

CORNWALL COUNCIL

CORNWALL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held at Trelawney Room, Cornwall Council, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY on Tuesday 24 November 2009 commencing at 2.00 pm.

Present:-	Graham Ronan (Chairman) Mike Kent (Vice-Chairman)
	Julie Bate, Adrian Bigg, Gill Derryman, Terry Faull, Roger James, Jane Kiely, Robin Moore, James Scobie, CC Shakerley, Peter Tunstall-Behrens and Jeremy Varcoe.
Officers in attendance:-	Mike East – Head of Environment, Steve Crummay – Living Environment Service Manager, Mike Eastwood – Programmes Manager, Emma Dutton – Senior Democratic Services Officer, Rowena Brebner – Democratic Services Officer
Apologies for absence:-	Robert Alderton, Julie Dowton, Adam Hedley, CC Lugg and CC Paynter.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

(Agenda No. 1)

CAF/30 The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting, in particular CC Julian German, Portfolio holder and Mike East, Head of Environment

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - NOT ALREADY DECLARED

(Agenda No. 3)

CAF/31 There were no declarations of interest not already declared.

The Chairman congratulated Adrian Bigg on his recent promotion as the South West British Horse Society's Access Officer.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 SEPTEMBER 2009

(Agenda No. 4)

CAF/32 It was moved by Councillor Shakerley, seconded by Robin Moore, and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held on 29 September 2009 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING OTHER THAN ON THE AGENDA

(Agenda No. 5)

CAF/33 a) CAF/20 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 July 2009

A member of the Forum advised that the Cornwall Council website had referred to the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum as a committee of the Council when in fact it was an independent Forum. This was incorrect and misleading and he requested that this be altered to make it clear that it was not a committee of the Council.

b) CAF/22 Correspondence to the Forum

The Living Environment Services Manager advised that he was currently in the process of obtaining responses to the two letters sent to the Corporate Director for Environment Planning and Economy regarding countryside access and unclassified roads.

c) CAF/29 Zennor Flood – April 2009 – Coast Path

The Living Environment Services Manager gave an update to the Forum regarding progress to the footpath. 95% of the works had been completed with materials used being sustainable where possible.

The Chairman congratulated the staff involved for their hard work.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda No. 6)

CAF/34 1. Site Visit

Prior to the meeting of the Forum, Members had attended a site visit in Camborne. The site visit was an opportunity for the Forum to look at access for people with disabilities, urban fringe path management issues, public rights of way maintenance and the management of the Red River Nature Reserve along the Red River Valley. A member commented that there was an opportunity to link the car park with Godrevy.

Members commented that they found the site visit very interesting and wished to formally thank the officers involved for their assistance and useful information that was shared during the visit.

Councillor German advised the Forum that he understood the importance of the Council having a strong commitment to the Rights of Way budget and was hopeful that Members of the new Council would share this view.

The Living Environment Service Manager advised that a series of workshops had been held with the local transport team regarding the Local Transport Plan process and the Council was hoping to learn from Durham Council's experiences regarding wider countryside access. He further advised that there was the potential

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to link the provision of mobility friendly routes with funding obtained for Godrevy. A recently constituted group had been established which could potentially gain access to funding for schemes in the Camborne/Pool/Lanner/Redruth areas.

The Head of Environment stated that he was particularly interested in the new authority looking at new opportunities to visit issues around access to link in with other agendas and therefore collectively take full advantage of achieving a broad range of activities whilst being economically competitive. He further stated that it must be borne in mind that although the Council was supportive in progressing schemes, the reality of future budgets would make this doubly difficult for officers to achieve.

2. Jill Goodman - Resignation

The Chairman announced that Jill Goodman due to personal reasons had resigned as member of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum. He advised that he would write thanking her for her involvement in the Forum.

PRESENTATION - LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

(Agenda No. 7)

CAF/35 The Chairman advised that a presentation relating to the Local Transport Plan would be made at a future meeting.

BRIEF PRESENTATION BY PAUL HAWKINS - OFF ROAD CYCLING PROJECT

(Agenda No. 8)

CAF/36 The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Paul Hawkins of the Forestry Commission/Sport England. Mr Hawkins thanked the Forum for opportunity to attend the meeting and proceeded to outline:-

- a) 1SW was an Off-Road Cycling project
- b) A series of cycling trails had been established at Haldon Forest, Exeter, a multi activity site with various partners. This was being used as a model for potential schemes in Cornwall
- c) A feasibility study had been undertaken in 2006 for developing off road cycling in woodlands across the south west
- d) The report findings showed that demand in the area was not fully exploited and that there was a lack of co-ordination in Cornwall
- e) Woodlands and forests were ideal locations for cycling trails as they offered shelter to people and if well planned, had a low visual impact on the surroundings. It was hoped to provide a good recreational network of trails in Cornwall
- f) The project was aimed at families and 'occasional' users eg tourists, and not the top end highly experienced action seeking cyclists

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- g) A proposal in North Cornwall – Cardinham woods (one of 6 regional sites) as a joint National Trust and Forestry Commission project – currently in its concept stage with a project completion date of 2013

The Chairman thanked Mr Hawkins for his presentation and invited him to attend a future meeting when the project manager had been appointed.

Members of the Forum made reference to the following points:-

- i) The possibility of consulting with the Bodmin and Wenford Railway as part of the project
- ii) The need to consult with appropriate user groups
- iii) The importance of land management as part of the project eg erosion
- iv) The need for a quality product
- v) A successful trail site in Epping Forest with a good surface for cyclists and horse-riders

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE FORUM

(Agenda No. 9)

CAF/37 The Chairman identified the following correspondence that had been received:

- 1 Protected Landscapes - consultation
- 2 Coastal Access – DEFRA consultation
- 3 HRWG Questionnaire
- 4 CCAF Training slides 29/9
- 5 AONB workshop 10/11
- 6 Carnyorth Moor Report
- 7 SW LAF conference 20/10
- 8 Ministerial Response
- 9 East Lyn River Canoeing Arrangements
- 10 Houses of Commons – 3rd reading of the marine and coastal access Bill
- 11 SW LAF event – Sustrans links
- 12 New NE Report re 'No Charge'
- 13 Statistics from the SW LAF event
- 14 NE Health Report
- 15 Coastal Access – Audit Report
- 16 Structures Guidance – DEFRA
- 17 HLS Targeting Meetings 2009
- 18 Planting Places Awards
- 19 SW LAF meeting information (National Indicators/funding for ROW)
- 20 NE's Coastal Access Scheme - consultation
- 21 Report from the SW LAF Conference held on 20 October 2009
- 22 Defra's Access Newsletter – Issue 42
- 23 Regional Woodland and Forestry Framework
- 24 Review of physical activity guidelines in the UK

25 Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Coastal Advisory Group (CISCAG)

Arising from the above, Members of the Forum requested that in future these be listed and included with the agenda along with dates sent.

ENGLISH ACCESS FORUM - UPDATE

(Agenda No. 10)

CAF/38 Robin Moore sought the Forum's advice in clarifying his role on the English Access Forum.

It was moved by Jim Scobie, seconded by Mike Kent and

RESOLVED that the Chairman make formal representation to the SW Regional chairman of the English Access Forum regarding Robin Moore's role.

APPOINTMENTS TO WORKING GROUPS - MOORLAND ACCESS WORKING GROUP

(Agenda No. 11)

CAF/39 The Forum considered the report of the Vice-Chairman and the Head of Environment Services relating to the Annual Review and Appointment to Working Groups.

It was moved by Mike Kent, seconded by Terry Faull and

RESOLVED that:-

1. The new Moorland Access Working Group be established and the proposals contained within the report (4.1 – 4.3) be approved.

FEEDBACK FROM WORKING GROUPS - UPDATE

(Agenda No. 12)

CAF/40 The Forum considered the following feedback from the working groups:-

DISABILITY ACCESS WORKING GROUP

(Agenda No. 12.1)

CAF/41 The Forum noted the information prepared by Adam Hedley relating to the Disability Access Working Group.

The Living Environment Service Manager advised that he had discussed progress made on access strategy actions AA1 and AA2 (how the Council audits complaints and enquires from people re disability and countryside access and how that information is followed up on) and identified a strategic programme.

COASTAL ACCESS WORKING GROUP

(Agenda No. 12.2)

CAF/42 Jim Scobie advised that the Coastal Access Working group had met on 10 November 2009 to discuss the response to the Defra consultation on proposals to amend the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 for coastal land. The suggested response had been circulated prior to the meeting.

It was moved by Peter Tunstall-Behrens, seconded by Roger James and

RESOLVED that:-

1. the response of the working group be ratified as the formal views of the Forum and submitted to Defra subject to the following amendments:-

Page 18, number 13, second sentence – correct spelling of 'This'

Page 21, number 21, insertion of the word 'completely' before the word 'excepted'

Page 21, number 24, inclusion of an example to be inserted, the wording of which to be provided by Peter Tunstall-Behrens

2. Following the resignation of Jill Goodman, Peter Tunstall-Behrens be co-opted onto the Coastal Access Working Group

RIGHTS OF WAY PAPER

(Agenda No. 13)

CAF/43 The Forum considered the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum – Paper on Rights of Way which had been prepared by Terry Faull and Jeremy Varcoe. The Paper set out a series of recommendations to the Council.

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

- a) the Council's legal obligation in maintaining paths in what was a large, complex, historically complicated area being managed with finite resources
- b) the role of the Parish Council in the Local Maintenance Partnership work
- c) the need to consider the current framework

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- d) the possibility of considering a strategic and agreed group of path extinguishments
- e) the need to be pragmatic and realistic about any changes – finding new solutions to old problems whilst maintaining quality
- f) considering the possibility of different ways of working – utilising section 106 agreements, the Probation Service, the Parish Councils, forums and volunteers

Responding to some of the comments listed above, the Living Environment Services Manager stated that the Council was already looking at opportunities for strategic working in this area utilising where possible Parish Councils, organisations such as PAROW (Penwith Access and Rights of Way Forum).

Terry Faull introduced the concept of promoting 'gold networks', an idea broadly welcomed for investigation by Members and Officers present.

It was moved by the Jane Kiely, seconded by Councillor Shakerley and

RESOLVED that the Forum ratifies the content of the paper and requests a response from the Living Environment Service Manager at a future meeting of this Forum.

WORK PROGRAMME

(Agenda No. 14)

CAF/44 The Forum noted the work programme which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

DATE, TIME AND VENUE OF FUTURE MEETINGS

(Agenda No. 15)

CAF/45 The Forum noted the dates and venues for future meetings which had been circulated previously.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS OF URGENCY

(Agenda No. 16)

CAF/46

1. Report Authors

A request was made for report authors to appear on all future reports.

2. Davidstow Wind Farm

In response to comments made by a member, the Chairman agreed to re-circulate the Forum's position statement on windfarms to the appropriate person.

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3. Landscape Character Project

The Living Environment Service Manager advised the Forum that he would produce a report regarding the above project for the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 4.55 pm.

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