

CORNWALL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM (CCAF) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 27 APRIL 2021

Date: Tuesday 27 April 2021
 Time: 2pm
 Venue: Virtual (Via MS Teams)

Present: Kieboom (Chair), Durkin (Vice-Chair), Allen, Church, Cross, Ekinsmyth, Flashman, Hynard, Nicholas Jeans, Jo Lay and Wilson,

Apologies: Brain, Howlett, Luke and J Merrick

Also in

Attendance: Rob Andrew, Head of Environment Assets and Service Delivery
 Mike Eastwood, Countryside Access Team Leader
 Donald Martin, Countryside Team Leader
 Sarah Goodall, Democratic Team Leader

Minute no		Action by
CAF/1	Welcome and Apologies for Absence Apologies were received from Martin Howlett and Jacquie Merrick.	
CAF/3	Minutes from the meeting held on 26 January 2021 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 26 January 2021 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.	
CAF/6	Update from Head of Environmental Assets and Service Delivery The Head of Environmental Assets and Service Delivery gave the Forum Members an update on the service since the last meeting. He made a number of points	

including the following;

- The newly appointed staff had undertaken their training and were now working in support of the service's targets
- The service had achieved over target with regards to the capital budget spend and this supported the long-term ambition of the service to improve and consolidate repairs to the network
- They had been successful in a bid for funds to support the South West Coast Path
- The service had secured resources to steer the work with regards to the Countryside Access Strategy and Rights of Way Improvement Plan – demonstrating the Council's commitment to improving access and also in support of the Council's climate change ambitions.

In response to questions from Forum Members he clarified the following:

- The Cormac contract was up for review in 2022 however current work was supported through the annual business plan. He was committed to engaging with the Forum to feed into the review.
- The Forum would be part of the wider stakeholder engagement for the Countryside Access Strategy and it was hoped to have a draft strategy available for consultation by December 2021.
- Improving accessibility, especially in urban areas and around towns and villages was a priority for the service.
- With regards to the Definitive Map Orders and the 2026 deadline it was anticipated this deadline would be extended. However the service had not seen the volume of work they were led to expect and were managing this through their current team. The deadline was for DMMOs to be submitted but not authorised.

	Actions: 1. Definitive Map Order policy to be added to the agenda for the next meeting 2. DMO Working Group - Jo Lay to contact Carol Wilson to discuss how best to progress the work.	SG Jo Lay
CAF/7	Countryside Code Chair advised that Martin Howlett had asked for this issue to be included on the agenda. He had concerns that there was a lack of understanding of the Countryside Code which had been revised and re-launched in April 2021. During the discussion a range of points were made, including: • There was a poster available to download from www.gov.uk/countryside-code. Town and Parish Councils should be encouraged to disseminate this through their local networks. • It was disappointing that the Government were not taking a lead in advertising the code. • Cornwall Council's Communications department had been dealing with other priorities such as Covid and G7 but ME would liaise with them to see if it could be further promoted. • Dog mess was an ongoing issue – both the availability of bins and when it was appropriate to leave dog mess. • Cornwall Councillors could be approached to support the cost of dog bins from their 'community chest funds' Actions: 1. Vice Chair, Ross Durkin would promote the leaflet with parishes 2. Mike Eastwood the Countryside Access Team Leader to explore the possibility of further	Ross Durkin ME

	communications on the new code by Cornwall Council in particular on social media 3. Donald Martin Countryside Team Leader will look into issue of dog bins and report back to the Forum	DM
CAF/8	Review the Purpose of the Working Groups and verbal reports from Members. The Chair advised that the working groups were where the substantive work of the Forum takes place and their success was due to the membership of the groups driving the work. She asked for a review of the groups by their lead members. 1. Coastal Access Working Group – Steve Church The group had been active for 2-3 years and was convened in response to Natural England’s proposals to review the South West Coast path. The group had advised on locations for improvement and responded to Natural England’s proposals. The process was nearing the end and the focus of the group would move to increasing access to the coast path for all users and from inland areas. The majority of the path was agreed and approved by the Secretary of State apart from a few areas and there are 3 gaps due to landowner objections. He gave a summary of the financial impact on Cornwall driven by the coast path, which was significant, and its impact on people’s health and wellbeing. Work would commence later this year to ‘join up’ the coast path along the Tamar AONB to create a circular route. 2. Consultation Response Working Group – Esther Kieboom The Chair advised this was a small group that responded to consultations on behalf of the Forum. It drew in specific experience and skills from members as and when required.	

3. Countryside Accessibility Working Group – Steve Wilson

This group was newly convened to look at increasing access to the countryside. They were engaging with Cornwall Council on accessibility and looking at issue such as consistency in the quality of grading on paths to enable all ability access. RD advised that he was continuing to engage with Town and Parish Councils to encourage them to improve paths on their networks.

4. Developing Parish Initiatives Working Group – Phil Allen

Group intends to visit the new Community Network Panels when they start to meet. Main focus of work was to establish were there were gaps and encourage take up of the LMP. Good progress had been made.

5. Moorland and Open Access Working Group

This group had struggled and it was agreed that the newly elected Cornwall Councillor for the area be invited to join the Forum. Martin Howlett to be asked if he would lead this working group. There was a role for this group to engage with the ROWIP and CAS review with a view to opening accessibility on the Moor.

6. Multi-Use Trails Working Group - Nick Jeans

Whilst the group had not met frequently work was happening to engage with the plans for more trails in Cornwall.

7. Rights of Way Improvement Group – Ross Durkin

RD had positive discussions with Cornwall Council on this issue. In particular to consider priorities and how the ROWIP will be implemented.

8. Definitive Map Working Group – Carol Wilson

	Jo Lay offered to support Carol with the work of this group which had not progressed due to other pressures. 9. A30 St Austell Link Road Improvement Task and Finish Group –Nick Jeans Engagement with the project continued and NJ was shortly to attend a meeting to discuss the final permissive path details negotiated with Imerys. 10. Carclaze Garden Village Task and Finish Group – Nick Jeans There had been little progress with this group, Cllr Matt Luke was the key link as the local councillor into the work. It was hoped more would be known soon. 11. St Austell China Clay Mineral Permission Review Task and Finish Group – Nick Jeans NJ advised that over a third of the PROW had been lost in the China Clay Area without any enforcement or known desire on behalf of the landowner to re-implement them apart from alongside the new A30 link road. ME advised that he had received correspondence from the landowner regarding the issue and the landowner had been asked to elaborate on their plans. He was committed to getting the best outcomes for the area e.g permissive paths had been agreed but not publicised. Work was needed on obstructed ROW and for the landowner to identify replacements. The Chair thanked everyone for their work on the working groups. Actions: 1. Chair to contact Martin Howlett and invite him to lead the Moorland and Open Access Working Group 2. Jo Lay to offer support to Carol Wilson on	
		Chair
		Jo Lay

	the Definitive Map Working Group. 3. Democratic Services Team Leader to engage with the outside bodies appointment process to see if the local Member for Bodmin Moor could be encouraged to join the Forum. 4. Request an update on the Saints Trails at the next meeting 5. Chair to contact previous Forum member to ask if she would be interested in advising the Definitive Map Working Group	SG SG Chair
CAF/12	Any Other Business 1. The Chair advised the Forum that whilst the new recruitment process was working well there were still 3 vacancies for Landowners on the Forum. She asked all those attending to publicise these through their own networks. 2. The Chair thanked the three Cornwall Council Members for their contribution and wished them well in the upcoming elections. 3. JF asked for an update on coastal erosion, the Countryside Access Team Leader advised that the Council undertook regular inspections of the coast path and where appropriate posted warnings, took soil samples and would close paths and divert where necessary.	
CAF/11	Date, Time and Venue of Future Meetings The Forum noted the dates of future meetings: 20 July 2021 19 October 2021 25 January 2022 26 April 2022	

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The meeting ended at Time Not Specified.

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