

CORNWALL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM (CCAF) MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 29 OCTOBER 2019

Date: Tuesday 29 October 2019
 Time: 2.00 pm
 Venue: Grenville Room, County Hall, Treyew Road, Truro TR1 3AY

Present: Phil Allen, Steve Church, Ross Durkin, Jim Flashman CC, Mark Hynard, Nick Jeans, Esther Kieboom, Jacqueline Merrick, Carol Wilson, Lucy Wilson and Stephen Wilson

Also in P Aubrey Fletcher (Representative, NFU)

Attendance: J Alden (iWalkCornwall)
 L Beardsmore (Democratic Officer)
 B Cross (Representative, South West Lakes Trust)
 M Eastwood (Countryside Access Team Leader)
 D Martin (Countryside Team Leader)

Apologies: Gerry Brain, Matt Luke CC and Cherilyn Mackrory CC

Minute no		Action by
CAF/29	Election of Chairman for 2019/20 The Democratic Officer drew attention to the resolution made at the meeting held on 23 July 2019 that Esther Kieboom be elected Chairman for the meeting and the need for a Chairman to be elected for the remainder of 2019/20. Esther Kieboom confirmed that following subsequent consideration, she was now agreeable to continue as Chairman for 2019/20, subject to another Forum member agreeing to take over the Vice Chairman role, and subject to the Forum agreeing to the proposal. It was moved by Nick Jeans , seconded by Steve Church, and RESOLVED that 1. Esther Kieboom be elected Chairman of the	LB

	Cornwall Countryside Access Forum for 2019/20 2. A replacement Vice Chairman for 2019/20 be elected at the next meeting of the Forum.	Forum members
CAF/30	iWalk App The Forum gave consideration to the presentation given by John Alden on the iWalkCornwall app, including his involvement in the co-development of the app, the aim of the app, and its capabilities. There followed some discussion regarding the organisations to which footpath blockages were reported; the suitability of the app for disabled users; the value of future apps for other types of users, such as cyclists, runners and dog walkers, for example; the need to encourage Cornwall Council to work with private providers in producing an app - without duplicating the apps already available in the private sector - as part of its strategy to encourage residents to enjoy the countryside; and suggestions for ways in which Parish Councils could provide copies of walks in their locality and make them easily available for members of the public to obtain. Following consideration of the information provided, it was AGREED that the information be noted. On behalf of the Forum the Chairman gave thanks to John Alden for his interesting and informative presentation.	
CAF/31	Partnerships The Forum considered the following matters: (i) Verbal presentation by the Representative of the National Farmers Union (NFU), including the role of the NFU; the potential loss of stability and EU subsidies due to Brexit; the opportunities for farmers to open up footpaths for the public good; and the issue of cross field paths and need for a solution to it.	

	There followed a discussion regarding the particular issues posed to farmers of moorland and upland farms, particularly from walkers, dogs, motor cyclists and 4 wheel drive vehicles; and also the issue of closed farm gates which preclude disabled walkers and mobility scooters from accessing rights of way. Following consideration of the information provided, it was AGREED that 1. The information be noted; 2. Nick Jeans contacts the NFU Representative following the meeting to discuss the future role of the Moorland and Open Access Working Group; 3. The Chairman arranges for a short article on the role and work of the Forum to be written and forwarded to the NFU Representative for inclusion in its Newsletter; 4. The Secretary's Representative to forward an application form for membership of the Forum to the NFU Representative. (ii) Written report tabled at the meeting by the Countryside Access Team Leader, including a revisit of the Cornwall Countryside Access Strategy following the recruitment of the Head of Strategy and Development, following which the offer of assistance from Ross Durkin with this was acknowledged; confirmation of a presentation by Ian Marsh, Representative of the National Trust, at the next meeting; the inclusion of a presentation by Will Langer, Country Land and Business Association in Spring 2020; (iii) Confirmation of an invitation to the Penwith Landscape Partnership (PLP) to attend a Forum meeting in Spring 2020 to give an update on the Partnership's work and for a site visit to PLP by Forum members to be arranged.	NJ EK LB
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	There followed some discussion regarding i) the inclusion of a presentation by a representative of the South West Lakes Trust in 2020, and ii) regarding the Celtic Way, which was a trail running from Pembrokeshire to Glastonbury and down through the middle of Cornwall. Following consideration of the information provided, it was AGREED that 1. The information be noted. 2. An invitation be extended to the South West Lakes Trust for a representative to attend a meeting of the Forum in 2020 to inform the Forum of its work; 3. Carol Wilson to forward to the Countryside Team Leader details of the Celtic Way.	ME CW
CAF/32	Capabilities of Modern Mobility Scooters The Forum considered the video shown by Stephen Wilson on the capabilities of modern mobility scooters and the information provided in respect of the 70 walks for disabled walkers published on the Cornwall Rolling Ramblers website. Following consideration of the video and information provided, it was AGREED that the information be noted. The Chairman gave thanks on behalf of the Forum to Stephen Wilson for the work done in compiling the video.	
CAF/33	Declarations of Interest (on matters included in the agenda) There were no declarations of interest.	
CAF/34	Minutes from the Meeting held on 23 July 2019 It was moved by Councillor Flashman, seconded by Jacqueline Merrick, and	

	RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held on 23 July 2019 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.	
CAF/35	Chairman's Announcements The Forum considered the following announcements by the Chairman: (i) <u>Proposed Motion to Full Council by Councillor Mackrory</u> The Chairman drew attention to the report in supplementary agenda 3, and to her proposed additional wording as follows: “This Council resolves to: iv) Endeavour to link up new developments with local Rights of Way.” There followed some discussion on i) potential duplication of current planning policies by the proposed motion; ii) the need to address that planning policies appear to be ignored in some planning decisions; iii) that public rights of way in an urban landscape should be surfaced in a manner to allow access to all people. The Chairman proposed that a small task and finish group be set up to discuss the matter further as soon as possible as the deadline for the motion to be finalised and submitted was 13 November 2019. Following consideration of the matter, it was AGREED that 1. A task and finish group be set up comprising Steve Church, Matt Luke CC and Carol Wilson to formulate the appropriate	SC/ML/CW

	additional wording, and for this to be submitted to the Chairman and Nick Jeans by 8 November 2019, and 2. For delegated authority to be given to the Chairman and Nick Jeans to liaise with Councillor Mackrory on the agreed wording.	EK/NL/CM
CAF/36	Cornwall Countryside Access Forum Constitution Review - Proposed Changes Following General Data Protection (GDPR) Legislation The Forum considered the report presented by the Countryside Access Team Leader in the absence of a representative from Legal Services at the meeting regarding the proposed changes to the Forum's Constitution following General Data Protection (GDPR) legislation. Following consideration, it was AGREED that the proposed amendments to the Constitution as set out in the report and the tracked change version subsequently circulated be approved, ie: 1. The following wording be deleted from the end of paragraph 4.8: "In addition all members shall comply with the 'General Principles of Public Life' referenced in Cornwall Council's Code of Conduct for Members." 2. A new paragraph 2.9 be added: "All members shall comply with the 'General Principles of Public Life' referenced in Cornwall Council's Code of Conduct for Members. This includes the observance of the duty to uphold the law. This includes specifically The Local Access Forums (England) Regulations 2007 which set out the administration and operation of local access forums, the General Data Protection Regulations 2016, the Data Protection Act 2018, the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environment Information Regulations 2004 ("Data Protection Legislation"). Members should ensure that when they process information that it is in accordance	LB

	with the Data Protection Legislation and see advice from the Appointing Authority in this respect where necessary.” 3. The current paragraph 4.9 to become paragraph 4.10 4. The current paragraph 4.10 to become paragraph 4.11.	
CAF/37	Working Group Updates (Reports from the Chairman or Representative of each of the following Working Groups:) The Forum considered the updates given by the Chairman or Representative of each of the following Working Groups and subsequently AGREED that the information be noted:	
CAF/38	A30 St Austell Link Road Improvement Task and Finish Group The Forum considered the previously circulated update given by Nick Jeans in respect of the A30 St Austell Link Road Improvement project.	
CAF/39	Carclaze Garden Village Task and Finish Group The Forum considered the previously circulated update given by Nick Jeans in respect of the Carclaze Garden Village project.	
CAF/40	Coastal Access Working Group The Forum considered the previously circulated updates given by Steve Church in respect of Natural England’s (NE) Coast Path project (Cornwall) (agenda pages 28-34 and supplementary agenda 2 pages 1-6). There followed some discussion in respect of 16. Helford Estuary. The suggestion that a resource provision from NE’s CA budget to ensure an appropriate route around the estuary be made was subsequently AGREED.	

	Following consideration of the information provided, it was AGREED that the proposed comments as set out in the reports be endorsed and that the appropriate representations be made to Natural England. On behalf of the Forum, Nick Jeans proposed that thanks be given to Steve Church for the significant amount of work undertaken in preparing the relevant responses to Natural England.	SC
CAF/41	Consultation Responses The Forum gave consideration to the previously circulated consultation responses in respect of i) the Hayle Growth Area Masterplan and ii) the Launceston Development Masterplan, submitted on behalf of the Forum by i) Steve Church and Ross Durkin, and ii) by Lucy Wilson and Nick Jeans respectively. Following consideration of the report and information provided, it was AGREED that the responses be formally approved.	
CAF/42	Countryside Access Strategy Task and Finish Group It was noted that a new Head of Strategy and Delivery had recently been appointed and the suggestion made by the Countryside Access Team Leader that this was an ideal time for the Strategy to be reviewed was AGREED. There followed some discussion regarding the need for the Countryside Access Strategy to be revisited and for the Strategy to be shortened to a more concise document was discussed. The offer made by Ross Durkin to assist with this was acknowledged. Following consideration of the information provided, it was AGREED that the information be noted.	

CAF/43	Developing Parish Initiatives Working Group The Forum considered the previously circulated report regarding presentations to Area Network Panels and Royal Cornwall Show attendance presented by Philip Allen. Attention was drawn to the proposal to draft a questionnaire for parish councils to complete to determine the barriers to access to the countryside and for this to be circulated before the next meeting for Forum members' comment. The invitation extended by John Alden, iWalkCornwall, to contact him subsequent to the meeting regarding the use of his contacts was acknowledged and AGREED. The Chairman requested that Philip Allen and Ross Durkin liaise to identify any potential areas of work that their respective working groups may be duplicating, which was AGREED.	PA PA PA/RD
CAF/44	Moorland and Open Access Working Group The Forum considered the verbal update given by the Countryside Team Leader in respect of discussions undertaken with the Network Management Team and the Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC).	
CAF/45	Multi Use Trails Working Group The Forum considered the previously circulated update report given by Nick Jeans in respect of the i) A30 Carland Cross to Chiverton Cross Road Improvement project; ii) Camelford Bypass project; iii) Truro Northern Link Road project, and iv) Saints Trails project.	
CAF/46	Rights of Way and Definitive Map Working Group The Forum considered the previously circulated update given by Ross Durkin in respect of the activities of the Rights of Way and Definitive Map Working Group since	

	the last Forum meeting. The Countryside Access Team Leader confirmed that the outcomes of the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE) review were expected by Christmas 2019. The Chairman requested that the matter be included in the agenda for consideration at the next Forum meeting.	LB
CAF/47	St Austell China Clay Mineral Permission Review Task and Finish Group Consideration was given to the previously circulated update given by Nick Jeans in respect of the St Austell China Clay Mineral Permission Review project.	
CAF/48	Items of Interest or Concern The Forum considered the matter brought by Ross Durkin in respect of enforcement action against landowners blocking off Rights of Way (RoW). There followed some discussion regarding the main causes of blocked RoWs; the process for reporting blocked RoW; the need for a collaborative approach to be taken to resolve issues; and the potential correlation between the number of blocked rights of way and the number of parish councils not in the Local Maintenance Partnership. It was AGREED that the DPIWG would consider the role local parishes could play to resolve local issues such as blocked foot paths.	
CAF/49	Date, Time and Venue of Future Meetings The Forum noted the dates of future meetings.	
CAF/50	Any Business the Chairman Considers to be Urgent The Chairman accepted the following matter as urgent,	

	due to the need for Forum members to receive information before the next meeting: (i) <u>Visits to Parish Councils</u> Councillor Flashman gave a verbal update of the outcomes from visits to local parish councils he had recently undertaken with the Countryside Access Team Leader, including to Cotehele Parish Council and Calstock Parish Council. Following consideration of the information provided, it was AGREED that the information be noted.	
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The meeting ended at 5.15 pm.

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