

CORNWALL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held at Trelawny Room, Cornwall Council, County Hall, Truro, TR1 3AY on Wednesday 24 November 2010 commencing at 2.00 pm.

Present:- Graham Ronan (Chairman)

Julie Bate, Adrian Bigg, Terry Faull, Roger James, Nicholas Jeans, Jane Kiely, Councillor Lugg, Robert Osborne, Councillor Shakerley, Duncan Thurnell-Read, Peter Tunstall-Behrens and Jeremy Varcoe.

Also in attendance:- Mike Eastwood – Programmes Manager
Emma Coad – Senior Democratic Services Officer
Rowena Brebner – Democratic Services Officer

Apologies for absence:- Gill Derryman, Adam Hedley, Robin Moore, Councillor Paynter and James Scobie.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

(Agenda No. 1)

CAF/130 The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting, in particular Tom Fletcher (Principal Access and Development Officer), Matt Sidney (Strategic Projects Manager) and Martin Wright (Land Searches (Highways) Manager).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - NOT ALREADY DECLARED

(Agenda No. 3)

CAF/131 Nick Jeans declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 (Lizard Downs Consultation) due to previous involvement in land management at the Tregothnan Estate.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2010

(Agenda No. 4)

CAF/132 It was moved by Jane Kiely, seconded by Roger James and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held on 28 September 2010 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman subject to the correct spelling of Dozmary Pool (Minute Number CAF/121 Correspondence to the Forum – Item number 23)

MATTERS ARISING OTHER THAN ON THE AGENDA

(Agenda No. 5)

CAF/133

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- a) CAF/118 – Chairman’s Announcements, c) AONB Consultation
In response to a question by a Member, the Programmes Manager advised that a Delivery Plan would be produced.
- b) CAF/127 – Access and Disability Working Group
In response to a query by a Member, the Chairman advised that a meeting of the above group would be arranged.

CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda No. 6)

CAF/134

The Chairman made the following announcements:-

- a) Future of English Access Forum (EAF)
The Chairman reported that he had attended the South West Local Access Forum Chairs meeting with the Natural England (NE) Regional Director at their Taunton offices on 10 November 2010. The revised structure of NE and the future of the EAF had yet to be determined. A further meeting would be held in March when it was hoped more information would be available.
- b) Local Access Forum (LAF) Conference - Bovey Tracey
The Chairman advised that he, along with other Forum Members had attended the LAF Conference on 20 October 2010 at which there had been various workshops. These had highlighted some good work, in particular engaging young people in outdoor projects eg the Mosaic project, which could also be run in Cornwall (depending on funding). There was also a presentation concerning the work of the Forestry Commission in the South West.
- c) Eric Wallis MBE (South West Coast Path Association (SWCPA) Secretary)
The sad news that Eric Wallis MBE (South West Coast Path Association (SWCPA) Secretary) had passed away on 21 November.

PRESENTATION - LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN (MATT SIDNEY)

(Agenda No. 7)

CAF/135 The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Matt Sidney, Strategic Projects Manager from the Transportation Team.

Mr Sidney thanked the Forum for the opportunity to attend the meeting and proceeded to outline:-

- a) Connecting Cornwall 2010 – The Local Transport Plan
- b) Local Transport Plans
- c) Key Challenges
- d) Connecting Cornwall 2030 Strategy Framework – moving towards a green peninsula

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- e) Timeline for Connecting Cornwall 2030 – consultation mid December – mid January Scrutiny Committee/Cabinet – Full Council in March
- f) Review Update 2012
- g) Implementation Plans
- h) Connecting Cornwall Consultation July – Sept 2010 including online/postal/other survey (on-street survey)
- i) On-Street surveys
- j) LTP3 Surveys throughout Cornwall
- k) Travel behaviour survey
- l) The Six Cornwall Goals
- m) Rating the Goals/Rating the Proposals
- n) The Top 5 Proposals for Residents/Visitors/Young people
- o) Attitudinal Survey
- p) Key aspects of Connecting Cornwall
- q) Strategy Proposals
- r) Moving Forward

The Chairman thanked Mr Sidney for his presentation.

LIZARD DOWNS CONSULTATION- MARTIN WRIGHT (LAND SEARCHES MANAGER) - FORUM TO CONSIDER RESPONSE - DEADLINE 30.11.10

(Agenda No. 8)

CAF/136 (Nick Jeans declared a personal interest in this item due to previous involvement in land management at the Tregothnan Estate.)

The Forum considered a draft proposal for the re-registration of land as common land under the Commons Act 2006 relating to Lizard Downs and Clay Pits, Landewednack.

Martin Wright, Land Searches (Highways) Manager updated the Forum regarding comments made by Natural England who had commented on the proposal as occupiers of the land but were not objecting to it.

During discussion reference was made to the following issues: -

- i) whether or not access to the land would be affected by the registration process
- ii) the site lay within a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) designated land

It was moved by Peter Tunstall-Behrens, seconded by Jeremy Varcoe and

RESOLVED that the proposal to register Lizard Downs as common land in the public interest be not supported by the Forum.

An earlier motion to support the proposal to register Lizard Downs as common land was lost by 8 votes to 3.

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The Chairman thanked Mr Wright for his attendance.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE FORUM

(Agenda No. 9)

CAF/137 The Chairman identified the following correspondence that had been received since the last meeting:-

- 1 Revision of the Local Validation List – Cornwall Council – (circulated 8.10.10)
- 2 Access to Nature (circulated 13.10.10)
- 3 LAFs and the Forestry Commission (circulated 13.10.10)
- 4 DEFRA's Access Newsletter No. 47 (circulated 18.10.10)
- 5 Countryside Mobility South West Project Update (circulated 18.10.10)
- 6 'Forest Research produces synthesis of evidence of benefits of green infrastructure' (circulated 18.10.10)
- 7 Notification of Restriction – Trenchway Wood (circulated 25.10.10)
- 8 Natural England and Defra updates (circulated 25.10.10)
- 9 English Heritage Consultation (circulated 25.10.10)
- 10 Walk4Life website news (circulated 2.11.10)
- 11 Defra guidance to local authorities about stiles and gates on rights of way (circulated 2.11.10)
- 12 Forestry Commission (circulated 2.11.10)
- 13 Communication from Natural England (circulated 2.11.10)
- 14 LTP info - all on their website (circulated 3.11.10)
- 15 SW LAF Conference report (circulated 4.11.10)
- 16 Information regarding the 'Forestry Sell Off' from Tom Franklin (Circulated 5.11.10)
- 17 Woodland Trust and 'MyView (circulated 9.11.10)
- 18 Application No. 2762 & Notice (circulated 11.11.10)
- 19 Notification of restriction under an outline direction given under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 Direction case number: 2009060040 (circulated 17.11.10)
- 20 Notification of s22 discretionary restriction under the CRoW Act 2000 (circulated 18.11.10)
- 21 Notification of restriction under an outline direction given under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act - Case 2010115743 (circulated 19.11.10)
- 22 Grassroots engagement on White paper (circulated 22.11.10)
- 23 English Access Forum (circulated 22.11.10)
- 24 SW LAF Chairs meeting (circulated 22.11.10)
- 25 SW LAF Chairs meeting – with information regarding HLS (circulated 22.11.10)
- 26 Correspondence from Dr Helen Phillips (circulated 23.11.10)
- 27 Letter from Duncan Graham re EAF (circulated 23.11.10)

Arising from the above the Chairman advised that members of the Forum were kept well informed and that every effort was made to circulate information in a timely manner.

**DEFRA - AUTHORISING STRUCTURES (GAPS, GATES AND STILES)
ON RIGHTS OF WAY (GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL
AUTHORITIES ON COMPLIANCE WITH THE EQUALITY ACT 2010)**
(Agenda No. 10)

CAF/138 The Forum noted the report of the Programmes Manager relating to recently published guidance by DEFRA for local authorities on meeting the obligations under the Equality Act 2010 regarding structures on public rights of way.

The aim of the guidance was not to require the replacement of all existing structures but to ensure that new structures that were introduced imposed the least possible hindrance to access.

The Forum was advised that common sense would prevail when implementing works under the guidance and that any costs incurred relating to this would be borne by the Council. The importance of utilising volunteers and landowners in updating information regarding Public Rights of Way was acknowledged.

**UPDATE ON THE STRATEGIC REVIEW OF COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES
AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**
(Agenda No. 11)

CAF/139 The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Tom Fletcher (Principal Access and Development Officer).

Mr Fletcher thanked the Forum for the opportunity to attend the meeting and gave a presentation relating to the Strategic Review of Access as follows:-

- a) Cornwall Countryside Access Strategy 2007
- b) More efficient use of resources
- c) Scope
- d) Consultation/Discussion internally and externally
- e) Results so far
- f) Types of Path
- g) Other structures to deliver and funding
- h) What Next?

During discussion, particular reference was made to the following issues:-

- i) to work with partners from the health authority in linking the health benefits of cycling and walking
- ii) to develop working with volunteers to review the definitive map

- iii) the success achieved by the community group 'PAROW' (Penwith Access and Rights Of Way Forum) and whether similar groups could be formed around the county

The Chairman thanked Mr Fletcher for his presentation.

FEEDBACK FROM WORKING GROUPS

(Agenda No. 12)

CAF/140 The Forum considered the following information relating to the working groups:-

COASTAL ACCESS WORKING GROUP

(Agenda No. 12.1)

CAF/141 The Coastal Access working group had not recently met.

ACCESS AND DISABILITY WORKING GROUP

(Agenda No. 12.2)

CAF/142 The Access and Disability working group Members would be contacted and a meeting would be arranged.

MOORLAND ACCESS WORKING GROUP

(Agenda No. 12.3)

CAF/143 The Moorland Access Working Group had been unable to meet due to the flooding on 17 November but hoped to reconvene a meeting in the New Year.

OS MAPPING WORKING GROUP

(Agenda No. 12.4)

CAF/144 The OS Mapping Working Group had not recently met, however, it was suggested that when processing Definitive Map Modification Orders, the Council should give priority to those that affected users and landowners most.

WORK PROGRAMME

(Agenda No. 13)

CAF/145 The Forum noted the work programme.

The Cornish Character Landscape Project was currently on hold due to funding issues.

Tom Fletcher would give a presentation regarding the Green Infrastructure Strategy at a future meeting.

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The meeting ended at 5.04 pm.

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