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 20 November 2012 commencing at 2.00 pm.

Present:-	James Scobie (Chairman) Julie Bate (Vice-Chair) Adrian Bigg, Gill Derryman, Terry Faull, Robert Fraser, Roger James, Nicholas Jeans, Jane Kiely, Councillor Lugg and Councillor Paynter.
Also in attendance:-	Councillor Brewer.
Officers in attendance	D Attwell – Principal Countryside Officer T Bird – Environment Manager R Brebner – Democratic Services Officer E Coad – Senior Democratic Services Officer M Eastwood – Countryside Access Team Leader
Apologies for absence:-	Peter Edwards, Chris Ferguson, Robert Osborne, Councillor Shakerley, Peter Tunstall-Behrens and Jeremy Varcoe

INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME
(Agenda No. 1)

CAF/35 The Chairman welcomed everybody to the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - NOT ALREADY DECLARED
(Agenda No. 3)

CAF/36 There were no declarations of interest made.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 SEPTEMBER 2012
(Agenda No. 4)

CAF/37 It was moved by Councillor Lugg, seconded by Terry Faull and

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Meeting of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum held on 25 September 2012 were correctly recorded and that they be signed by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING OTHER THAN ON THE AGENDA
(Agenda No. 5)

CAF/38

1. CAF/19/Matters Arising other than on the Agenda – 1SW Cycle Project for Lanhydrock
   Jane Kiely noted the reply which had been received from the National Trust in response to the issues raised relating to the planning application. It was suggested that a letter be sent expressing the need to monitor the footpath situation, in particular the grass verge.

   The possibility of holding a future site meeting at Lanhydrock was made.

2. CAF/20/Chairman's Announcements/LAF Conferences
   The Chairman advised that the proposed SW Regional Chairman's meeting in November had been re-arranged.

3. CAF/20/Chairman's Announcements/Local Nature Partnership for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly
   The Chairman advised that more information would be available in due course.

4. CAF/23/Moorland and Open Access Working Group
   Julie Bate advised that the group was due to meet with Natural England on Thursday 22 November at 10am.

5. CAF/30/Paths4Communities
   In response to a query raised by Terry Faull regarding the Paths 4 Communities grant scheme the Principal Countryside Officer advised that Parish Councils considering making an application should contact the authority to discuss the future maintenance of the proposed path.

   Following a full discussion it was suggested that Jane Yates, Natural England and lead for the Paths 4 Communities scheme be invited to attend the next meeting of the Forum.

6. CAF31/Annual Report
   The Chairman advised that a completed Natural England Pro-Forma and the Annual Report had been sent to Natural England as requested by them.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS
(Agenda No. 6)

CAF/39 The Chairman made the following announcements:-

1. Resignation of Forum Member
   A letter of resignation had been received from Duncan Thurnell-Read to which the Chairman had responded, thanking him for his contribution to the Forum.

2. LAF Conferences
   Julie Bate would be attending the SW Regional Conference in Taunton on 30 November and possibly the National Conference in Sheffield in February 2013.

3. Growth and Infrastructure Bill
   This had been introduced by the Government.

WORKING GROUPS
(Agenda No. 7)

CAF/40 The following updates were received.

RIGHTS OF WAY AND DEFINITIVE MAP WORKING GROUP - ADRIAN BIGG
(Agenda No. 7.1)

CAF/41 Adrian Bigg presented the report which had been circulated prior to the meeting.

During discussion reference was made to the following:-

a) ROW Asset Survey

- Concern was expressed that there was no clear funding for the Surveys and a different approach may be needed. Officers were reviewing timescales and how best to achieve this through existing resources or alternative mechanisms.
- The survey would look at 'condition' of the asset and not its 'value' in a broader sense. This aspect would be tied up with the CCAS Review and evidential data collation on economy, health and well being etc. A Forum Member suggested looking at evidence linked to historic Foot and Mouth incidents.

b) Maintenance of the ROW Network

- A structure chart had been prepared and was circulated at the meeting outlining the main points of contact for the public.
- It was noted that the Council were moving systems to capture map based data from CAMS to WDM. As part of the new package an enhanced customer call and interface would be developed addressing some of the Forum's recent concerns.
- Officers from Cormac Solutions (CSL) LTD and Cornwall Council described the new 'client' and 'provider' model and explained the role of a Tecal Company and the profit that CSL would return to the Council annually. It was explained this would not necessarily benefit PrOW directly.
- Current budget challenges indicated that the Council spends £3.79/100 Metres for vegetation management and £2.45/100 M for infrastructure maintenance.

- Officers were looking at how best to develop LMP and delivery of maintenance at the local level. It was recognised that CSL Officers had specialist professional skills which needed to be retained.
- Cormac Solutions Ltd is a company wholly owned by Cornwall Council to deliver its work and manage Cornwall Council's countryside assets. As a Tekel Company (which means it is exempt from following certain EU procurement rules)it can only bid for up to 10% of its annual turnover in the external commercial market, therefore a sister company, Cormac Contracting has also been set up which can operate wholly on the commercial market tendering for work in and outside of the County. Profit from Cormac Contracting will be fed back into Cornwall Council to run its Services.

c) Definitive Map Issues

- the Planning Improvement Project was underway and would improve the recording of ROW on planning applications.
- There was a list of 100 Public Path Orders in progress. The DMMO Panel met quarterly with a register on the web.
- The Forum discussed express dedication and 'acceptance' by the authority. Officers would review the process in light of P4C and report back to the Forum.

d) Cornwall Countryside Access Strategy

- Due to resources progress has been slow. CCAF would be involved.
- The need to be updated on works on the ground was discussed and it was agreed this could be provided and fed back in the form of more substantial projects.
- It was noted that an overview would be provided of works in progress.

The Chairman thanked Adrian, the Members of the Working Group and the staff for their work relating to this.

Following the consideration on the matter is was

RESOLVED
i) that the Responses to 3.2 and 3.3 would be provided by the Countryside Access Team Leader
ii) that a list detailing capital/significant works and Cormac works on the access network would be circulated to the Forum by the Principal Countryside Officer.

COASTAL ACCESS WORKING GROUP - PETER TUNSTALL-BEHRENS
(Agenda No. 7.2)

CAF/42 Peter Tunstall-Behrens had prepared an update which was circulated to the Forum at the meeting.

MOORLAND AND OPEN ACCESS WORKING GROUP - JULIE BATE
(Agenda No. 7.3)

CAF/43 Julie Bate advised that a meeting would be held with Natural England on 22 November and a further update would be provided at the next meeting.

PROPOSED SMALL GRANTS SCHEME - VERBAL UPDATE BY JULIE BATE
(Agenda No. 8)

CAF/44
Julie Bate advised that it was proving difficult to progress the scheme due to it not now meeting the funding criteria for ECLAG. Other funding streams are available but may not deliver a useful Pilot Scheme and preparing bids for these funds is time consuming. Julie thanked David Attwell for his support so far and that of other Council Officers in reaching this stage.

The Principal Countryside Officer advised that following the Local Maintenance Partnership Review it was hoped to run about up to 12 pilot projects next summer to explore ways of enabling Parish Councils to carry out more work on their local path network. It is intended that CCAF will be involved in the development of this.

In the meantime it may be prudent to pursue other funding options (such as P4C) for the Sheviock Parish at a local level so that the groundwork already done here is not lost.

In the subsequent discussion it was suggested that a representative from the Localism Team/Elected Member be invited to attend a future meeting of the Forum

Arising from consideration of the matter it was

RESOLVED That a representative from the Localism Team/Elected Member be invited to attend a future meeting of the Forum.

TRAC PROJECT UPDATE - STEVE WOOD
(Agenda No. 9)

CAF/45 The Forum was advised that Steve Wood was unable to attend the meeting but would provide an update at the January meeting.

FORESTRY COMMISSION - POTENTIAL FOR WOODLAND CREATION - FURTHER CONSULTATION - BRIEF QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PEOPLE TO REPLY TO PERSONALLY
(Agenda No. 10)

CAF/46 The Chairman advised that Forum members could reply individually to the questionnaire.

RURAL HIGHWAYS BEST PRACTICE GUIDE CONSULTATION - COMMENTS BY CCAF TO HANNAH HARRIS BY 30 NOVEMBER 2012 - NEED FOR PROPOSED FUTURE GUIDE FOR FOOT PATHS, BRIDLE PATHS ETC - THE CHAIRMAN SUGGESTS INDIVIDUALS RESPOND TO THIS
(Agenda No. 11)

CAF/47 The Forum considered the Rural Highways Best Practice Guide Consultation which had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman advised that individuals could respond to the consultation.

It was moved by Councillor Paynter, seconded by Terry Faull and

RESOLVED That the Forum should respond to the consultation stating that it agreed with the proposals and that they would like to see them extended to Public Rights of Way areas.

CROW ACT 2000 - MOD CONSULTATION ON A SECTION 28 INDEFINITE DIRECTION - RESPONSE TO RICHARD BROOKS BY 23 NOVEMBER 2012
(Agenda No. 12)

CAF/48 The Forum considered the MOD consultation regarding a Section 28 Indefinite Action which had been previously circulated.

Following discussion, it was moved by Councillor Lugg seconded by Jane Kiely and

RESOLVED That the following response be submitted as the Forum's formal views:-

1. The Forum note the penultimate paragraph of your letter and welcomes the intention that public access should not be restricted unless necessary;
2. It would be helpful if information regarding small arms firing on Bodmin Moor could be made more publically available, say via the Bodmin Moor website – this would enable members of the public to check whether the area was being used prior to visiting the site;
3. The Forum requests if it would be possible for the Bridleways that enclose, and run along the edge of, the land on the Lizard Peninsular to remain open.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE FORUM
(Agenda No. 13)

CAF/49 The Forum noted the correspondence which had been received since the last meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS OF URGENCY
(Agenda No. 14)

CAF/50 A suggestion was made to hold a site visit for the TRAC Project in March

The meeting ended at 4.38 pm.

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