CORNWALL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM (CCAF)
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 26 JULY 2016

Date: Tuesday 26 July 2016
Time: 2.00 pm
Venue: Grenville Room, Cornwall Council, County Hall, Truro TR1 3AY

Present: Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher, Adrian Bigg, Tony Blumenau, Steve Church, Kay Driver, Joyce Duffin CC, Robert Fraser, Nick Jeans, Jacqueline Merrick, Andrea Sandford, Janet Shearer and Richard Tufnell

Also in Attendance: L Beardsmore (Democratic Officer), R Bice (Strategic Environment and Waste Manager), J James (Natural Environment Manager) and B Skinner (Business and Incident Manager)

Apologies: Ellie Bennett, Kevin Bosher, Gerry Brain, Carolyn Boyce, Jim Candy CC, Edward Chapman, Bill Maddern CC and Caroline Sargent

Minute no		Action by
CAF/1	**Election of Chairman** It was moved by Steve Church, seconded by Adrian Bigg, and **RESOLVED** that Nick Jeans be elected Chairman for 2016/17. Nick Jeans thanked Forum members for his re-election.	
CAF/2	**Election of Vice Chairman** It was moved by Nick Jeans, seconded by Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher, and **RESOLVED** that Bob Fraser be elected Vice Chairman for 2016/17. Bob Fraser thanked Forum members for his re-election.	
CAF/3	**Introduction of New Members and Welcome**	

	The Chairman welcomed the new Forum member and invited Forum members to introduce themselves.	
CAF/4	**Changes to Membership 2016** The Forum considered the previously circulated report in respect of changes to membership presented by the Representative of the Secretary to CCAF. It was **AGREED** that the report be noted.	
CAF/5	**Declarations of Interest (on matters included in the agenda)** There were no declarations of interest.	
CAF/6	**Minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2016** It was moved by the Chairman, seconded by Bob Fraser, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2016 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments: (i) **CAF/60** – To read: "The Chairman made the following announcements: **1) Livestock and Access Awareness Event** The Chairman stated that the Livestock and Awareness event had been rescheduled…". (ii) **CAF/69 (iv)** – To read:"It was further suggested that the CCAST&FG…" (iii) **CAF/69 Action 2** – To read: "CCAST&FG".	Secretary's Representative
CAF/7	**Matters Arising (Not otherwise included in the agenda)** The following matters were considered by the Forum:- (i) **CAF/55, Bullet point 19**: The Natural Environment Manager confirmed that the resources required to fulfil the requirements of the Deregulation Act 2015 were currently being investigated.	

	The Chairman added that the publication of the draft regulations had been delayed and this was now expected in August 2016. Sarah Slade, Country Land and Business Association, had agreed to attend the Forum's Autumn 2016 meeting to outline the implications of the Act. (ii) **CAF/55, Bullet point 21**: The Natural Environment Manager confirmed that Definitive Map Modification Orders were being completed within 3-6 months; (iii) **CAF/60, 1) Livestock and Access Awareness Event**: Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher and Jacqueline Merrick confirmed that they had attended the event, which had been very well supported. The presentations had been informative, with particular emphasis on finding a workable solution to cross-field pathways which was acceptable to farmers. It was **AGREED** that the information be noted.	
CAF/8	**Chairman's Announcements** **1) Cornwall Council Consultation Requests**: The Chairman stated that due to the increase in the number of CC consultation requests received, it was likely that the resulting work would be most appropriately addressed by informal working groups, rather than by the full Forum. He put forward two suggestions for potential new task and finish groups: (i) <u>Funding Opportunities Task and Finish Group</u>, to research opportunities for support funding for Cornwall Council's rights of way work and to produce a report for Cornwall Council on its findings; and (ii) <u>Cyclists on Footpaths Task and Finish Group</u>, to examine the extent of pedestrian/cyclist conflict on pathways and research alternatives to shared footpaths. The Chairman suggested that this be further explored under Agenda No. 13 (Working Group Updates), which was **AGREED**.	
CAF/9	**Cornwall Council Consultations - Update** The Forum considered the previously circulated report in respect of Cornwall Council Consultations Update presented by the Business and Incident	

	Manager . In respect of the proposed way forward as outlined in the report, the Business and Incident Manager confirmed that a potential draft Forward Plan, as included at Appendix 1 to the report, outlined the type of projects in which the Forum could be involved, and which could provide the basis for consideration by the Forum's Consultation Response Working Group. In response to a request from the Chairman, the Natural Environment Manager and the Business and Incident Manager confirmed that for clarity the draft Forward Plan would be amended to include an enhancement to explain the purpose of each project, identify the access implications each project had, if any, and show timescales for the consultation on each project. The amended version would then be submitted to the Consultation Response Working Group for consideration, and following comments and recommendations from CRWG, relevant projects would be included in the Forum's Work Programme. In response to comments and questions from Forum members, the Chairman and Business and Incident Manager confirmed: (i) It was possible to co-opt members with local expertise onto Working Groups, where appropriate; (ii) The Forward Plan was a public document; (iii) The Highways consultation team had committed to providing feedback on the Forum's consultation responses. It was **AGREED** that the report be noted.	BS
CAF/10	**Cornwall Countryside Access Strategy - Workplan** The Forum gave consideration to the previously circulated report in respect of the Cornwall Countryside Access Strategy Workplan, presented by the Strategic Environment and Waste Manager, in which the 4 key ambitions and proposed 4 options for the revised Strategy were highlighted. In response to comments and questions from Forum members, the Strategic Environment and Waste Manager confirmed that:	

	(i) The final Strategy document would include the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan as an Appendix; (ii) The word 'freedom' would be explained to clarify its meaning within the context of the provision of the equality, ability and opportunity for access; (iii) Reference to access to water, such as for increasingly popular wild swimming and kayaking, for example, would be incorporated into the document; (iv) The recent issues caused by use of microlights and drones would be addressed in in the Draft Access Strategy Framework Target Outcome 10.: Cornwall is well-managed, resilient and supported by a healthy, naturally-functioning environment; (v) Attention would be given to simplifying the wording in the Strategy document to make it shorter, clearer and more concise; (vi) A copy of the draft Cornwall Countryside Access Strategy document would be circulated to members of the Moorland and Open Access Working Group, Coastal Access Working Group and Rights of Way and Definitive Map Working Group for consideration and comment before 16 August 2016. It was **AGREED** that the report be noted.	RB Secretary's Representative
CAF/11	**Review of Cornwall Council's Local Maintenance Partnership Arrangements** The Forum gave consideration to the previously circulated report in respect of the review of Cornwall Council's Local Maintenance Partnership (LMP) arrangements, presented by the Natural Environment Manager. In response to comments and questions from Forum members, the Natural Environment Manager confirmed: (i) The maintenance of the general path network was addressed through the Asset Condition Survey; (ii) Side growth was for the landowner to address. It had never been part of the LMP scheme, and if Cornwall Council took over responsibility for cutting side growth on its paths network it would result in other planned work being	

	delayed; (iii) The paths classified as Gold, Silver and Bronze were available to view on the Council's website; (iv) The need to be responsive and flexible was acknowledged; (v) As part of the consultation with Town and Parish Councils, they would be asked for their opinion of what constituted best practice; (vi) There was a small working group examining how to best enhance working relationships with Town and Parish Councils and also how the Authority could best support them in utilising volunteers through the provision of support and training, for example; (vii) It would be useful to find ways of promoting the use of inland footpath routes. Both he and the Strategic Environment and Waste Manager could liaise with Town and Parish Councils in respect of the production of maps of walking and cycling routes and bridleways in their respective parishes. It would be helpful if the proposed new Funding Opportunities Task and Finish Group researched funding opportunities for this. It was **AGREED** that the report be noted.	JJ/RB FOTFG
CAF/12	**Coastal Access Working Group** The Forum considered the verbal update given by Steve Church, who stated that: (i) CAWG had not met since the Forum's last meeting on 26 April 2016 as it had as yet received no response from Natural England to its report; (ii) Following her resignation, Sophy Allen (Senior Adviser, England Coast Path, Natural England) had now been replaced by Richard Andrews. Two assistant advisers had also been recruited, whom were expected to start in August 2016; (iii) The Natural England coast path project had now started in North Devon and Exmoor. Once that element had been completed, it was understood that work would start in Cornwall, approximately September 2016, initially on the stretch of coast path from the Fal to the Tamar, followed by the stretch from the Fal to Penzance, and following which work would start in North Cornwall; (iv) Before she left, Sophy Allen had confirmed	

	receipt of CAWG's report and in due course, contact would be made with Richard Andrews for NE's response; (v) Following earlier cuts in funding from DEFRA for the coast path, a 50% cut was expected this year. The National Trails Working Group was lobbying against such stringent cuts and CCAF could potentially be approached by them to provide a letter of support. It was **AGREED** that the information be noted.	
CAF/13	**Consultation Response Working Group** The Chairman stated that the following consultations had recently been received and circulated to Forum members: (i) **Proposed improvements to the A30-St Austell link road**, to which CRWG had sent a response on behalf of the Forum and for which an acknowledgement had been received; **(ii) Cornwall Traffic Management Parking Policy Statement**, which appeared to relate to Cornwall Council car parks and did not appear to relate generally to access to the countryside. In respect of Consultation (i), it was **AGREED** that the consultation response in respect of the proposed improvements to the A30-St Austell Link Road as submitted was approved by the Forum. In respect of Consultation (ii), it was **AGREED** that a response from the Forum was not appropriate, as the matter was not relevant to the general matter of access to the countryside in Cornwall.	
CAF/14	**Cornwall Countryside Access Strategy Task and Finish Group** The Chairman stated that since the formation of the CCASTFG, comprising the Chairmen of all of the standing Working Groups, the CCASTFG had met with the Strategic Environment and Waste Manager and that as discussions were still currently ongoing, there was nothing as yet to report to the Forum. It was **AGREED** that the information be noted.	
CAF/15	**Moorland and Open Access Working Group**	

	Bob Fraser stated that the MOAWG had not met since 2015. However he had recently sent an email with suggestions put by the Chairman for:- (i) a meeting with the Bodmin Moor Commoners Association; and (ii) public information leaflets on moorland walks in Cornwall for which he sought comments from Forum members. In respect of the Cornwall Countryside Access Strategy, as the Strategic Environment and Waste Manager had invited comments on the draft Strategy, he would be seeking these from MOAWG members and would submit MOAWG's response before 16 August 2016. It was **AGREED** that the information be noted.	RF
CAF/16	**Multi Use Trail Working Group** **(i) St Erth Cycleway project**: In respect of the St Erth Cycleway project, Adrian Bigg stated that although he had made subsequent enquiries since learning of the project, he had received no further information as yet. The Business and Incident Manager stated that he would also make enquiries. **(ii) Transition Truro project**: In respect of the Transition Truro project, the Chairman stated that the project group had suggested that the Forum may be interested in supporting their aims, to which he had suggested that communications between Transition Truro and the Forum be kept open. He had received no reply to date. **(iii) Cornwall Council's Launceston Bridges project**: In respect of Cornwall Council's Launceston Bridges project, Andrea Sandford reported on the outcomes from a recent site visit she had attended on the Forum's behalf. She stated that the project was currently in the very early stages, and should a second bridge eventually be built over the river, it could potentially provide a pleasant walkway for approximately 1 mile along the river. It was **AGREED** that the information be noted.	BS

CAF/17	**Rights of Way and Definitive Map Working Group** Adrian Bigg stated that the ROWDMWG had not met since the previous Forum meeting, as the outcomes from the Deregulation Act were still awaited. In respect of the change in Cornwall Council's policy in respect of progressing Definitive Map Modification Orders, whilst the change was welcomed, in practical terms it would take several years to be effective as it applied to new applications only, and there were still existing applications to be dealt with. In response, the Natural Environment Manager acknowledged that there was a backlog of DMMOs and that resources needed to be identified in order to progress dealing with them. In response to a member query, the Natural Environment Manager confirmed that the new policy required final approval by the Corporate Director for Economy, Enterprise and Environment. It was **AGREED** that the information be noted.	
CAF/18	**Appointments to Working Groups 2016/17** The Forum considered the report of the Representative of the Secretary to CCAF in respect of appointments to working groups. The Chairman suggested that in the event a subject of interest to any Forum member arose and they were not a member of the relevant Working Group, it would be possible for them to volunteer to participate in the topic until it was completed. Following consideration, it was **AGREED** that 1. The following appointments be made in addition to the present membership: **Coastal Access Working Group:** Kay Driver (Landowner/Manager); **Moorland and Open Access Working Group:** Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher (Landowner/Manager) **Multi Use Trail Working Group:**	Secretary's Representative

	Gerry Brain (User) **Funding Opportunities Task and Finish Group**: Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher (Landowner/Manager), Kay Driver (Landowner/Manager), Jacqueline Merrick (User), and Caroline Sargent (Other) 2. Members of FOTFG meet to decide on a Chairman and advise the Representative of the Secretary to CCAF; discuss the way forward and form an action plan; and also to work with the Natural Environment Manager and Strategic Environment and Waste Manager to consider the work undertaken by other Authorities in respect of the researching of funding opportunities; 3. The Representative of the Secretary to CCAF supply email addresses of Funding Opportunities Working Group members to members of the FOTFG. In respect of the suggested Cycles on Footpaths Task and Finish Group, following consideration it was **AGREED** that before a Task and Finish Group was formed, a representative from Sustrans be invited to a future Forum meeting to outline the issues in respect of shared paths.	FOTFG Secretary's Representative BS
CAF/19	**Correspondence to the Forum - Matters for Consideration** The following items of correspondence were considered by the Forum: (i) Email from the Portfolio Holder for Transport in respect of a workshop 'Enabling Healthier and More Active Communities in Cornwall'. The Chairman expressed his disappointment that this was taking place on the same day as the Forum meeting and stated his intention to contact the Portfolio Holder for Transport to request that he attend a future meeting of the Forum to present on this topic; (ii) Email sent by Andrea Sandford to Cornwall Council from HACK Mappers, a group based in Penzance to promote routes to ride in Cornwall. Adrian Bigg and Andrea Sandford would be attending a meeting to find out more about the	Chairman AB/AS

	group's remit and would report outcomes from the meeting to the Forum. It was **AGREED** that the information be noted.	
CAF/20	**CCAF Work Programme** The Forum considered the previously circulated report in respect of the CCAF work programme. The Natural Environment Manager stated that, hitherto, the work programme had focussed on environmental issues, however it was suggested that in addition to the topics listed at item 6 of the report, the work programme could be expanded to include the Capital Work Programme and Environmental Growth Strategy, and potentially further expanded following a further approach to Section 94(4) bodies, which the Corporate Director for Economy, Enterprise and Environment had offered to undertake. It was **AGREED** that the information be noted.	BS
CAF/21	**Date, Time and Venue of Future Meetings** The Forum noted the dates of future meetings. The Chairman requested that the date of the 2017 AGM be included in the agenda.	Secretary's Representative
CAF/22	**Any Business which the Chairman Considers to be Urgent** There was no urgent business for consideration.	

The meeting ended at 5.15 pm.

Contact: Lynne Beardsmore, Democratic Services External: 01579 341243
ccaf@cornwall.gov.uk Internal: 441243