

CORNWALL COUNCIL

CORNWALL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held at Grenville Room, Cornwall Council, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY on Tuesday 25 January 2011 commencing at 2.00 pm.

Present:- Graham Ronan (Chairman)
 James Scobie (Vice-Chairman)

Julie Bate, Adrian Bigg, Gill Derryman, Terry Faull,
Roger James, Nicholas Jeans, Jane Kiely, Councillor Lugg,
Robin Moore, Robert Osborne, Councillor Paynter, Councillor
Shakerley, Duncan Thurnell-Read, Peter Tunstall-Behrens
and Jeremy Varcoe.

Also in Councillor German, Steve Crummay – Living Environment
attendance:- Manager, Mike Eastwood – Programmes Manager, Tom
 Fletcher - Principal Access and Development Officer, Emma
 Coad – Senior Democratic Services Officer, Rowena Brebner
 – Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for (None).
absence:-

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

(Agenda No. 1)

CAF/146 The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting, in particular Tom Fletcher (Principal Access and Development Officer), Collette Holden (Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager), Nigel Sumpter (AONB Officer), Peter Sainsbury (Landscape and Urban Design Manager) and Colin Hawke (Natural Environment Officer (Advice)).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - NOT ALREADY DECLARED

(Agenda No. 3)

CAF/147 Nick Jeans declared a personal interest in Agenda item 13.3 (Moorland Access Working Group) due to previous involvement in the management of Carnyorth Moor.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2010

(Agenda No. 4)

CAF/148 It was moved by James Scobie, seconded by Roger James and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held on 24 November 2010 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING OTHER THAN ON THE AGENDA

(Agenda No. 5)

CAF/149 There were no matters arising other than on the Agenda.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda No. 6)

CAF/150 The Chairman agreed to bring item 12 (Sale of Forestry Commission Land) forward on the agenda.

UPDATE ON TRAC PROJECT (PETER SAINSBURY)

(Agenda No. 7)

CAF/151 The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Peter Sainsbury, Landscape and Urban Design Manager.

Mr Sainsbury thanked the Forum for the opportunity to attend the meeting and proceeded to give a brief overview of the TRAC (Tourism and Rural Access in Cornwall) CYCLE Project and provided an update regarding progress with the route:-

- a) This was a green route that encouraged people to use the trails and enjoy them in an environmentally friendly way
- b) There were strategic links to the CYCLE network in Europe and there was now a lead person in Brittany, meetings with whom were held four times per year
- c) Working groups had been established and a marketing firm had recently been appointed
- d) Progress had been made with the Devon and Cornwall Trails network, particularly between Launceston and Egloskerry as well as from Bude to Helebridge and Titson
- e) Other related RDPE projects included:-
 - 1SW – Off road cycle hub at Lanhydrock/Cardinham and other sites
 - Enjoy Water – activity options for visitors to SW Lakes sites
 - Unlocking our Coastal Heritage – Enhancement of the infrastructure and heritage assets plus marketing of the South West Coast Path
 - Discover the Extraordinary – Enhancement of the visitor experience at World Heritage sites partner attractions
 - Rural Sports Tourism – Promotion and development of shooting and fishing
- f) A publicity event had recently been held with involvement of the local Member, Councillor Paynter
- g) The project was due to end in 2013
- h) There was not a great deal to report regarding the maintenance aspect of the project, however, it was possible to build long term maintenance plans into future bids for funding. A study would

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
25 January 2011

be undertaken in Cornwall to look at this subject in a broader way and develop a strategy that answered these long term issues.

During discussion reference was made to the following issues:-

- i) The Cornish Way had been developed by the previous County Council and could be significantly improved by making it more off-road
- ii) Off road cycling tracks were preferable and could be achieved through negotiations with land owners and businesses in providing facilities eg tea rooms and cycle hire

In response to some of the questions Peter Sainsbury advised that discussions at Director and Cabinet Member level had been held regarding the opportunities with the Cliff Railway – this was a good opportunity for local businesses. He further advised that it was necessary for the surface and width of multi use trails to be constructed appropriately.

The Chairman thanked Mr Sainsbury for his presentation.

AONB UPDATE (COLLETTE HOLDEN)

(Agenda No. 8)

CAF/152 The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Colette Holden, Cornwall AONB Partnership Manager.

Ms Holden thanked the Forum for the opportunity to attend the meeting and proceeded to outline:-

- a) The Management Plan was in its Final Draft form and would be signed off at tomorrow's AONB meeting. It would be considered by the Cabinet at its meeting on 16 February 2011
- b) The public consultation which took place had received responses from various organisations
- c) The comments submitted by CCAF had been discussed at a meeting between herself and the Chairman of CCAF
- d) Everybody who had commented on the plan was thanked for their input, and the team was looking forward to taking the plan forward when approved formally

In response to questions made by Members, the Living Environment Manager advised that the AONB operated using legislation and the policy framework in an intelligent way, particularly in enforcement matters. He further advised of the various sources of funding of the AONB (some of which were external eg DEFRA, Natural England) and for Coast path maintenance.

Councillor German advised that the Council, in association with the Tamar AONB would be highlighting the management plan at the National AONB

conference. There was a proposal to raise the profile of the Cornwall AONB and the World Heritage Site.

The Chairman thanked Ms Holden for her presentation.

CONSULTATION ON ROUTE OF THE SW COAST PATH THROUGH CADGWITH (REPORT BY MARK OWEN, SW COAST PATH NATIONAL TRAIL OFFICER)

(Agenda No. 9)

CAF/153 The Forum considered the report of Mark Owen, SW Coast Path National Trail Officer relating to the southern side of Cadgwith where the route of the signed and promoted route of the South West Coast Path Team followed a different route to the one that was originally designated and given Secretary of State Approval as the National Trail. A request from a neighbouring householder had been received that the current signing be changed so that walkers were directed to use the approved route. The SWCP Team had undertaken consultation and following this recommended that the route be amended to direct walkers along the Approved route.

It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by James Scobie and

RESOLVED that the Forum endorses Option 2 as detailed within the report, namely that Cornwall Council amends the current signing to direct walkers along the Approved route.

Arising from the above, it was suggested that the Forum write to SW Coastpath and ask that CCAF be consultees in future variations of the Coast path.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE FORUM

(Agenda No. 10)

CAF/154 The Chairman identified the following correspondence that had been received since the last meeting:-

- 1 Notification of restriction under an outline direction given under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Direction case number: 2010115741- Idless (circulated 26.11.10)
- 2 Dartmoor access forum meeting 7 December (circulated 26.11.10)
- 3 Community management of public space (circulated 26.11.10)
- 4 Decisions: Registration of land at Pentire, Newquay as village greens (circulated 26.11.10)
- 5 Reply from Secretary of State (circulated 30.11.10)
- 6 Withdrawal of restriction under an outline direction given under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act – Case 2010115741 - Idless (circulated 2.12.10)

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
25 January 2011

- 7 Notification of restriction under an outline direction given under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Direction case number: 2010125764 - Halvana Plantation (circulated 8.12.10)
- 8 The Commons Act 2006 - Lizard Downs Proposal outcome (circulated 13.12.10)
- 9 The Commons Act 2006 - Notice - Echo Corner, Porthtowan (circulated 13.12.10)
- 10 Connecting Cornwall 2030 - Full draft consultation (circulated 14.12.10)
- 11 Defra White Paper on the Natural Environment (circulated 14.12.10)
- 12 Message to LAF members from Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs - Permissive Access (circulated 20.12.10)
- 13 Reply from Caroline Spellman regarding the 'Stepping Forward' report (circulated 22.12.10)
- 14 Countryside Mobility South West - Project Update 7 (circulated 6.1.11)
- 15 Natural England Budget Update (circulated 6.1.11)
- 16 Payment for Access - minute from Somerset LAF (circulated 6.1.11)
- 17 Survey of Horse Riders (circulated 6.1.11)
- 18 Notification of restriction under an outline direction given under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act - Case 2010055500 (circulated 6.1.11)
- 19 Notification of restriction under an outline direction given under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act - Case 2010055503 (circulated 7.1.11)
- 20 Countryside Recreation Network - Autumn Newsletter (circulated 10.1.11)
- 21 Notification of restriction under an outline direction given under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act - Case 2010055500 - Forestry commission response to queries regarding restriction (circulated 10.1.11)
- 22 Why mountain bikers love forests - Information from the Forestry Commission (circulated 13.1.11)
- 23 Notification of restriction under an outline direction given under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act - Case 2011015791 (circulated 13.1.11)
- 24 Sustrans report of its activities in 2009 (circulated 17.1.11)
- 25 Notification of restriction under an outline direction given under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act - Case 2010055501 (circulated 19.1.11)
- 26 Forestry battles ahead (circulated 21.1.11)
- 27 Potential Sale of Forest Land (circulated 24.1.11)
- 28 Tregonetha Downs (circulated 24.1.11)

Arising from the above and in view of the short consultation period (14 Feb deadline) it was agreed that the Moorland Access Working Group may wish to meet to discuss the proposals.

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
25 January 2011

Individual members were encouraged to submit personal responses.

- 29 Notice of transfer of rights of way case work functions from Government Office North East to the Planning Inspectorate (circulated 24.1.11)
- 30 Plymouth Local Access Forum Consultation (circulated 24.1.11)

UPDATE ON THE STRATEGIC REVIEW OF COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

(Agenda No. 11)

CAF/155 The Forum considered the Strategic Review of the Delivery of Countryside Access by Cornwall Council 2011 (draft). Terry Faull outlined the background behind the review and advised that the proposals contained within the review should be endorsed.

Tom Fletcher (Principal Access and Development Officer) advised that there was a different hierarchy of routes within the county and a set of standards to apply to the management of the network had been developed. The delivery of the management of these different standards had also been considered. Various funding options had been considered for the access network and the possibility of extending the licensing scheme operating for the Camel trail was being looked at.

The processing of Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMO's) needed to be reviewed.

The Living Environment Manager advised that the Council had a medium term financial strategy and there was no proposal to reduce the spending on the Rights of Way network. He further advised that the Council was working on a Volunteer policy and framework.

The Living Environment Manager thanked the Members of the Steering Group – Jane Kiely, Terry Faull and Jeremy Varcoe for their hard work.

It was moved by Robin Moore, seconded by Nick Jeans and

RESOLVED that the recommendations contained within the Strategic Review of Countryside Services and Public Rights of Way be approved.

SALE OF FORESTRY COMMISSION LAND

(Agenda No. 12)

CAF/156 The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Colin Hawke (Natural Environment Officer (Advice)) who advised the Forum:-

- a) The Government was changing some of the legislation to allow them to sell or lease Forestry Commission land
- b) a consultation paper from the Government regarding this was currently awaited

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
25 January 2011

- c) Major concerns regarding the proposals had been raised
- d) Any sale of woodland that they may have a freehold interest in would be discussed with the local authority – this would provide an opportunity to look at the wider public access issues
- e) Previous sites that had been sold tended to be isolated, small parcels of forestry with no public access
- f) The National forest policy should ensure that existing woodland remained woodland
- g) Areas in Cornwall that may be affected by the proposal included Idless Woods, near Truro; Herodsford (near Liskeard); Cardinham Woods; Glynn Valley (lease-hold); Dunmere woods (leasehold); Week St Mary; Hallworthy; St Breock Downs and Camel Valley
- h) The Council did not lease any woodland but did own woodland at Tehidy, Luxulyan, Bude, Mount Edgecombe and Looe

Councillor German advised that if, following the consultation, there was forestry land for sale within Cornwall, the Council would consider purchasing this. The Council had a green infrastructure strategy and it was possible that money could be accessed for capital investment in valuable assets such as these.

During discussion reference was made to the following issues:-

- I. Other species living in the woodland environment would be protected through existing policy and felling controls. There were national policy guidelines and it would not be possible to clear fell large areas. Felling licenses would sustain these forests. There was currently a lot of woodland within private ownership
- II. The Woodland Trust was active in planting woodland
- III. The forestry commission owned 18% of the total woodland in the British Isles and it was considering selling 15% of that 18% - relatively small numbers would therefore be affected
- IV. It was rare to find forestry land that was economically viable – fuel could be a factor in obtaining a big economic return
- V. Access in forestry commission woodland was dedicated under the CROW act. A lot of other activities took place on this land. Access by walkers may be protected, however other access may not be protected.

The Chairman thanked Mr Hawke for his attendance and asked that further information be brought back to the Forum when this was available.

Mr Hawke agreed to provide a map showing woodland areas within Cornwall.

WORKING GROUPS
(Agenda No. 13)

CAF/157 The Forum considered the following information relating to the working groups:-

COASTAL ACCESS WORKING GROUP

(Agenda No. 13.1)

CAF/158 The Coastal Access working group had not recently met however, concern was expressed that the organisations in Dorset – both users and landowners - were not being properly consulted in a pilot of the new coastal path in Dorset (which was to be in place in time for the Olympics). Care was needed that this did not happen in Cornwall.

ACCESS AND DISABILITY WORKING GROUP

(Agenda No. 13.2)

CAF/159 The Chairman advised that a discussion had taken place regarding the Access and Disability Working Group, whether it was needed, and if so, how many, and who should be members of it. The views of the Forum were sought. Members expressed the view that as the group had so few members and met so infrequently and in view of the Equality Act 2010 encompassing all aspects of access and disability, it would seem sensible to disband the group with immediate effect.

It was moved by Duncan Thurnell-Read, seconded by Nick Jeans and

RESOLVED that the Access and Disability Working Group be disbanded with immediate effect.

Arising from the above the Secretary's Representative agreed to make enquiries in connection with the circulation list used in the annual recruitment process.

MOORLAND ACCESS WORKING GROUP

(Agenda No. 13.3)

CAF/160 Julie Bate advised that the working group had met on 15 December 2010 and a series of recommendations had been made regarding Carnyorth Moor as a result of this, details of which were contained within the report.

The Chairman thanked Julie and the group members.

During discussion reference was made to the following issues:

Grazing by Longhorn Cattle should pose no threat to people as they were docile in character

It would be counterproductive to leave gates open

Ease of access rather than simply the right of access could not automatically be assumed to have priority over the need to protect and improve the environment and the beauty of the landscape. Natural England had been chosen to carry out the management of Moorland. Grazing by cattle was a historic and major factor in the successful management of moorland habitat. Farmers had to make their livelihood, users could not always expect priority – these principles should be borne in mind.

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
25 January 2011

A proper management regime was necessary and support for cattle on the moors to consume vegetation should be given. Visitors should be made aware that not all cattle were dangerous.

Consultation with local communities was key

Arising from the above the Secretary's representative agreed to seek a response to the working group's recommendation which had been forwarded to Steve Warman, Natural England.

OS MAPPING WORKING GROUP

(Agenda No. 13.4)

CAF/161 The Working Group would be meeting with the Programmes Manager in due course.

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

(Agenda No. 14)

CAF/162 The Forum noted the date, time and venues of future meetings.

The Chairman requested that any suggestions to add to the work programme should be forwarded to himself or the Secretary's Representative.

A suggestion was made that perhaps a site meeting could be held before the May meeting – possibly at Caradon Hill, Minions and that the Liskeard office may be preferable as a venue for the meeting if this was the case.

The meeting ended at 4.55 pm.

[The agenda and reports relating to the items referred to above are attached to the signed copy of the Minutes].