CORNWALL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM (CCAF) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 2021

Date: Tuesday 26 January 2021
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue:

Present: Kieboom (Chair), Durkin (Vice-Chair), Church, Cross, Ekinsmyth, Howlett, Nicholas Jeans, Jo Lay, Luke, Wilson and Wilson,
Also in Attendance: (None)
Apologies: Allen, Hynard and J Merrick

Minute no		Action by
CAF/1	**Welcome and Apologies for Absence** The Chairman welcomed Members to the meeting and introduced the new Members who had joined the Forum; Jo Lay, Gregory Cross and Martin Howlett.	
CAF/3	**Update from the Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods - Sophie Hosking** The Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods gave the Forum an overview of her Directorate responsibilities and answered questions which were summarised as follows: 1. The LMP was a good example of communities and Cornwall Council working together. With diminishing resources for Local Authorities such as Cornwall Council it was vital to enable communities to help themselves. 2. There were some tensions such as the need to protect the countryside and bio-diversity etc. whilst maintaining use and assess by the public (which had increased since the start of the pandemic). 3. She was keen to see a holistic approach to increasing access to the countryside for disabled people and wheelchair and pushchair users.	

	4. There was a need to ensure that the greatest benefit could be made from the available budget. 5. She appreciated the work of the Forum and asked Members to hold the service to account as to how and where their work was being done. 6. She encouraged the Forum to comment on the current climate change development plan document during its consultation. The Chair thanked SH for her attendance and looked forward to working with her in the future.	
CAF/4	**Minutes from the meeting held on 20 October 2020** It was moved by Ross Durkin, seconded by Esther Kieboom, and **RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held on 20 October 2020 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.	
CAF/6	**Chair's Announcements** The Chair reported that despite the continuing lockdown measures to combat the pandemic progress had been made on many issues. The recruitment process had been streamlined and was working well; the Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods had engaged with the Forum; she and the Vice Chair had attended the Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee informal development session and had positive conversations with Councillor Edwina Hannaford, Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Neighbourhoods.	
CAF/7	**Review of Countryside Service - Head of Environment Assets and Service Delivery - Rob Andrew** RA updated the Forum on the Countryside Service	

	since the last meeting. The most recent lockdown had an impact on the service e.g. putting up notices. In addition recent bad weather had resulted in some landslips on footpaths and diversions were in place. He further advised the forum: • With regards to the APSE review, recruitment was complete. • The CORMAC contract was up for renewal in the spring of 2022. • Work was underway to identify efficiencies to enable volunteers and Town and Parish Councils make their own inspections. • The service were investigating opportunities to roll a large number of smaller repairs into larger capital projects. • A £1m bid was being drawn up for Coastal Path work. • Work was underway to rationalise risk to encourage more volunteers to take part in maintenance work. • A review was underway of the approach to enforcement between the service and CORMAC.	
CAF/8	**Review of Countryside Access Strategy / ROWIP - Rob Andrew** RA advised that the service were looking forward to the review of National Policy on land use. It was hoped that it would enable more opening up of the countryside and the creation of permissive paths and encourage stronger links between settlements that would reduce car use. He invited the Forum to comment on the Climate Change Planning Development Document alongside the service who's view was that it did not currently represent PROW strongly enough. He was due to meet with Forum member Stephen Wilson to discuss ongoing issues.	

	RD requested comments on the PROW rights of way improvement plan and RA committed to a meeting within the next few weeks. RA advised that a £50m fund had been announced by Sport England to help grassroots sport and physical activity recover from the impact of the pandemic. The service would explore any opportunity to bid for funds. RA agreed to forward the Government Guidance regarding the making of PROWs and assessments to RD for their suggestions to streamline the process. RD asked if Cornwall Councillors were aware of the budget pressures on the service, RA responded that the service had recently had a budget increase and an additional 5 full time staff had been recruited. RA advised he was committed to achieving a simple and cost effective way for local communities and volunteers to carry out straightforward tasks such as improving waymaking signs. The Chair thanked him for the update.	
CAF/9	**Proposal for a Countryside Accessibility working group - Stephen Wilson** Stephen Wilson gave a presentation to the Forum following which he proposed a new working group titled "Countryside Access Working Group" be formed with the following aims: 1. Identify and publicise existing accessible routes; 2. Identify routes that could potentially be made accessible and the obstacles and barriers to be overcome; and 3. Set up a system whereby routes can be addressed as and when resources are available.	

	It was agreed that the Working Group be set up with the following Members: - Stephen Wilson (Lead Member) - Ross Durkin - Jo Lay - Carol Wilson - Greg Cross	
	Coastal Access Working Group - Steve Church No change to proposed route by Natural England. A quarter of the path was yet to be finalised mainly due to landowner objections. However three quarters was agreed in principal. The completion date was now March 2023.	
	Consultation Response Working Group - Esther Kieboom The Chair advised that she would collate a response from the Forum to the current consultation on Cornwall Council's Climate Change Development Plan Document.	
	Developing Parish Initiatives Working Group - Philip Allen RD reported that engagement with Parish councils was ongoing to progress the take up of LNPs. Two more had signed up following a presentation.	
	Moorland and Open Access Working Group No progress reported.	
	Multi-Use Trails Working Group - Nick Jeans	

	NJ advised 7 projects underway and updated as follows. Work commencing on the A30 some footpaths will be temporarily shut off for the duration of the works. Several meetings attended with regards to the new Saints Trail. Engagement had been undertaken with the Camelford Bypass design team to look at restoring some local public access. No response from the Launceston Masterplan public consultation. Funding has been withdrawn but work continues on the Mounts Bay Cycle access. The Truro loops project had achieved some design funding, it was not considered a strategic trail but would link into Cornwall Councils transport agenda. He was awaiting contact details for the Looe Valley to Liskeard project.	
	Rights of Way Working Group - Ross Durkin RD advised that a PROW improvement plan had been submitted to Cornwall Council. A meeting had been arranged with the service to discuss progress.	
	Definitive Map Working Group - Carol Wilson CW advised of limited progress due to the pandemic.	
	A30 - St Austell Link Road Improvement Task and Finish Group - Nick Jeans NJ advised no progress since the last meeting. ML added that Cornwall Council were ready to progress once Government had completed the process to start the scheme.	
	Carclaze Garden Village Task and Finish Group - Nick Jeans NJ advised he had been unable to talk with the developer. ML advised he had attended a recent	

	meeting and reported that the developer planned to set up a working group including Pentewan, Eden, Wheal Martyn etc to look at connectivity between the site and through the many parishes the development encompassed.	
	St Austell China Clay Mineral Permission Review Task and Finish Group - Nick Jeans NJ reported there had been no contact from Imerys and this work was dependent on the engagement of Imerys. ML offered to assist NJ with alternative contact details.	
CAF/12	**Date, Time and Venue of Future Meetings** The Forum noted the dates of future meetings.	

The meeting ended at 2.00 pm.

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