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CORNWALL COUNCIL

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 Tuesday 22 November 2011 commencing at 2.00 pm.

Present:- James Scobie (Chairman)
Julie Bate (Vice-Chair)

Adrian Bigg, Gill Derryman, Terry Faull, Chris Ferguson, Roger James, Nicholas Jeans, Jane Kiely, Councillor Paynter, Joy Thomas, Duncan Thurnell-Read and Jeremy Varcoe.

Also in attendance:- David Attwell – Principal Countryside Officer
Rowena Brebner – Democratic Services Officer
Emma Coad – Senior Democratic Services Officer
Mike Eastwood – Countryside Access Team Leader
Apologies for absence:- Councillor German, Councillor Lugg, Robin Moore, Robert Osborne, Councillor Shakerley and Peter Tunstall-Behrens.

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

(Agenda No. 1)

CAF/36 The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - NOT ALREADY DECLARED

(Agenda No. 3)

CAF/37 There were no declarations on interest not already declared.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 2011

(Agenda No. 4)

CAF/38 It was moved by Jeremy Varcoe, seconded by Roger James and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held on 27 September 2011 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman subject to the following amendments:-

- i) Minute ref: CAF/23 – the word 'impact' be used in lieu of 'natural force' in bullet point II.
- ii) Minute ref: CAF/29 – the word 'Berkshire' be replaced with the word 'Hampshire' in the first paragraph.

MATTERS ARISING OTHER THAN ON THE AGENDA

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(Agenda No. 5)

- i) CAF/39 CAF/28 – Multi-Use Trails – the agenda item referred to in paragraph 2 would be added to the next meeting.
- ii) CAF/30 – Correspondence to the Forum – the Forum noted that the Head of Planning and Regeneration had agreed to attend the May meeting of the Forum.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Agenda No. 6)

CAF/40 The Chairman made the following announcements:-

- i) South West LAF Chairman's Meeting

The Chairman had attended the above meeting and received information regarding an internet system - 'Huddle' – that would be introduced at a local level with one person per LAF and a Forum Member 'Champion' operating it. He feared that this was being introduced in order to make savings and replace the post of the Regional Coordinator for South West Region of Local Access Forums currently undertaken by Hilary Winter. Her role was an important one which involved screening and passing on information from a number of sources to SW LAF's.

The Chairman expressed concern in relation to the time that would be needed for those operating the system and that the proposal was not acceptable. He had prepared a draft letter to Jon James, Environment Manager at Cornwall Council, requesting that the Cornwall Council contributes £1000 towards the Regional Coordinator's post and sought agreement from the Forum to do this. There was strong support from Members of the Forum for the Chairman to send the letter subject to confirmation that the other Chairmen from the SW LAF's would approach their respective authorities with the same request.

The Principal Countryside Officer advised that the Council's budget was under significant pressure and that it was unlikely the Council could provide a contribution at the current time.

- ii) Natural England Cornwall Liaison Meeting 11 October 2011

The Chairman had attended the above meeting stating that they needed to listen more to problems concerning countryside and coastal access and that more access funding was needed in Cornwall particularly for linear access, access for educational purposes and coastal access (capital infrastructure). An access funding paper would be prepared by NE and circulated to group members.

- iii) Independent Panel on Forestry

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The Chairman advised that there would be a progress report in December and a final report in Spring 2012.

iv) Local Nature Partnership progress

The Chairman advised that the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly had been successful in their bid to be in the first group of successful applicants for this scheme and would receive £20,000 to pay for their initial setting up costs. DEFRA had listed LAFs as potential LNP members with a key positive role to play in informing discussions and influencing the structure of the LNP.

It was moved by Jane Kiely, seconded by Duncan Thurnell-Read and

RESOLVED that the Chairman write to Natural England asking for a representative from the Forum to sit on the LNP when it is established.

PRESENTATION - POLICY PROPOSALS FOR RIGHTS OF WAY - SARAH SLADE, NATIONAL ACCESS ADVISOR, COUNTRY LAND AND BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

(Agenda No. 7)

CAF/41 The Chairman welcomed Sarah Slade, National Access Advisor for the Country Land and Business Association, to the meeting.

Mrs Slade thanked the Forum for the opportunity to attend the meeting and proceeded to outline:-

- a) Recent Policy Background
- b) Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 – outstanding issues
- c) Stakeholder Working Group on public rights of way –Stepping Forward report (the terms of reference for this group were circulated at the meeting)
- d) Stepping Forward – proposals
 - greater certainty
 - Improved application process
 - Negotiated solutions
 - Streamlining administrative procedures
 - Administrative flexibility
 - Improved authority performance
 - Integrated management of highways networks
- e) Farming Regulation Task Force report
- f) Natural Environment White Paper
- g) What next?

During discussion reference was made to the following issues:-

- 1) The difficulty in dealing with errors previously made in the recording of dedicated public footpaths and how this could be rectified;

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- 2) The high number of anomalies in Cornwall and the need for good communication with landowners in the resolution of these;
- 3) The need to be aware of the existence of permissive routes, particularly for those who do not live in the locality;

The Chairman thanked Mrs Slade for her attendance and presentation.

**REVISION OF CORNWALL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS STRATEGY -
DAVID ATTWELL**
(Agenda No. 8)

CAF/42 The Chairman welcomed David Attwell, principal Countryside Officer, to the meeting. He thanked the Forum for the opportunity to attend the meeting and proceeded to outline:-

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|-------------------|--|
| Delivering Access | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Resources- Value Sets- Opportunities- Our Performance- Review of Countryside Access- Strategic Review- Town and Country Planning Act Orders- Definitive Map Modification Orders- Public Path Orders- Definitive Map Management- Enforcement- Strategy and Policy- Planning- Partnerships and Investment- CCAF and User/Community Groups- Next Steps |
|-------------------|--|

During discussion reference as made to the following issues:-

1. a request for some information regarding the Cornwall Council access budget, particularly for the Forum;
2. the need to arrange a meeting between the Cornwall Council and the Members of the Forum to discuss the progress of the Strategic Review proposals at the appropriate time;
3. a request for the slides to be appended to the minutes;
4. there was an awful lot of work to do regarding Rights of Way in Cornwall – the Strategic Review had been agreed but not implemented. The Forum had realistic expectations whilst taking into account the authority's shrinking resources;
5. fears that there were too many reviews and not enough action.

In answer to comments made by Members, the Forum was advised that the issues would be discussed when the group met as part of the access review. There was need to set realistic targets that reflected resources and that could be delivered. The next stage was to create SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time)

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objectives from the April report and ensure the strategy reflected network priorities. The Cornwall Council team would also produce an annual work programme to compliment the review

POSSIBLE CORNWALL SMALL GRANTS SCHEME - JULIE BATE

(Agenda No. 9)

CAF/43 The Forum considered the report prepared by Julie Bate, Vice-Chairman of the Forum in connection with a possible Cornwall Small Grants Scheme.

The Principal Countryside Officer advised that he supported the idea and would discuss potential budget ideas for the scheme with his team leaders. A pilot project could be run using the existing LMP model and possibly combined with LAG funding if the applicant was via a parish group.

The Countryside Access Team Leader advised that he would discuss this with Alan Jeffery, budget holder.

It was moved by Chris Ferguson, seconded by Joy Thomas and

RESOLVED that Julie Bate continues to make further enquiries regarding the details of the scheme and reports back to the next meeting of the Forum.

SITE VISIT DISCUSSION

(Agenda No. 10)

CAF/44 This item will be carried over to the next meeting of the Forum.

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT

(Agenda No. 11)

CAF/45 The Forum considered the Draft Annual Report which had been circulated previously.

It was moved by Duncan Thurnell-Read, seconded by Nick Jeans and

RESOLVED that the Annual Report 2011/2012 be approved and circulated to Natural England in its current format subject to the inclusion of details from new members and deletion of details of Members who no longer sit on the Forum.

THE RAMBLERS 1ST MYSTERY WALKER REPORT - A SURVEY OF THE PATH NETWORK

(Agenda No. 12)

CAF/46 This item will be carried over to the next meeting of the Forum.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE FORUM

(Agenda No. 13)

CAF/47 This item will be carried over to the next meeting of the Forum.

WORKING GROUPS

(Agenda No. 14)

CAF/48 The following updates were received:-

COASTAL ACCESS WORKING GROUP - PETER TUNSTALL-BEHRENS

(Agenda No. 14.1)

CAF/49 In the absence of Peter Tunstall-Behrens, the Chairman advised that there was no information to report.

MOORLAND ACCESS WORKING GROUP - JULIE BATE

(Agenda No. 14.2)

CAF/50 Julie Bate advised that she had received correspondence from Ian Cooke, West Penwith Moors action Group who had requested to attend a Forum meeting and give a presentation on Carnyorth Moor. She reminded the Forum that the Working Group had met with Natural England and sought the views of the Forum.

It was moved by Nick Jeans, seconded by Jane Kiely and

RESOLVED that a site meeting be arranged for the Moorland Access Working Group inviting Mr Cooke to attend and that an update from Natural England be sought with their views on the current situation on Carnyorth Moor.

Julie Bate further advised that she had been in contact with Jill Goodman and was considering whether the group should hold a site meeting on Bodmin Moor.

It was moved by Duncan Thurnell-Read, seconded by Chris Ferguson

and **RESOLVED** that a site meeting of the Moorland Access Working Group be held on Bodmin Moor.

OS MAPPING WORKING GROUP - ADRIAN BIGG

(Agenda No. 14.3)

CAF/51 Adrian Bigg advised that he would be meeting with the Principal Countryside Officer to discuss the processing of applications for Modification Orders.

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The meeting ended at 5.03 pm.

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



Countryside Access Evaluation & Update CCAF 22.11.11

**David Attwell
Principal Countryside Officer
Transport, Waste and Environment**

Delivering Access

- “To assert and protect the rights of the public to the use and enjoyment of public rights of way”



Delivering Access - Resources

- Current challenges within TWE include:
- Freeze on vacant posts
- New Client / Provider model
- Env. Service savings in 2011/12 are 2.5 M
- Env Service savings in 2012/13 are 1.5 M
- Capital settlement for Env. Service as a whole was £500K for 2012/13

Delivering Access – Value Sets?

- We need to be able to place real 'values' on the network to justify resources:
 - Health and Well being
 - Economy
 - Culture
 - Equality and diversity
- We need to be more than a 'headline'!

Delivering Access - Opportunities

- Key focus for team and Env. Service
- 'Proactive' – inform, shape and enhance
- Effective use of resources (creativity)
- Better use of Internet, CAMS and GIS
- Improved practices and procedures
- Maximise investment
- Improve existing and develop new partnerships
- Monitor, evaluate, review and share

Delivering Access – Our Performance?

- Current performance is affected by:
 - Legacy caseload
 - Systems and procedures
 - Planning errors
 - External pressures
 - Staffing levels
 - An ever growing resource...

Delivering Access – Strategic Review

- CCAS produced in 2007 (10yr plan) incorporating statutory Rights of Way Improvement Plan
- Review of CCAS recommended by CCAF in 2010
- 'Refresh' looked at more efficient use of resources in line with unitary approach
- Identified 33 objectives
- Outcomes of 'refresh' were noted by Overview and Scrutiny in June 2011

Delivering Access - Strategic Review

- Key tasks to be actioned:
- Asset review and management plan (GIS)
Benchmark and re-visit BVPI 178
- Develop and monitor clear service standards - revisit categorisation (Gold, Silver etc)
- Review objectives in the Strategic Review and ensure they are 'SMART'
- Produce annual work programme
- Align policies and procedures

Delivering Access – Strategic Review

- Key tasks for developing Service Standards include:
 - Define path types and minimum standards
 - Prioritise allocation of resources across network
 - Develop standards of delivery TWE / NS
 - Inspection, monitoring and survey

Delivering Access – TCPA Orders

- Core tasks include:
- Currently we are dealing with 113 live cases
- Develop a policy and charging framework
- Rationalise existing procedure
- Improve planning registration procedure
- Look to re-orientate officer time to providing pre-application advice
- Review backlog and prioritise resources in line with new polices
- Monitor and report performance

Delivering Access – DMMO's

- Core tasks include:
- Currently 122 'live' Evidential Modification Orders dating from 1988
- Review existing policy (06) for prioritising applications and develop new policy
- Recruit into existing roles
- Review systems / procedures
- Identify potential Framework Provider
- Develop customer charter and standards
- Monitoring and reporting on performance

Delivering Access – Public Path Orders

- Core tasks include:
- Current case load of 134 'live' proposals
- Develop new policy framework
- Review existing systems / procedures
- Review historic cases and develop customer charter and standards
- Confirm charging and waivers policy
- Monitoring and reporting on performance



Delivering Access – Def Map Mgmt

- Core tasks include:
- Republication of definitive maps for 5 outstanding District areas
- Recruit existing full time role
- Complete survey of def. map for anomalies, identify resources and prioritise accordingly
- Consider adopting an area based approach based on the Devon CC model
- Monitoring and reporting on performance

Delivering Access – Enforcement

- Core tasks include:
- Recruitment
- Prioritisation of caseload and resources
- Pro-active targeting of landowners for ploughing and cropping
- Development of Service standards with Neighbourhood Services
- Monitoring and reporting on performance

Delivering Access - Strategy & Policy

- Current strategies we are supporting:
- LTP
- Green Infrastructure
- Core Strategy
- Protected Landscapes
- Localism
- Health and well being



Delivering Access – Planning

- Currently working with Planners on:
 - The highway design guide
 - Pre-application advice and training
 - Core Strategy & Town Framework Plans
 - Planning Errors resulting in enforcement or PPO's
- Cost recovery for time spent on planning related areas

Delivering Access - LMP

- Adding additional value to LMP
- Improved management / monitoring procedures
- Looking to increase coast path maintenance
- Develop Footpath Wardens (St. Ives)
- Path inspections and monitoring
- Sponsorship
- Encouraging use of volunteer groups

Delivering Access – Partnerships & Investment

- Efficient use of partners to deliver outcomes:
- SWCPA and SWCP team
- Project development and bid writing (AONB / SWCP)
- Town & Parish Councils
- User Groups and communities i.e. REACT
- New partners (NHS etc)

Delivering Access – CCAF & User / Community Groups

- Clear relationships, focus and roles
- Realistic expectations
- Effective communication with interested parties
- Best use of CCAF to inform policies and standards
- Development of local initiatives and best practice

Delivering Access – Next Steps

- Current tasks and timescales
- Service Plan (01.02.12)
- Re-focus and adoption of Strategic Review Objectives (01.09.12)
- Asset Management and Service Standards (on going - Inspections by 31.03.12)
- Planning Issues (on going)