

CORNWALL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM (CCAF) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 31 JANUARY 2017

Date: Tuesday 31 January 2017
Time: 2.05 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, Cornwall Council, County Hall, Truro TR1 3AY

Present: Nicholas Jeans (Chairman), Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher, Adrian Bigg, Kevin Boshier, Gerry Brain, Jim Candy CC, Steve Church, Kay Driver, Robert Fraser, Andrea Sandford, Caroline Sargent, Janet Shearer and Richard Tufnell

Also in

Attendance: Richard Andrews (Land Management Team Leader, Natural England), Lynne Beardsmore (Democratic Officer), Mike Eastwood (Countryside Access Team Leader), John Holmes (Area Manager – Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly, Natural England), Jon James (Natural Environment Manager), Bryan Skinner (Business and Incident Manager) and Mike Thomas (Director, Cornwall Sports Partnership)

Apologies: Tony Blumenau, Carolyn Boyce, Edward Chapman, Joyce Duffin CC, Bill Maddern CC and Jacqueline Merrick

Minute no		Action by
CAF/41	Declarations of Interest (on matters included in the agenda) There were no declarations of interest.	
CAF/42	Minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2016 It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Kevin Boshier, and RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2016 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.	Secretary's Representative
CAF/43	Matters Arising (Not otherwise included in the agenda) The following matters were considered by the	

	Forum: - (i) CAF/25 (iii) (CAF/8 (ii)): <u>Cyclists on Footpaths-</u> The Chairman stated that that he had originally raised the matter of the legality of cyclists on footpaths and, following investigation, the Area Manager, Sustrans, had provided a concise statement in respect of the law, which he read to the Forum and added the results of his own research into the matter, both of which were to be subsequently circulated to members of the Forum. (ii) CAF/25 (iv) (CAF/10): - <u>Cornwall Countryside Access Strategy</u> The Chairman stated that this would be considered under Agenda No. 8.3 (Cornwall Countryside Access Strategy Task and Finish Group). (iii) CAF/25 (vi) (CAF/13(i)): - <u>Proposed Improvements to the A30 St Austell Link Road</u> The Chairman stated that this would be considered under Agenda No. 8.2 (Consultation Response Working Group). (iv) CAF/27: - <u>Cycle Access to Forestry Commission Open Access Land</u> In response to a Forum member query, Janet Shearer and Adrian Bigg confirmed that whilst for many years the Forestry Commission (FC) had previously required horse riders to purchase a licence to ride on FC land, the decision had been made not to require mountain bikers to purchase a licence, as administration of these licences would have resource implications. The FC now used parking charges to raise income. Following consideration, it was AGREED That 1. The information be noted;and 2. That the matter of cyclists on footpaths be not pursued further at this stage.	
CAF/44	Chairman's Announcements The Forum considered the following announcement(s) made by the Chairman: - (i) <u>Meeting of the South West Local Access</u>	

	<u>Forum Chairmen</u> The Chairman stated that he proposed to attend the next meeting of the Chairmen of the South West Local Access Fora scheduled to be held on 24 February 2017 and that he would report the outcomes to the Forum at the following meeting. (ii) <u>Chairmanship of the Forum</u> The Chairman stated that by the end of July 2017, he would have completed 3 years as Chairman of the Forum and that he would be stepping down at that point. He did, however, wish to remain a Forum member. He invited other Forum members to consider taking on the role. It was AGREED that the information be noted.	Forum members
CAF/45	South West Coast Path - Natural England (This item was taken before Agenda No. 1 (Apologies for Absence) to allow the Land Management Team Leader, Natural England, to leave the meeting) The Forum gave consideration to the previously circulated presentation given by the Land Management Team Leader, Natural England. The presentation included information relating to:- (i) Coastal margins: These would include all land on the seaward side and some land inland, including where the landowner wished to have coastal access rights on the land; (ii) Excepted land: MOD land, dwellings and gardens and parks, for example, which lay within the coastal margin; (iii) Land management restrictions: To be applied to land required for a particular purpose, such as a spiritual retreat, for example; (iv) Spreading room: The area of coastal margin which remained after excepted land was removed; (v) Roll back: Identification of areas where this was required would involve a 5 stage process; (vi) Sensitive features: Consideration would be given to habitat and species, which may require restrictions to be put in place; (vii) The process once proposals had been drawn up included: • Publication of the proposals; • An 8 week window for objections to be	

- raised;
- Summary of the objections received;
- Modifications to the proposals;
- Submission to DEFRA;
- Assessment by an independent Inspector;
- Decision by the Secretary of State - to approve, modify or reject the proposals;
- Putting the infrastructure into place following approval.

(viii) Stage 1 had been completed, and relevant landowners were due to be sent letters and maps, following which Stage 2 would commence;

(ix) It was expected that by the end of May 2017, work on the Cornwall stretches would commence.

In response to questions and comments from Forum members, the Land Management Team Leader, Natural England, confirmed that: -

- (i) Landowners would be asked to inform occupiers/tenants and arrange for them to respond to the proposals;
- (ii) There was no right of appeal if the occupier/tenant was not advised by the landowner;
- (iii) Consideration would be given to a Member's request that the timing of the consultation took into account the busy farming period of July to September;
- (iv) Coastal access provision under the current programme was limited to access on foot, ie. walking. NE had no remit to provide higher rights, ie. horse or cycle access. However, such higher rights could be provided by negotiation with the landowner;
- (v) There was some funding available to promote and ease access for those living with disability. Submission of a 'wish list' was invited, following receipt of which a prioritisation process would be undertaken;
- (vi) There were a number of statutory consultees;
- (vii) Natural England had a duty to provide a trail around the coast. In respect of estuaries, an assessment would be made on the 'feel' of the relevant estuary; if it was considered to feel coastal, it could potentially be included in the proposals.

	It was AGREED that the information be noted. The Chairman thanked the Land Management Team Leader, Natural England, for attending the meeting and for his informative presentation.	
CAF/46	Physical Activity Strategy - Cornwall Sports Partnership (This item was taken after Agenda No.6 (South West Coast Path – Natural England) and before Agenda No.1 (Apologies for Absence) to allow the Director, Cornwall Sports Partnership, to leave the meeting. The Forum considered the presentation given by the Director, Cornwall Sports Partnership, which included information relating to: - (i) The relationship between the Cornwall Sports Partnership (CSP) and Sport England, and the change in remit for Sport England (SE) following a change in Government policy, which resulted in SE now being responsible not only for formal sports but also for informal activities such as walking; (ii) The 5 outcomes sought from the policy, which included: • Physical wellbeing; • Mental wellbeing; • Individual development; • Social and community development; and • Economic development. (iii) It was recognised that activity in the countryside had significant benefits over that undertaken in a closed space; (iv) The number of deaths in Cornwall attributed to inactivity and the cost to the public purse; (v) The behaviours which resulted in deaths, which included: • Smoking; • Physical inactivity; • Excess alcohol; • Lack of social connections. (vi) The strategy to encourage non active people to become active, and active people to become more active; (vii) The impact on children and young people from inactivity, and that only 18% of children met the Chief Medical Officer's (CMO) guideline of needing a minimum of 1 hour activity each day;	

- (viii) The impact on adults from inactivity, particularly those within the 65-74 age group, only 30% of whom met the CMO's guideline of needing a minimum of 150 minutes activity each week;
- (ix) The aim to bring together disparate groups which focussed on the environment and activities outdoors and also enabling partners to work together within existing resources;
- (x) It was proposed to formulate an expression of interest in funds available from SE;
- (xi) An invitation was extended for a representative from CCAF to engage with the CSP, as appropriate.

In response to questions and comments from Forum members, the Director, Cornwall Sports Partnership, confirmed: -

- (i) The example given of walking in the countryside was used to highlight the inclusion of informal activity in the changed remit of SE. Horse riding was acknowledged to be another form of informal activity with equal value ;
- (ii) The CSP sought to address the issues caused by lack of mental health wellbeing;
- (iii) The CSP had developed a PE and sport framework with schools and Head Teachers, which had been signed up to by all schools in Cornwall;
- (iv) The importance of using social media to connect with and attract the interest of young people in sport and outdoor activities was fully acknowledged;
- (v) The submission deadline for expressions of interest in the funding available from SE was mid March;
- (vi) Support from CCAF with the bid and with the work of CSP would be welcome and appreciated.

It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Kay Driver, and **AGREED** that

1. The information be noted;
2. The Cornwall Countryside Access Forum:
 - Supports the initiative being undertaken by the Cornwall Sports Partnership;
 - Commits to working actively with the Cornwall Sports Partnership to deliver the Physical Activity Strategy;
 - Continues engagement with the Cornwall

Forum
members

	Sports Partnership; and • Supports any bid to be taken forward; and 3. Caroline Sargent be appointed the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum's representative to the Cornwall Sports Partnership. The Chairman thanked the Director, Cornwall Sports Partnership, for attending the meeting and for his informative presentation.	
CAF/47	Working Group Updates (Verbal reports from the Chairman of each of the following Working Groups:) The Forum considered the updates given by the Chairman and representatives of the following Working Groups and Task and Finish Groups, following which It was AGREED that the information be noted.	
CAF/48	Coastal Access Working Group (This item was taken after Agenda No.7 (Physical Activity Strategy) and before Agenda No.1 (Apologies for Absence) due to the relevance of the subject to Agenda No.6 (South West Coast Path – Natural England)) The Forum gave consideration to the previously circulated update presented by Steve Church, in which it was highlighted that:- (i) The list of locations contained in the proposed response (Agenda pages 3-10 inclusive) was not exhaustive, which would be made clear in the formal response; (ii) Subsequent to drafting the proposed response, some other locations had arisen, which would be included. Forum members were invited to submit other locations for inclusion, where appropriate; (iii) The document required the formal approval of the Forum. In response to questions and comments from Forum members, the Land Management Team Leader, Natural England, Steve Church, the Natural Environment Manager and the Countryside Access Team Leader confirmed that: -	SC Forum members

	(i) Roll back had been determined from the 20 year and 50 year projected lines of the coast; (ii) Discussions with Cornwall Council (CC) in respect of the significant amount of work required resulting from land slippage had been taken into account; (iii) There were a number of locations where there had been issues arising from susceptibility; (iv) Another meeting of the Coastal Access Working Group with Natural England (NE) was due to take place on Friday 10 February 2017; (v) Officers of CC and CORMAC had met separately with NE; (vi) NE looked to CC to deliver the Capital works and the relevant officer was engaged in discussions with NE to that end; (vii) A Forum member's comment that the Forum welcomed and appreciated Natural England's positive approach was acknowledged; It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Steve Church, and AGREED that (i) The comments and suggestions of the Coastal Access Working Group be approved as the Forum's formal position; (ii) The additional comments and suggestions made by the Coastal Access Working Group representatives at the meeting with Natural England regarding Trebarvah/Stackhouse Cliffs, Rinsey Head and Mullion Cove be approved as the formal position of the Forum; (iii) The positive informal responses of Natural England be noted and welcomed; (iv) The opportunity to continue to liaise with Natural England as the Coastal Access exercise proceeds in Cornwall be welcomed.	SC SC
CAF/49	Consultation Response Working Group The Forum gave consideration to the update presented by the Forum Chairman: - (i) No consultations had been received subsequent to the Forum's meeting on 25 October 16; (ii) In respect of the proposed improvements to the A30 St Austell Link Road: - He had recently had discussions with the Project Manager, CORMAC, and had been advised that following	

	discussions with the relevant Parish Council, it was likely that a cycle route linking the A30 with the existing cycle trail at Goss Moor would be undertaken. When the proposal was nearer to its final draft, it would be forwarded to the Consultation Working Group for consideration.	Chairman
CAF/50	Cornwall Countryside Access Strategy Task and Finish Group The Forum gave consideration to the update given by the Forum Chairman and the Countryside Access Team Leader: - (i) The CCASTFG had met 3 times since the Forum's meeting held on 25 October 2016 and a further meeting was scheduled to be held in 2 weeks; (ii) The Forum's advice provided to the Environmental Strategy team through the CCASTFG had been taken into account and the current Strategy was being improved. The deadline for completion of this was by the end of 2017; (iii) It was anticipated that the revised draft Strategy would be provided to CCASTFG for consideration in due course; (iv) A meeting had very recently been held to consider the draft plan and strong guidance had been given in respect of what the Strategy needed to deliver.	Chairman
CAF/51	Funding Opportunities Task and Finish Group The Forum gave consideration to the previously circulated update presented by Kay Driver:- In response to questions and comments from Forum members, the Business and Incident Manager, Cornwall Council, and John Holmes, Natural England, confirmed: - (i) The possibility of crowd funding to be used to pump-prime an initiative to secure funds from the market was currently being investigated; (ii) It would be necessary to demonstrate to DEFRA the projects which could provide the benefits it sought before funding would be considered.	

CAF/52	Moorland and Open Access Working Group The Forum gave consideration to the update given by Bob Fraser, in which the following was confirmed: - (i) No meetings of the MOAWG had taken place since the last Forum meeting, however views had been sought by email on the proposed policy set out in the draft Cornwall Countryside Access Strategy that only statutory duties would be carried out on access land; (ii) Responses indicated a reasonable tolerance of this, however it should not be enshrined in policy as that would prevent action should funds become available in future.	
CAF/53	Multi-Use Trail Working Group The Chairman stated that information in respect of the multi use track proposed through the A30 St Austell Link Road project previously mentioned would be reported to the Forum when received.	
CAF/54	Rights of Way and Definitive Map Working Group The Forum gave consideration to the presentation previously circulated in respect of the Cornwall Project 20216, presented by Adrian Bigg. The Business and Incident Manager, Cornwall Council, stated that the University of Exeter's Environment and Sustainability Institute had developed and supported a platform aimed at encouraging the flow of environment and sustainability information, science and debate in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly (www.envihub.org.uk), and that some reciprocal information and, particularly, technical advice and support, may be available to support Cornwall Project 2026. In response to questions and comments from Forum members, Adrian Bigg confirmed: - (i) Some aspects of the Deregulation Act needed to pass through the parliamentary process and this had been delayed due to the outcomes	

	from the Referendum. Cornwall Project 2026 was now technically ready and needed to go forward without delay; (ii) The Project would be promoted gradually to ensure that it did not come as a surprise to landowners and landowner organisations. Support was sought from the National Farmers Union and Country Land and Business Association to this effect; (iii) The information compiled for the Project would assist the Countryside Access Team Leader and his team to ensure that all Rights of Way in Cornwall and Definitive Map Modification Orders were recorded accurately; (iv) User evidence was accepted, however many users were reluctant to sign witness forms, particularly if they lived near the respective landowner. Greater reliance was now placed on documentary evidence, such as Tithe maps; (v) The website was now live and a link would be circulated to Forum members via the Secretary's Representative. The Countryside Access Team Leader stated that the collaboration had been very constructive and that the website was very informative. Following consideration, it was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Candy, and AGREED that 1. The information be noted; 2. formal thanks be given by the Forum to Adrian Bigg for the work he had undertaken.	AB/Secretary's Representative
CAF/55	Correspondence to the Forum - Matters for Consideration There were no matters for consideration raised by Forum members arising from correspondence received. It was AGREED that the information be noted.	
CAF/56	Section 94(4) Bodies - CCAF Consultation Protocol The Forum gave consideration to the previously circulated draft consultation protocol presented by the Business and Incident Manager.	

	In response to comments and questions from Forum members, the Business and Incident Manager confirmed; - (i) The bodies listed in the document were those listed in the Forum's constitution. However, there may be other bodies the Forum wished to add; (ii) It was acknowledged that a draft consultation response could be formulated within 6 weeks, however the draft response would need to be ratified at the next formal meeting of the Forum. It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Caroline Sargent, and AGREED that 1. The information be noted; and 2. the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum Consultation Protocol be adopted.	
CAF/57	CCAF Work Programme The Forum gave consideration to the previously circulated report presented by the Countryside Access Team Leader. The Chairman added that the Work Programme had been compiled from the Cornwall Council Business Plan and was also used to inform future meetings. It was AGREED that the information be noted.	
CAF/58	Date, Time and Venue of Future Meetings The Forum noted the dates of future meetings.	
CAF/59	Any Business the Chairman Considers to be Urgent There was no urgent business for consideration.	

The meeting ended at 4.40 pm.

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