

CORNWALL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM (CCAF) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2015

Date: Tuesday 20 October 2015
Time: 2.10 pm
Venue: Committee Room - Cornwall Council, 39 Penwinnick Road,
St Austell, PL25 5DR

Present: Nicholas Jeans (Chairman), Ellie Bennett, Adrian Bigg, Kevin Boshier, Carolyn Boyce, Steve Church, Robert Fraser, Jacqueline Merrick, Andrea Sandford, Caroline Sargent, Janet Shearer and Richard Tufnell

Apologies: Patrick Aubrey-Fletcher, Tony Blumenau, Jim Candy CC, Edward Chapman, Joyce Duffin CC, Howard Farmer, Bill Maddern CC and James Scobie

Minute no		Action by
CAF/22	Introduction of New Members and Welcome (Agenda No.2) The Chairman welcomed new Forum members and invited all present to introduce themselves.	
CAF/23	Declarations of Interest (on matters included in the agenda) (Agenda No.3) There were no declarations of interest.	
CAF/24	Minutes from the meeting held on 28 July 2015 (Agenda No.4) It was moved by Bob Fraser, seconded by the Chairman, and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 July 2015 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.	Secretary's Representative
CAF/25	Matters Arising (Not otherwise included in the agenda) (Agenda No. 5) The following matters were considered by the Forum: (i) CAF/7 (i) CAF/49 (ii) CAF/29 (ii) CAF/6 (v) Access Restrictions by the Forestry Commission - The Chairman advised that despite discussions with Natural England and the Forestry Commission, he was not yet entirely confident that rights of way would automatically be shown on closure notice maps in future and he	

	would continue to pursue this. (ii) CAF/7 (iii) CAF/60 Strategic Plan for Trail Development The Natural Environment Manager confirmed that suggestions from user groups were welcome and would be considered in the development of the strategic plan; he would also designate an appropriate officer from within his team to be the point of contact for suggestions put forward. The Chairman suggested that the relevant officer sends a brief note to representative groups to invite comment. (iii) CAF/14 Natural England Dedication of Access Land and National Nature Reserves – The Lizard The Countryside Access Team Leader confirmed that he had had initial discussions with Richard Thomas in respect of Natural England's proposed dedication of access land on the Lizard and that he would be seeking further clarity.	Chairman JJ ME
CAF/26	Chairman's Announcements (Agenda No.6) The Chairman made the following announcements: (i) Forum Members' Availability for Meetings The Chairman confirmed that he had drawn up a draft table of Forum members' availability, which would be circulated following the appointments to working groups made at the meeting. (ii) Local Access Forum News Bulletin September 2015 –Deregulation Act The Chairman drew attention to the LAF Bulletin circulated by email on 7 September 15, which contained an interesting article on the Deregulation Act and also signposting to Local Enterprise Partnership funding. The Natural Environment Manager stated that he would investigate possibilities for LEP funding. (iii) Natural England – South West Coast Path Proposals The Chairman confirmed that a member of Natural England's SW Coast Path team would be attending the next meeting to give a presentation on coast path proposals for Cornwall.	Chairman JJ
CAF/27	Definitive Map Draft Document (Agenda No.7) Consideration was given to the report tabled at the meeting in respect of the Definitive Map Draft	

	Document, presented by the Countryside Access Team Leader. In response to questions and comments from Forum members, the Countryside Access Team Leader and Natural Environment Manager confirmed: (i) The designation of the path network across Cornwall:- - Gold – Well used paths, attracting greater spending on maintenance; - Silver – Lesser used rural paths; - Bronze – Little used paths, such as pathways which did not join up well and cul-de-sacs, for example; (ii) The spending prioritisation policy favoured paths which linked into the Gold path network; (iii) The Gold, Silver, Bronze designation method was not unique to Cornwall; some other Authorities used a matrix system to decide priorities; and some Authorities made decisions as to priorities based on other factors; (iv) Members of the public could still propose alterations to the priority for individual paths, which would be considered by Cornwall Council; (v) The Countryside Access Team Leader acknowledged that currently only the applicant was informed of the determination of their application and agreed that decisions on Definitive Map Modification Orders applications could be published on the Council's website in future; (vi) The Countryside Access Team Leader agreed that the reason/s for the rejection of any Definitive Map Modification Order application could be acknowledged; (vii) The Natural Environment Manager advised that there was little certainty that resources would not be cut further. The Government required Local Authorities to be self funding by 2020. In Cornwall, income from business rates was currently less than the level of Government grants, and therefore it was not possible to guarantee that there would be no further cuts in future. It was AGREED that the information be noted.	
CAF/28	Proposed Additional Working Group - Cycle Access Working Group (Agenda No.8) Consideration was given to the Chairman's proposal to set up a Cycle Access Working Group as an additional standing working group in order to advise Cornwall Council on the development of cycle access	

	in Cornwall. Adrian Bigg suggested that it would be more appropriate for this to be a multi-use trail working group, so that other interests, such as horse riding and mountain biking, could also be addressed. Following discussion, it was AGREED that a standing Multi-Use Trail Working Group be set up in addition to the current 4 standing working groups.	Secretary's Representative/Chairman
CAF/29	Appointments to Working Groups (Agenda No. 9) Consideration was given to appointments to the current and proposed new standing working groups. The interest previously expressed by Kevin Boshier and Edward Chapman was noted. Following consideration, it was AGREED that the following appointments be made: (i) Coastal Access Working Group Ellie Bennett (Other Group), Carolyn Boyce (Landowner/Manager Group), Steve Church (User Group), Jacqueline Merrick (User Group), James Scobie (Landowner/Manager Group) and Richard Tufnell (User Group). (ii) Consultation Response Working Group Anthony Blumenau (Landowner/Manager Group), Carolyn Boyce (Landowner/Manager Group), Robert Fraser (Other Group), Nick Jeans (Landowner/Manager Group) and Jacqueline Merrick (User Group). (iii) Rights of Way and Definitive Map Working Group Adrian Bigg (User Group), Kevin Boshier (User Group), Carolyn Boyce (Landowner/Manager Group), Edward Chapman (User Group), Robert Fraser (Other Group), Andrea Sandford (Landowner/Manager Group) and Richard Tufnell (User Group). (iv) Moorland and Open Access Working Group Adrian Bigg (User Group), Edward Chapman (User Group), Robert Fraser (Other Group), Andrea Sandford (Landowner/Manager Group) and Caroline Sargent (Other Group). (v) Multi-Use Trail Working Group Ellie Bennett (Other Group), Adrian Bigg (User Group), Kevin Boshier (User Group), Nick Jeans (Landowner/Manager Group), Jacqueline Merrick (User Group) and Janet Shearer (Landowner/Manager Group)	Secretary's Representative
CAF/30	Working Group Updates (Verbal reports from the Chairman of each of the following Working Groups:)	

	(Agenda No.10) Forum members considered updates from the Chairman or representatives of the following working groups:	
CAF/31	Coastal Access Working Group (Agenda No.10.1) Steve Church updated Forum members on his understanding of Natural England's proposals for the South West Coast Path in Cornwall and highlighted potential issues to be addressed, including estuaries, landward side roll back and coastal erosion. Also discussed was potential funding opportunities for circular routes, in particular linking the north and south Cornwall coast paths, to provide a circular route around Cornwall, which opportunities included possible funding from the Coastal Communities Fund and the Local Enterprise Partnership. The Countryside Access Team Leader advised the outcomes from recent wide ranging discussions with Sophy Allen of Natural England's Coast Path team, including Cornwall Council's role in the proposals, the key to which was the provision of information in respect of land ownership, the location of field boundaries and opportunities for improvements to the existing line. Natural England was keen to know to what degree Cornwall Council was prepared to be involved in the delivery of 'Coastal Access'. Following consideration, it was AGREED that 1. The information be noted; 2. Sophy Allen be asked to address in her presentation to the next Forum meeting on 26 January 2016: a) the role for Cornwall Countryside Access Forum; and b) information on progress of Natural England's proposals in Devon	Secretary's Representative/ ME
CAF/32	Rights of Way and Definitive Map Working Group (Agenda No.10.2) Adrian Bigg updated Forum members on discussions recently held with the Countryside Access Team Leader in respect of the Council's prioritisation of paths and advised that it was the Working Group's intention to progress the discussion about the way forward regarding the Definitive Map now that new members had been appointed to the Rights of Way and Definitive Map Working Group. It was AGREED that the information be noted.	ROWDMWG/ME
CAF/33	Moorland and Open Access Working Group (Agenda No.10.3) Bob Fraser confirmed that the Moorland and Open Access Working Group had not met since the last	

	Forum meeting. However now that new members had been appointed to the Working Group, the next suggested topic for consideration was to examine the impact of changes introduced by the Commons Registration Act 2006 and Cornwall Council's role as a pioneer authority in relation to public access. There followed discussion regarding a recent communication received from a pressure group and the decision previously made that it was inappropriate for the Forum to be involved with its aims and for CCAF to only concern itself with Commons Registration where it affected open access. The Chairman suggested that it would be useful for MOAWG to open a dialogue with the Bodmin Moor Commoners Association. It was AGREED that 1. The information be noted; and 2. The Moorland and Open Access Working Group opens a dialogue with the Bodmin Moor Commoners Association.	MOAWG
CAF/34	Consultation Response Working Group (Agenda No.10.4) The Chairman updated Forum members on the outcomes of discussions in early September 15 with the Prioritisation and Funding Team Leader on the Local Transport Plan 'Connecting Cornwall:2030', and expressed his aim to secure a presentation from the relevant officer at the next Forum meeting on 26 January 2016. It was AGREED that the information be noted.	Chairman
CAF/35	A390 Tresillian Cycle Link - Update (Agenda No.11) The Chairman advised on Cornwall Council's proposals to provide a cycle link between Tresillian village and the access to the new eastern Park and Ride scheme in Truro and that he had suggested that a site visit was undertaken in conjunction with design staff to discuss the proposals. He also expressed his concerns that, for the future, and as a matter of policy, the Council ensured provision of sufficient pedestrian and cycle links in any development. It was AGREED that the information be noted.	Chairman
CAF/36	CCAF Work Programme Consideration was given to the update in respect of the Forum's Work Programme circulated at the meeting. (i) Countryside Access Strategy (Winter 2016) The Countryside Access Team Leader advised that it was a statutory duty for the Council to have a Countryside Access Strategy and work was being	

	undertaken to progress the strategy. However, although this work was ongoing, it was intended to remove this item from the Work Programme. (ii) Deregulation Act (Spring 2016) The Chairman indicated that James Scobie be reminded to contact Sarah Slade, County Landowners Association, to give a presentation at the Forum's meeting scheduled for 26 April 2016. (iii) Natural England – South West Coast Path The Chairman requested that the presentation to the Forum by Sophy Allen of Natural England's coast path team at the meeting on 26 January 2016 be added into the work programme (Winter 2015). (iv) Forestry Commission It was suggested that Chris Mason from the Forestry Commission be approached to give a presentation on cycle access at a future meeting of the Forum. It was AGREED that 1. The Countryside Access Strategy be removed from the Work Programme until there was something definite to report; ME 2. James Scobie be reminded to contact Sarah Slade of the County Landowners Association regarding a presentation to the Forum's meeting on 26 April 2016 and that this be added to the work programme (Spring 2016); Chairman 3. The presentation by Sophy Allen of Natural England's Coast Path team at the Forum's meeting on 26 January 2016 be added to the work programme (Winter 2015); and ME 4. Chris Mason from the Forestry Commission be contacted to give a presentation on cycle access on Forestry Commission land to the Forum at a future meeting. Chairman	
CAF/37	Asset Survey Update Consideration was given to a report circulated at the meeting in respect of the Asset Condition Survey Update presented by the Natural Environment Manager. In response to questions and comments from Forum members, the Natural Environment Manager confirmed: (i) The findings from the survey would be published to the website in due course. This was a very significant piece of work, covering thousands of assets of varying types held by the Council and it was necessary to test the information for accuracy. Also, the format of the document in which all of the information was held was not compatible with that necessary for uploading to the website, and it would be necessary for this to be addressed;	

	(ii) The assets would be prioritised using Gold, Silver and Bronze ratings; (iii) The Council already worked very effectively with over 100 volunteer groups, including the Ramblers, REACT and Groundwork South West; (iv) The Public Space Strategy included Cornwall Council land, Town and Parish Council land and publicly accessible sites. The Council was seeking to transfer some assets to Town and Parish Councils and a conversation with local groups would be welcomed.	
CAF/38	Date, Time and Venue of Future Meetings The date, time and venue of future meetings was noted.	
CAF/39	Business the Chairman Considers to be Urgent The Chairman brought the following item to Forum members' attention due to the need for them to receive current information prior to the next scheduled meeting: (i) Cycle Provision on A30 dualling scheme A meeting to discuss safety and other issues connected to the A30 dualling scheme was scheduled for 10 November 15 at Pydar House, Truro, at which the Chairman and the Countryside Access Team Leader would be in attendance.	

The meeting ended at 4.45 pm.

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