme facilitates the installation of gates as legacy items to remember people in ways other than a memorial bench. The Lake District and North York Moors now have similar schemes in place.

The scheme's popularity has grown immensely and at the start of the IOW scheme a lot of advertising was carried out including with leaflets at undertakers. Now, there is no need for advertising as there is a waiting list for gate installations. The scheme has been running for 7 years and figures show that one third of the gates are purchased by visitors to IOW and these aren't always donations in memory of someone. It is seen as a legacy for many reasons and lots of donations are made by groups, such as the Ramblers donating the 100th gate to be installed through the scheme and a family donation to celebrate a special wedding anniversary. In the 7 years since the scheme started in March 2010, 170 donations have been made and there is a waiting list of 15. There is a continual waiting list due to the time involved in going through the process.

Potential Problems were listed as livestock and the reliability of self-closing mechanism and also the potential for shrines to develop. However this had not happened in 170 installations – one gate had been vandalised and one plaque removed and thrown away.

The installation costs are covered in the cost of donating a gate. However KS was unsure if an agreement is in place to cover the replacement at the end of lifespan or if vandalised, but a comprehensive list of terms and conditions are printed in the leaflet.

The IOW Ramblers administer the scheme and one volunteer spends around 2 days a week on this. It is overseen by the rights of way department to plan where the gates will go. Gift Aid may be claimed because RA is a charity, which creates an income for the RA.

The Chair suggested the Local Authorities look into the potential for similar schemes in this area. SW said she is looking at the potential in Conwy and will provide feedback to the LAF at the next meeting.

The contact details for the IOW ROW department are-

ROW Manager Darrel Clarke – 01983 821000 ext 8776 darrel.clarke@iow.gov.uk

AP 5.1	DCC and CCBC to feedback on potential ‘Donate a Gate’ scheme.	
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RoWIP Review Update

Conwy County Borough Council

Victoria Currie (VC) asked if the LAF had received the letter – VC to re-send as HA had not received it. Work continuing at pace in assessing the previous ROWIP. VC hopes to send the assessment report to CEDLAF early in 2018 for comments.

Denbighshire County Council

Adrian Walls (AW) advised the Forum that DCC will be producing a document called “Countryside Access Improvement Plan” to encompass sites such as Forestry as well as incorporating the ROWIP. A draft timetable has been drawn up but DCC is required to agree with the LAF a list of consultees before publishing. Copies of the list were made available to members to add to the wider list of consultees. The timetable will be agreed in the next 4 weeks. The previous RoWIP was published in September 2008 – therefore DCC has until September 2018 to review.

Please email any suggested consultees missing from the list to AW

A discussion ensued about responses to the RoWIP consultations for other local authorities. Peter Rutherford from Snowdonia National Park (PR) reported that Gwynedd Council had received 1500 responses to their online questionnaire. AW has been looking into this and all the promotion had been carried out through their communications team. He added that in comparison Powys Council had received 250 responses. PR added that he had pushed the Gwynedd consultation through SNPA channels also, which had helped.

PR also advised building in access land and access to water and health agenda to the new document. AW noted that the Gwynedd survey interlaced sections of the WG consultation, which is something DCC will need to consider. PF added that AW had made some very important points and felt that responses to consultations should advise WG it’s a two-way process and as they make changes, whatever they are they should consider RoWIPs.

Active Travel Update

SW gave a brief update from Paul Smith about the current Active Travel consultation in Conwy. Details had been circulated about the ongoing consultations around Active travel in Conwy and Denbighshire. HA to recirculate.

AP 5.2	HA to recirculate the Active Travel details	Completed
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Welsh Government Consultation – Taking forward Wales’ sustainable management of natural resources

The Consultation was discussed by members and Helen Mrowiec (HM) to circulate a summary of views within a week for members to comment before meeting the submission deadline of 30th September 2017

AP 5.3	HM to provide summary of discussion and circulate to members within a week of meeting	Completed
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Agenda items requested for the next meeting:

- Update from both Local Authorities as to their position on the Donate a Gate Scheme.
- Volunteering
- Glastir Update

Date of forthcoming meetings:

- 8th December 2017
- 8th March 2018

DRAFT