CORNWALL COUNCIL

CORNWALL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES of the Annual General Meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held at Trelawney Room, Cornwall Council, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY on Tuesday 20 July 2010 commencing at 2.00 pm.

Present:-	Graham Ronan (Chairman) James Scobie (Vice-Chair) Julie Bate, Terry Faull, Roger James, Nicholas Jeans, Robin Moore, Councillor Paynter, Councillor Shakerley, Duncan Thurnell-Read and Jeremy Varcoe.
Also in attendance:-	Councillor Lyne. Steve Crummay – Living Environment Manager Mike Eastwood – Programmes Manager Vanessa Davis – Legal Advisor Emma Coad – Senior Democratic Services Officer Rowena Brebner – Democratic Services Officer
Apologies for absence:-	Robert Alderton, Adrian Bigg, Gill Derryman, Mike East - Head of Environment, Adam Hedley, Jane Kiely, Councillor Lugg, Councillor German, Robert Osborne and Peter Tunstall-Behrens.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN
(Agenda No. 1)

CAF/98 It was moved by James Scobie, seconded by Councillor Shakerley, and

RESOLVED that Graham Ronan be re-elected Chairman of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum.

The Chairman thanked the Forum for his re-election.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN
(Agenda No. 2)

CAF/99 It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Jeremy Varcoe and

RESOLVED that James Scobie be re-appointed Vice-Chairman of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME
(Agenda No. 3)

CAF/100 The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
(Agenda No. 5)

CAF/101 In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct the following declarations of interest were expressed:-

Graham Ronan declared a personal interest as Area Chairman of Cornwall Ramblers, a member of the National Trust, English Heritage and the Council for British Archaeology

James Scobie declared a personal interest as a Member of the County Landowners Association (CLA), Past President of CLA in Cornwall, CLA representative on Cornwall AONB partnership, owner and occupier of property beside a public footpath and near the coast, occupier of property with public footpaths on it and near the coast and as a Member of the National Trust

Robin Moore declared a personal interest as a member of the National Farmers Union and as a member of the Association of Classic Trials Clubs

Duncan Thurnell-Read declared a personal interest in being a Parish Council member for Gwinear-Gwithian, a member of the Open Spaces Society, a member of the Ramblers, a member of Helston Railway Preservation Society and a member of the Local Involvement (in health) Networks (LINKs)

Nicholas Jeans declared a personal interest in being a member of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, a member of the Country Landowners Association, Membership Secretary of Truro Running Club, involvement in the management of a Private Trust property on the North Cornwall Coast

Terry Faull declared a personal interest in being a member of the Launceston Wildlife Parish Group

Jeremy Varcoe declared a personal interest in being a member of the Camel Valley and Bodmin Moor Protection Society

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 MAY 2010
(Agenda No. 6)

CAF/102 It was moved by James Scobie, seconded by Terry Faull and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held on 25 May 2010 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING OTHER THAN ON THE AGENDA
(Agenda No. 7)

CAF/103
a) CAF/82 – Matters Arising other than on the agenda/
b) CAF/67 – Chairman's Announcements, d) The Farmer and the Highway
In response to a member's question, the Programmes Manager advised that he did not know how the leaflet had been circulated and agreed to clarify with James MacFarlane, Vegetation Advisor, who had produced the leaflet.

b) CAF/89 – Draft Annual Report 2009/2010
In response to a member's question, the Forum was advised that the above report would be considered at the next Forum meeting (28 September 2010).

c) CAF/91 – Consultation Paper on a new Planning Policy
In response to a member's question, the Programmes Manager agreed to find the Council's response and circulate to the Forum.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
(Agenda No. 8)

CAF/104 The Chairman had no announcements to make.

PRESENTATION FROM THE AONB PARTNERSHIP
(Agenda No. 9)

CAF/105 The Chairman welcomed to the meeting June Crossland, from the AONB Partnership.

Mrs Crossland thanked the Forum for the opportunity to attend the meeting and proceeded to outline:-
a) The Cornwall Management Plan Review
b) Plan purpose – to raise awareness
c) Strategic Chapters
d) Local Chapters
e) Work undertaken so far
f) What the plan says about access
g) Strategic Policy
h) Local Chapters
i) Public Consultation – have your say – 2 August – 30 September 2010 www.cornwall-aonb.gov.uk

During discussion, a number of issues were raised including;-
i) CCAF as a statutory consultee for the consultation

ii) the importance of obtaining the AONB's views as part of the planning process

The Chairman thanked Mrs Crossland for her presentation.

PRESENTATION - LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (MATT SIDNEY)
(Agenda No. 10)

CAF/106 The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Matt Sidney, Strategic Projects Manager from the Transportation Team.

Mr Sidney thanked the Forum for the opportunity to attend the meeting and proceeded to outline:-

a) Connecting Cornwall 2030
b) Current process/new process/progress and challenges
c) Local Transport Plan Goals
d) Strategy Map/walking initiatives/cycling initiatives/RoW improvement plan
e) LTP3 Development Programme
f) Welcome feedback from the Forum
g) Responses to the consultation via the internet http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=24537 and paper questionnaires

During discussion, a number of issues were raised including;-

i) the issue of conflict between different users in multi-use trails
ii) the possibility of improving safety for pedestrians, cyclists and horse-riders at crossing points
iii) concern that the resources would not be available for many of the more aspirational suggestions made during the consultation
iv) concern regarding the high speed levels at which some bus drivers in the County drove
v) the need for successful management and wardening of RoW areas

The Chairman thanked Mr Sidney for his presentation and asked that the Forum receive an update regarding the consultation at a future meeting.

UPDATE ON TRAC PROJECT - SUSTAINABILITY AND COSTINGS (PETER SAINSBURY)
(Agenda No. 11)

CAF/107 The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Peter Sainsbury, Landscape and Urban Design Manager from the Landscape and Urban Design Team.

Mr Sainsbury thanked the Forum for the opportunity to attend the meeting and proceeded to outline:-

a) TRAC (Tourism and Rural Access in Cornwall) – Launceston to Egloskerry Bude – Cycle Project
b) General context map

c) Aim – to enhance public access to the countryside
d) Other benefits – improved crossing points
e) How are we progressing? Acquisition/Land negotiation
f) Launceston – Newmills section – possible route options
g) TRAC link to cycle/Strategic links to CYCLE network in Europe
h) Complementary projects
i) Maintenance – Volunteer section

During discussion, a number of issues were raised including;-
i) funding for the project (95% currently in place)
ii) the issue of conflict with multi-use trails – users must be respectful of each other

The Chairman thanked Mr Sainsbury for his presentation and asked that an update of the project be given at a future meeting.

CHANGES TO MEMBERSHIP, FUTURE MEETING DATES AND TRAINING
(Agenda No. 12)

CAF/108 The Secretary's Representative introduced the report which outlined the appointments made to the Forum on 20 July 2010.

Consideration was given to the frequency of meetings and proposed future meeting dates.

A training session would be held on 21 September 2010.

During discussion reference was made to the following:-
a) training would be prioritised for new members
b) the majority of members at the meeting stated the current frequency of meetings worked well whilst one member stated that meetings should be held at 6 weekly intervals.
c) a member raised the issue of whether the Forum could consider co-opting members to the Forum when vacancies arose rather than awaiting the annual recruitment

The Forum:-

i) Noted the new appointments and re-appointments to the Forum;
ii) Continued to meet on a bi-monthly basis on the following dates;
   a. Tuesday 28 September 2010 – AM Site meeting, formal meeting at 2pm Dragon Leisure Centre, Bodmin
   b. Wednesday 24 November 2010 – 2pm Trelawney Room, County Hall, Truro
   c. Tuesday 25 January 2011 – 2pm Council chamber, Dolcoath Ave, Camborne

d. Tuesday 22 March 2011 – 2pm Trelawney Room, County Hall, Truro
e. Tuesday 24 May 2011 – 2pm Committee Room, One Stop Shop, Higher Trenant Road, Wadebridge *(provisional)*
f. Tuesday 26 July 2011 – AGM 2pm Trelawney Room, County Hall, Truro *(provisional)*

iii) Noted that a training session would be held on Tuesday 21 September 2010 at 2pm at County Hall, Truro

ANNUAL REVIEW AND APPOINTMENT TO WORKING GROUPS
(Agenda No. 13)

CAF/109
The Forum considered the report of the Secretary's Representative relating to the Annual Review and Appointments to Working Groups.

It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Robin Moore and
RESOLVED that:-

1. The Coastal Access Working Group continues with the following members: James Scobie, Councillor Shakerley, Julie Bate, Jane Kiely, Jeremy Varcoe and Peter Tunstall-Behrens
2. The Access and Disability Working Group continues with the following members: Adam Hedley, Robert Alderton, Steve Wilson (co-opted member) and James Scobie
3. The Moorland Access Working Group continues with the following members: Julie Bate (taking the lead of the Group), Adam Hedley, Jeremy Varcoe, Adrian Bigg and James Scobie
4. The Map Marking Working Group continues with its target of investigating the map-marking issues with other West Country Local Access Forums and producing an advisory document for submission to Ordnance Survey with the following members: Adrian Bigg, Adam Hedley, Roger James, Jane Kiely and Jim Scobie.
5. the Chairman be given authority to appoint ad hoc working groups between meetings, where appropriate, after expressions of interest have been sought from all Forum members.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF FORUM'S CONSTITUTION
(Agenda No. 14)

CAF/110 Vanessa Davis, Legal Services identified the suggested changes made to the Forum's constitution. Generally, these suggestions were accepted.

During discussion, a number of issues were raised including:-

i) Should the Forum advise the Council when it formulates a response to consultations?
ii) The Forum did not currently have the ability to fill vacancies other than at the Annual Meeting and in response to a question by a

member, the Legal Officer agreed to investigate the possibility of filling vacancies some other way, eg by co-option

It was moved by Robin Moore, seconded by Jeremy Varcoe and
RESOLVED that the following amendments be made:-

a) Terms of Reference – 3.1 (c) to read: 'To promote a constructive and inclusive approach to the improvement of recreational access to the countryside which can be implemented through Strategies including, Local Transport Plan, and AONB Management Plans, Structure and Local Plan and the Local Development Framework'
b) Paragraph 4 – Membership – 4.8 Last sentence to read: 'In addition, all members shall comply with the 'Ten General Principles of Public Life' and referenced in Cornwall Council's Code of Conduct for Members'
c) The date of the next revision be amended to read 2011

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE FORUM
(Agenda No. 15)

CAF/111 The Chairman identified the following correspondence that had been received since the last meeting:-

Star Rating 1-5* (1* = of low importance, 5* = of high importance)

1 CROW Access – Closed Restriction ref 20050300032 (circulated 10.5.10)
2 LAF Involvement in Coastal Access Implementation (circulated 21.5.10 – 4*)
3 Coalition Government Policies (circulated 21.5.10 – 3*)
4 Natural England Board Meeting information (circulated 25.5.10 – 3*)
5 Cornwall Council Leaflet 'The Farmer and the Highway' (circulated 26.5.10)
6 Draft Guidance – Animal Attacks on RoW or access land (circulated 27.5.10 – 3*)
7 Forestry Commission – Creating open habitats in woodland (circulated 27.5.10 – 1*)
8 June EAF meeting – Action Notes (circulated 7.6.10 – 3*)
9 Ramblers webpages – Benefits of Walking (circulated 7.6.10 – 3*)
10 Revision of Natural England's Statutory Guidance to CROW Relevant Authorities (circulated 14.6.10 – 4*)
11 SW Outdoors for All (circulated 14.6.10 – 2*)
12 Withdrawal of restriction under an outline direction given under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 – Case 2009030097 (circulated 14.6.10 – 3*)
13 Turning Gorse into Fuel Project (circulated 14.6.10 – 4*)
14 Review of the England Access Forum (circulated 14.6.10 – 2*)
15 Tamar Valley AONB Access Strategy (circulated 16.06.10 – 4*)

16 Natural England Stewardship Scheme (circulated 22.06.10 – 3*)
17 Dorset Dogs (circulated 23.06.10 – 3*)
18 Countryside Mobility SW Monthly Project Update May 2010 (circulated 23.06.10 – 3*)
19 1SW Project Update (circulated 25.06.10 – 3*)
20 Western Morning News Article – Putting the future of common lands back on the national agenda (circulated 01.07.10 – 4*)
21 SW LAF Induction training information (circulated 7.7.10)
22 Application for an apportionment of rights of common Ref 2759 (circulated 8.7.10 – 3*)
23 Notification of Restriction – Bishops Wood (circulated 8.7.10 – 3*)
24 Notification of Restriction – Davidstow Woods (circulated 8.7.10 – 3*)
25 Notification of Restriction – Halvana Plantation (circulated 8.7.10 – 3*)
26 Notification of Restriction – Great Grogley Downs (circulated 8.7.10 – 3*)
27 Notification of Restriction – Wilsey Down (circulated 8.7.10 – 3*)
28 Notification of Restriction – St Clement Wood (circulated 8.7.10 – 3*)
29 Coosebean Pedestrian & Cycle Way, Truro (circulated 12.7.10 – 4*)
30 Information re CROW closure at Idless woods (circulated 12.7.10 – 3*)
31 Notification of Restriction – Newbridge Wood & Branstone Plantations, Bodmin (circulated 12.7.10 – 3*)
32 Forestry Commission press releases (circulated 12.7.10 – 3*)

VERBAL UPDATE ON THE STRATEGIC REVIEW AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY
(Agenda No. 16)

CAF/112
The Forum received an update from the Living Environment Manager on the Strategic Review and Public Rights of Way. He advised that a workshop would be held giving the opportunity to start the process by identifying the scope of peoples concerns. He advised that he had attended a meeting of the Tamar Valley AONB earlier that day which had reinforced his view that there were great opportunities for partnership working with external bodies that needed to be explored.
Some Members stated that they would like to be included in further consultation with the Tamar Valley AONB Access Strategy and it was agreed that the Living Environment Manager would raise the issues of consultation with the Forum at the next meeting of the Tamar Valley AONB Partnership.

WORK PROGRAMME
(Agenda No. 17)

CAF/113

The Forum noted the work programme which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The meeting ended at 5.08 pm.

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