

CORNWALL COUNCIL

CORNWALL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held at Conference Room 2, Dragon Leisure Centre, Lostwithiel Road, Bodmin, PL31 1DE on Tuesday 28 September 2010 commencing at 2.00 pm.

Present:- Graham Ronan (Chairman)

Julie Bate, Gill Derryman, Terry Faull, Adam Hedley,
Roger James, Nicholas Jeans, Jane Kiely, Lugg,
Robin Moore, Robert Osborne and Duncan Thurnell-Read.

Also in attendance:- Steve Crummay – Living Environment Manager
Mike Eastwood – Programmes Manager
Rowena Brebner – Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence:- Adrian Bigg, Councillor German, Councillor Paynter,
James Scobie, Councillor Shakerley, Peter Tunstall-Behrens
and Jeremy Varcoe.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

(Agenda No. 1)

CAF/114 The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting, in particular Colin Jones from Natural England.

Mr Jones briefly updated the Forum on developments within Natural England as follows:-

- a) He had written an article in the LAF's Summer Newsletter on 'LAF's - Where we are now' outlining the challenging times ahead (this had been circulated to members in early September)
- b) The announcements to be made in the Comprehensive Spending Review by Government on 20 October were keenly awaited
- c) Natural England would be losing 800 (40%) of its staff on a phased basis which would clearly affect service delivery
- d) Emphasis would need to be made on the statutory obligations and areas of priority
- e) The current regional co-ordinator's role was as yet unclear
- f) It was hoped that opportunities would develop for voluntary bodies
- g) The importance of LAFs in their statutory advisory capacity

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

- i) what could LAF's do to assist?
- ii) the need for the Forum to voice the opinion that no decisions should be made that would adversely affect Public RoW by writing to the Secretary of State
- iii) aspects of the funding would be changing

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
28 September 2010

- iv) the vital role of the Regional co-ordinator
- v) what would happen to ELS/HLS?

Following which it was agreed that the Chairman would write to the Secretary of State outlining the Forum's concerns.

The Chairman thanked Mr Jones for his attendance.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - NOT ALREADY DECLARED

(Agenda No. 3)

CAF/115 There were no declarations of interest not already made.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 2010

(Agenda No. 4)

CAF/116 It was moved by Robin Moore, seconded by Adam Hedley and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held on 20 July 2010 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendment:-

CAF/110 – Annual Review of Forum's Constitution
Resolution b)

deletion of 'Ten' from the sentence 'In addition, all members shall comply with the Ten General Principles of Public Life'... in Paragraph 4 of the Forum's constitution.

MATTERS ARISING OTHER THAN ON THE AGENDA

(Agenda No. 5)

CAF/117 a) CAF/112 – Verbal update on the Strategic Review and Public Rights of Way

In response to a member's question, the Living Environment Manager advised that the Members who attended the workshop were those appointed to the Steering Group at the meeting held on 17 March 2010.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda No. 6)

CAF/118 The Chairman made the following announcements:-

a) Resignation of Robert Alderton

The Chairman advised that Mr Alderton had recently resigned from the Forum.

b) LAF Conference – 20 October 2010, Bovey Tracey

The Chairman advised that he would be attending the above conference together with the Programmes Manager. Members

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
28 September 2010

wishing to attend were asked to express their interest so that the necessary paperwork could be submitted to the event organiser, Hilary Winter. Jane Kiely, Terry Faull and Robin Moore advised that they would be keen to attend.

c) AONB Consultation

The Chairman advised that an email had been received with comments on the above consultation from Terry Faull and Jeremy Varcoe which he read at the meeting.

'Overall the draft Plan contains a lot of valuable background information (it mentions the Forum) and identifies some priorities but is primarily an aspirational rather than a delivery Plan -perhaps this is right for the AONB? Aspirations may be fine but there is no substitute for clearly defined targets

Section 13 deals with Transport and Access and while it does recognise the importance of ROW, the draft Plan and actions are weak on measurable or time bound outputs which can be used to show what the Plan will have delivered. I would suggest that the draft would be improved if rather than just saying that an aim is to ensure well maintained Gold paths, it identified some specific actions and targets

(1) By 2015 the ROW network throughout the AONB will have been reviewed to ensure that it at least 90% are easy to use routes for walkers, cyclists and horse riders;

(2) Where practicable, ROW are integrated to provide off road access to the coast, sites of historic and natural interest and with public transport and other facilities such as safe parking;

(3) A number of circular routes have been identified, developed and promoted throughout the AONB, using ROW, permissive routes and other trails and for use as part of Walking for Health or similar schemes

(4) All schools and public facilities in the AONB will have been reviewed to determine whether safe off road access can be provided for users

(5) The AONB will have promoted and supported at least 12 access to the countryside schemes using ROW, open access land and other routes to provide educational opportunities for greater understanding of life and work in the countryside and Cornwall's historic heritage.'

The Programmes Manager advised the Forum that a Delivery Plan would be produced.

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
28 September 2010

It was moved by Jane Kiely, seconded by Gill Derryman and **RESOLVED** that the above response be ratified as the formal view of the Forum and submitted to the AONB.

- d) Consultation on proposal to register Lizard Downs as common land
The Chairman advised that an email had been received from Martin Wright, Land Searches Manager relating to the above consultation, copies of which were circulated at the meeting. In view of the deadline for comments to be submitted (31 October 2010) it was suggested that Julie Bate and two other members prepare a response for submission by the deadline, to be ratified at the next meeting.
It was agreed that Jane Kiely and one other member assist Julie (possibly James Scobie if available). Members were urged to contact Julie with comments they wished to make regarding the consultation.

It was requested that the Forum be given as much notice as possible of future consultations in order to obtain and submit its formal views.

- e) CCAF Recruitment
The Chairman advised that a response from Vanessa Davies had been received following the previous meeting at which she had been requested to investigate the possibility of filling Forum vacancies other than at the Annual Meeting. Copies of her response were circulated at the meeting. The Chairman suggested that an advert be prepared for consideration at the next meeting following which, it be emailed to relevant organisations and previous recent applicants and the short-listing/interview process subsequently be followed as usual. A list of current vacancies would be available at the next meeting.

SITE VISIT DISCUSSION

(Agenda No. 7)

CAF/119 Prior to the meeting the Forum Members had attended a site visit in the North Hill area. The site visit was an opportunity for the Forum to look at various structures which had been recently installed in the North Hill area, in particular a bridge and a pair of kissing gates.

Discussions during the day had highlighted the following issues:-

- a) the importance of building good relationships between land owners, occupiers and users – the timber beams for the bridge were brought to the site over land owned by the Trebartha Estate
- b) providing cost effective solutions whilst ensuring quality products - the new bridge had been ordered in kit form and was of a good structure. It would be well used and therefore provided a sound investment for the Council

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
28 September 2010

- c) demand led projects ensured that money was spent in areas where there would be a benefit to users
- d) the role of volunteers in assisting in projects as part of a team between contractors, suppliers and RoW Officers
- e) the importance of way marking in places where it was not clear where the PRow continued

Members commented that they found the site visit very interesting.

CONSULTATION RESPONSE ON LTP
(Agenda No. 8)

CAF/120 The Forum considered its response to the Cornwall Council document 'Connecting Cornwall: 2030 – moving towards a green peninsula' which set out the vision and goals of the Connecting Cornwall strategy with a summary of what this meant in terms of delivery on the ground over the next 20 years. A draft response to this consultation had been prepared by the Programmes Manager for the Forum to consider.

Following a full discussion with minor amendments/rewording suggested by members of the Forum, it was moved by Adam Hedley, seconded by Julie Bate and

RESOLVED that the following response be submitted as the Forum's formal views:-

1. Cornwall Countryside Access Forum (CCAF) warmly welcomes the document 'Connecting Cornwall: 2030' published by Cornwall Council. The Forum considers that the document marks a significant change in direction by Cornwall Council towards a more sustainable transport strategy and endorses this approach.
2. Cornwall Countryside Access Forum notes that the document is sub-titled 'towards a green peninsula' and reading through the document it is apparent that these are not empty words. The strategy that is proposed would appear to be easy to understand, coherent and designed to meet the challenges of the future. The vision that is contained in the document is translated into six goals, all of which are supported by the Forum. In particular, the Forum welcomes the inclusion of Healthy Active Lifestyles, Respect and Enhance the Environment and Climate Change as three of the six goals. It should be said however that there are proposals outlined under every goal which seek to achieve aims that Cornwall Countryside Access Forum fully supports.
3. This is not to say that Cornwall Countryside Access Forum supports every aspect of the document and there are a number of reservations which are outlined below where we comment on each goal. The Forum asks that Cornwall Council revisits these items.
4. Climate Change:

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
28 September 2010

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum supports all of the proposals that are set out under this goal, but is particularly pleased to see that the Council proposes to prioritise investment in walking and cycling and to reduce road building.

5. Supporting Economic Prosperity:

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum welcomes the recognition by Cornwall Council that attractive walking and cycling leisure opportunities are a factor in ensuring economic prosperity for Cornwall.

6. Respect and Enhance the Environment:

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum is concerned about the proposal to work with partners to develop more multi-use trails. The Forum recognises that in the last 10 years, Cornwall Council together with the former County and District Councils has been involved in developing a wide range of multi-use trails across Cornwall. These trails have been successful and popular with local residents and tourists. However, the Forum is concerned that the resources to maintain and protect the existing trails are insufficient at present and are likely to be further under threat in the future. Any proposal for a new trail must be supported by a strategy for its long-term maintenance and the presence of such a strategy should be a critical factor in determining whether a new trail is constructed.

7. The proposal to work with partners to produce more multi-use trails would also appear to contradict another proposal to prioritise investment to support existing transport routes and facilities. Cornwall Countryside Access Forum considers that the existing public highway network of minor roads, public byways, bridleways and footpaths already offers a superb multi-use facility for walkers, cyclists, horse-riders and other non-automated vehicle users. The benefits from increased investment in this network to make more of these routes safer for such users would far outweigh the benefits from similar levels of investment in new multi-use trails. Indeed the Forum considers that investment in new high-profile multi use trails may detract from work in other areas to improve resilience to climate change because of the number of vehicular trips undertaken to use these trails.

8. Healthy Active Lifestyles:

Proposals to give greater priority to walkers and cyclists in built up areas; to do more to encourage cycling; to provide more cycling storage and hiring facilities in towns; to ensure that new developments are designed to ensure that people can walk safely and easily; to implement school travel plans and to reduce speed limits outside schools are warmly welcomed by the Forum.

9. Community Safety and Individual Well Being:

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum welcomes the inclusion of proposals to remove unnecessary traffic in town centres and the proposal to create an

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
28 September 2010

environment that feels more pleasant and safe for pedestrians and cyclists.

10. Equality of Opportunity:

The Forum believes that Cornwall Council is correct to focus on improving non-vehicular access to residential developments and to focus on reducing the impact of vehicular traffic in deprived areas, particularly so as to reduce the number of road casualties. The Forum urges the Council to remember that some of the most deprived residential areas can be found in the countryside. The plan also needs to focus on Access and Disability issues where appropriate.

11. Cornwall Countryside Access Forum is concerned that the document makes only limited reference to horse-riding. The horse-riding community in Cornwall makes a significant contribution to the economic prosperity of the county and there are significant opportunities for development of tourism around horse-riding in Cornwall which would further enhance economic prosperity.

12. Cornwall Countryside Access Forum also recognises that the existing network of minor roads, multi-use trails and public rights of way presents a foundation for a high quality sustainable transport network. The Forum advises that the Council should provide greater investment for the maintenance and protection of this network. Investment in a high quality network will help to overcome many of the barriers that currently prevent users from leaving their vehicles at home and using more sustainable non-vehicular forms of transport for their journeys.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE FORUM

(Agenda No. 9)

CAF/121 The Chairman identified the following correspondence that had been received since the last meeting:-

- 1 Local Transport Plan – (circulated 12.7.10)
- 2 Second Consultation for Statutory Review of CROW Access Restriction Case 2005030028 - Carne Down (circulated 12.7.10 – 3*)
- 3 Sustrans Regional Plan (circulated 13.7.10 – 4*)
- 4 Raising the Profile of LAFS (circulated 13.7.10 – 4*)
- 5 AONB public Consultation details (circulated 14.7.10 – 3*)
- 6 LAF Induction Training – cancelled event (circulated 16.7.10 – 2*)
- 7 EAF Meeting – minutes (circulated 22.7.10)
- 8 Notification of Restriction – ref 2009095067 (circulated 22.7.10)
- 9 Proposed amendment of the register of common land (circulated 22.7.10)
- 10 Proposal to deregister 10 houses as common land (circulated 22.7.10)
- 11 Postcards from the Park (circulated 22.7.10)

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
28 September 2010

- 12 Connecting Cornwall 2030 questionnaire (circulated 22.7.10)
- 13 Two new reports propose tackling inequality by improving green space (circulated 23.7.10)
- 14 Natural England Board Meeting (circulated 23.7.10)
- 15 Davidstow Turbines (circulated 23.7.10)
- 16 Natural England - Update to Section 15 maps (circulated 27.7.10)
- 17 Cornwall Council response to the consultation Planning Policy Statement (circulated 28.7.10)
- 18 DEFRA consultation – 'Natural Environment – an opportunity to shape the nature of England' (circulated 28.7.10)
- 19 Comment regarding proposal to deregister 10 houses as common land (circulated 29.7.10)
- 20 Letter received from GOSW (circulated 29.7.10)
- 21 Cornwall AONB Consultation – Management Plan Review (circulated 6.8.10)
- 22 Application for an apportionment of a right of common – Boskednan Farm, Newmill (circulated 6.8.10)
- 23 Initial consultation for Statutory Review of CROW access Nature Restriction case 2006020189 – Doznary Pool (circulated 10.8.10)
- 24 Initial Consultation for Statutory Review of CROW access Nature Restriction Case 2005080001 - Black Rock (circulated 10.8.10)
- 25 DEFRA newsletter Issue 46 (circulated 17.8.10)
- 26 Consultation outcome report for Statutory Review of CROW access Restriction Case 2005030028 - Carne Down (circulated 31.8.10)
- 27 LAF Summer Newsletter (circulated 2.9.10)
- 28 Cornwall AONB Management Plan Consultation & Photo Competition (circulated 2.9.10)
- 29 Application for an apportionment of rights of common – ref 2763 (circulated 7.9.10)
- 30 Countryside Mobility South West - June/July Project Update (circulated 7.9.10)
- 31 Regional LAF Conference (circulated 7.9.10)
- 32 Minutes of England Access Forum – Sustrans meeting 20/8/10 (circulated 7.9.10)
- 33 Natural environment: an invitation to shape the nature of England (circulated 7.9.10)
- 34 Consultation outcome for Statutory Review of CROW Access Nature Restriction Case 2005080001_Black Rock (circulated 9.9.10)
- 35 DEFRA letter - Postponement of decadal review of access maps in England (circulated 13.9.10)
- 36 Natural England Updates (circulated 15.9.10)
- 37 LAF Links (circulated 15.9.10)
- 38 Environmental Press Release Re Save Penwith Moors (circulated 16.9.10)
- 39 Stakeholder Working Group – information – Stepping Forward recommendations (circulated 20.9.10)

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
28 September 2010

- 40 Notification of restriction – 2005030032 – King Arthur’s Bed – (circulated 20.9.10)
- 41 LAF Conference – further details
- 42 NE – board meeting details (circulated 27.9.10)

WORK PROGRAMME

(Agenda No. 10)

CAF/122 The Forum noted the work programme which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Following discussion, the following item was suggested for inclusion in the work programme for the March meeting:-

- a) The OS Mapping Working Group produce a report for the March meeting relating to recent rulings by the Planning Inspectorate on the way the Definitive Map is put together

UPDATE ON THE STRATEGIC REVIEW OF COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

(Agenda No. 11)

CAF/123 The Forum considered the report prepared by the Programmes Manager giving an update on the Strategic Review of Countryside Access and Public Rights of Way and noted the proposals and actions detailed within the report which the Council was going to take.

During discussion reference was made to the following:-

- a) How do you consult with users?
- b) Anomalies within the Definitive map

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 2009/2010

(Agenda No. 12)

CAF/124 The Forum considered the Draft Annual Report 2009/10 which had been prepared by the Programmes Manager. This report included the Forum’s achievements over the last year, what it hoped to achieve in the next year together with details of its current membership.

Following a full discussion with minor amendments/rewording suggested by members of the Forum :-

It was moved by Robin Moore, seconded by Duncan Thurnell-Read and **RESOLVED** that the Annual Report 2009/10 be circulated in its current format to Town and Parish Councils.

FEEDBACK FROM WORKING GROUPS

(Agenda No. 13)

CAF/125 The Forum considered the following information relating to the working groups:-

COASTAL ACCESS WORKING GROUP

(Agenda No. 13.1)

CAF/126 The Coastal Access Working Group had not recently met.

ACCESS AND DISABILITY WORKING GROUP

(Agenda No. 13.2)

CAF/127 Adam Hedley provided a summary of the group's activity to date, together with notes from the meeting held on 9 July 2010 (these had been circulated prior to the meeting as a supplementary item).

He further advised that Robert Alderton had agreed to take over the Chairmanship of the group but had recently resigned from the Forum. Two other members wished to step down from the group (Councillor Shakerley and James Scobie).

It was moved by Councillor Lugg, seconded by Roger James and **RESOLVED** that Nicholas Jeans and Duncan Thurnell-Read be co-opted onto the Access and Disability Working Group.

MOORLAND ACCESS WORKING GROUP

(Agenda No. 13.3)

CAF/128 Julie Bate advised that she had made contact with all the members of the group and a meeting was scheduled to be held on 17 November.

OS MAPPING WORKING GROUP

(Agenda No. 13.4)

CAF/129 Jane Kiely advised that Adrian Bigg had prepared the following report for the Forum:-

'Owing to members commitments over the summer we have not met again as a group.

However, the group is most anxious that its work continues with urgency and that it formulates appropriate recommendations to be put forward into the Strategic Review.

The group proposes to make recommendations covering the following issues:

The importance of accurate and meaningful mapping and how this can be improved.

Finding more efficient ways to address definitive map anomalies which are the root of many mapping issues.

Re-examination of how Definitive Map Modification Orders are processed so that the process is more efficient and delivers meaningful and speedy results where needed.'

Cornwall Countryside Access Forum
28 September 2010

Arising from the above, the Programmes Manager urged any suggestions regarding the process to be put forward as a matter of urgency to the Head of Environment, Head of TWE Client Transformation Programme and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services due to the redesign of the 'Client Enabler' aspect of the Service.

The meeting ended at 4.45 pm.

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