



Minutes

Date: 28th April 2026
 Time: 13:00 – 16:00
 Location: NCH Grenville Room / Microsoft Teams
 Chair: David Cooper (DC)
 Vice Chair: Shelley Barratt (SB)
 Attendees: Cllr Karen LaBorde (KL), Cllr Steve Webb (SW), Rob Knill (RK),
 Jeremy Elvins (JE), Jim Hancock (JH), Kay Driver (KD), Tim
 Passmore (TP), Charlotte Evans (CE), Donald Martin (DM), Steve
 Church (SC), Phil Allen (PA)

Apologies: Cllr Julian German, Susan Parker, Paul Rabbeth, Carol Wilson, Jon Rowell,
 Carly Cosh, Adam Chell

1. Welcome and Introductions

DC opened the meeting and welcomed all attendees.

2. Cormac Update – Don Martin (presentation copied to members)

DM talked through his presentation, giving a summary of the financial year that has just ended and explaining that the figures given are still in final review, so are yet to be confirmed. The slight underspend to budget across all programmes was primarily a result of resources being diverted to the storm Goretti response in the last quarter (which is funded from central funds). Cormac are looking to add more resilience for the coming year, which has an uplift of 6% to the budget.

Capital spend was £1.8m across 85 major schemes, with 107 new ones in the pipeline for the coming year. **AP26/2/1** - DW to send out the capital programme for 26/27 as soon as it is finalised.

Matters arising:

- Several members commented on the Arc of Attrition run, which is causing major surface issues to the network – DM advised that Cormac are now working with organisers and stakeholders to avoid a repeat.
- RK raised the issue of ELMP timing – there needs to be further consideration given, to avoid newly completed works being washed away during winter, which has been demoralising for some parishes this past year.
- SB questioned the underspend against budget, and whether this provided any benefit for other projects in future years. DM explained that it gets reabsorbed in other areas of the Council but that more resilience is being added to the plan for next year, fixing the outlay on bigger projects at the start. CE also said that work is being done to change how the underlying system works within CC, linked to ROWIP.
- SC said that delays to SWCP maintenance after Storm Goretti were understandable, but many people using it found blocked paths without any advance warning earlier on the path, often having to turn back and retrace long distances. DM said he will feed back to teams on the ground as that shouldn't happen – 'path closed' signs should be erected at the previous junction, not just at the point of blockage.
- SW noted that accessible paths lack a proper business plan to keep the paths accessible through the winter, so resurfacing work often has to be done every year. Is it a case of going to funding with a financial plan that includes all-year round funding? DM advised that the costs of interventions/re-profiling are to be addressed at heart of the capital program, but he is happy to look at individual issues separately. There is a need to optimise what we do with environmental concerns in mind as well.
- SW thanked all of the volunteer teams at Cormac. DM noted that CVS volunteer hours were up 33% this year, to over £1m equivalent spend.
- SB asked how CVS groups are publicised. DM advised that Cormac only support groups of people who are running the schemes, and they are not publicised directly. They do ensure anyone working is covered by their insurance.

All members thanked DM for his presentation.

3. RoWIP Update - Charlotte Evans (summary update copied to members)

CE talked through her presentation and advised that the 12-week consultation for RoWIP, that was planned to start during Spring/Summer this year, has been held up but she is hopeful it will still begin in Summer this year, aiming for full adoption in Spring 27. The main hold up has been due to waiting on feedback from internal stakeholders, who want to ensure that RoWIP fits in with the new Local Plan.

The new Local Plan has a Green Infrastructure session on 10th June, which will feed into the Open Space Strategy and RoWIP. For RoWIP to be effective we need buy-in from Planning, hence the need to integrate it into the Local Plan. The Town Council (TC) and Parish Council (PC) network were very vocal about the impact of planning development breaking up the local network.

Matters arising:

- DC asked who the arbiter is, to resolve these conflicts in policy? CE advised that there is a diverse range of stakeholders involved, not a single person or group.
- PA said that he agrees with the priorities, and that engaging with communities should be done via the PC and TC networks - these need to be strengthened by CLAF through the local network panels / CAPs.
- DC asked what proportion of TC & PC (out of 213) responded to RoWIP. CE responded that it was disappointingly only 17 but advised that they will all have another chance to provide feedback at the statutory consultation stage. Emails are sent to all PC clerks and CLOs. PA said that this shows there isn't a proper dialogue between CC and TC & PC on all this, and that CLAF need to activate engagement through the 12 CAP groups to improve response numbers from the PCs.
- SB noted that some TC & PC just deny all responsibility for the PROW network and say users should report any issues directly to CC. Therefore, CAP route is a better way to go.
- KD asked when the housing targets are going to start. CE noted that they are starting this summer with CC to define a plan on how to implement the targets. The timeline to deliver the new Local Plan is that it has to be refreshed by the end of 2028.
- KD noted the presence of Cornish Hedges on the RoWIP presentation and that she recently attended a talk at the Heritage Centre, where there was widespread concern over critical skills being lost, with very few apprentices learning the trade. CE advised that there is some new guidance for planners on this very topic, due to be published on 4th May at the start of National Hedge Week.

DC thanked CE for the update. DM and CE left the meeting.

4. Minutes of previous meeting.

Previous minutes – 27/01/2026 adopted, and approved unopposed (RK approved and JH seconded)

Follow up on Action Points from the previous meeting:

- AP26/1/1 - Ramblers' submission to RoWIP – ongoing (DC to pick up in PR's absence)
- AP26/1/2 - CAP Report for Feock – ongoing (PA)
- AP26/1/3 – Contact with Youth Council – ongoing, TP to follow up via CE
- AP26/1/4 – Constitution Amendments before AGM – ongoing DC
- AP26/1/5 – Review DEFRA Guidance – DC completed
- AP26/1/6 – DMMO Consultations to include local TRF Rep – JR completed
- AP26/1/7 – Consult National reps on DMMO Decisions – DC completed (Ramblers submitted a JR letter for Little Trenay, PINS admitted a technical error and so decision has been quashed and is now back with PINS to re-decide.)
- AP26/1/8 – Article on CLAF involvement in A30 works – CW has now left CLAF (AP discharged)
- AP26/1/9 – Parish & Town Council WG Update – PA discharged
- AP26/1/10 – Website updates – see AOB
- AP26/1/11 – Review of Skills Survey – DC completed
- AP26/1/12 – MoD Cardinham diversion response – DC completed

5. Changes to Membership / Appointment of New Members

- Bill Makin from National Trust has resigned from CLAF – Carly Cosh will take up that role and her formal appointment was noted.
- CW appointment has ended and doesn't wish to be re-appointed. She has been a member since 2018 and has contributed significantly to many areas, especially A30 improvement works. DC recognised her efforts and all members recorded their thanks.
- RK has also decided to terminate membership due to other public service commitments. DC recognises all of the contributions that RK has made, especially providing detailed responses to all consultation requests, and wished him well for the future.
- PR has also stepped down due to ill health and doesn't wish to be re-appointed. DC recorded thanks to PR for his contribution.
- SC advised that this will be his last meeting in his current tenure and that he doesn't wish to be re-appointed. SWCP Association committee to be consulted for a replacement – **AP26/2/2** - SC to raise at committee meeting tomorrow. DC recorded thanks to SC for all his work.

Declarations of interest – the next meeting in July will be our AGM. **AP26/2/3** - TP to send out declaration forms to all members to have them re-signed and returned before 30th June.

DC advised all members that if there is a specific item where you need to declare an interest, this should be done officially at the start of each meeting.

6. Path Classifications – Adam Chell

Postponed to next meeting.

7. PINS Update / Objections to Orders / Planning & PROW - Jon Rowell

Postponed to next meeting.

8. Working Groups Feedback (JE presentation copied to members)

After talking through his presentation, JE raised the question of how to accurately convey the surface standards on multi-user trails to the general public, and whether that information can be added to interactive mapping in the future. In a similar vein, there is a need to accurately depict the type of access points onto the trails, to enable different users to assess whether the routes are suitable for them or not. JE will take this offline and discuss further with Adam Chell, to see if CAMS will capture this information / whether it can be added to the interactive mapping. **AP26/2/4** – JE to discuss with Adam Chell

PA noted the significance of these points in relation to his upcoming presentation/report on the safety concerns around road crossings and trails.

JH suggested that it might be better to adopt the GLASS system of adding notes to routes that indicate which users the route is 'not suitable for...' which helps to reduce signage/labelling required.

DC concluded that the forum supports the idea in general, but it needs more thought to decide on what exactly to ask for, hence this item will go back to the WG to come up with a detailed proposal.

PA raised the question of the Mid Cornwall Metro connection to MUTs and the lack of provision for groups of cyclists on the trains. There has been no response from the railway team as to whether they will provide access for cyclists to use the trains, other than to state that there isn't currently any rolling stock that can be used. This point needs to be raised again by CLAF to ensure recommendation by CC is taken to GWR (or their future replacement). **AP26/2/5** - TP to check if any CC members are still

involved with the rail systems and also review previous CLAF minutes to determine what the last actions on this matter were.

DC thanked JE for the presentation.

Other updates from Working Groups:

- Major Schemes WG:
CW has left the forum so no further updates on the A30 works.
- Parish & Town Council WG – PA has ongoing action to create the presentation for CLAF to make to all CAP groups
- Health and Wellbeing WG – JH has now formally accepted chairman duties. Mobility law change responses were combined and submitted to the Department of Transport.
- ROWIP WG – no update as the report has been delayed, so no drafts have been received. No meeting planned until the report drafts are received.

9. Road crossings on trails (Report distributed to members)

PA summarised his report, highlighting the difference between the old and new safety recommendations and the lack of consistency, which creates confusion and a lack of certainty for the public. Barriers do still exist across many trails, so the expectation is that they will be across all. If the standards have changed then they should be applied consistently to all trails.

SW noted that weighted gates are a good solution in most cases. The Lighterage Hill crossing is unique and the general consensus is that the barrier is not positioned in the right place (too far away from the actual road) and so it is too easy to run or cycle straight across the road without stopping to check for traffic.

JH suggested that rumble strips (raised yellow lines getting closer together as you approach the road) might be effective and cheap to install as a consistent warning measure across all MUT-road crossings.

AP26/2/6 – PA/DC to meet with DM/AC/JR to discuss further. There needs to be a consistent approach to the way MUT are providing safe road crossings.

10. Correspondence to the Forum

- Carnmenellis Seeding and Planting scheme - response sent 16/03/26
- Mobility law change review - response sent 08/04/26
- Consultation on A30 and A38 Access Improvements – **AP26/2/7** - JE to investigate any links to his MUT work. **AP26/2/8** – DC to circulate to all members for comment.

10. Any Other Business

- CLAF Website – DC has updated the CLAF website to include all of the recent agendas/minutes and member information. TP now has access to edit the relevant CC webpage. We now need to marry up the two and decide what to keep on each side. TP/DC to continue work on this.

- ICT Connect Ltd confirmed that their contract to build the CLAF website has finished – they were only involved in the initial set up and design but can help further in the future if needed.
AP26/2/9 - DC to talk to JET about domain payments for the CLAF website.

11. Time and Date of Next Meeting

- 28/07/26 (AGM) – **13:00 – 16:00**

AP26/2/10 - TP to confirm room bookings and send out invite to members.

The forum needs to produce an annual report, to be signed off in July and submitted to Natural England. **AP26/2/11** – DC to consult members and draft this report.

Provisional dates for subsequent meetings:

- 27/10/26

Action Point Tracking Table

Action Point ID	Brief Description	Assigned To	Date Completed
AP26/1/1	Ramblers' submission to RoWIP	PR -> DC	
AP26/1/2	CAP report for Feock	PA	
AP26/1/3	Follow up contact for Youth Council	TP/CE	
AP26/1/4	Constitution amendments before AGM	DC/JR	
AP26/1/5	Review DEFRA Guidance	DC	28/04/26
AP26/1/6	DMMO Consultations – add local TRF rep	JR	02/02/26
AP26/1/7	Consult national reps on DMMO decisions	DC/JR	28/04/26
AP26/1/8	Article on CLAF involvement in A30 works	CW	28/04/26
AP26/1/9	Parish & Town Council WG update	PA	28/04/26
AP26/1/10	Publishing CLAF docs on the CC website	TP	
AP26/1/11	Review of Skills Survey responses	DC	28/04/26
AP26/1/12	MoD Cardinham diversion response	DC	02/02/26
AP26/2/1	Capital Programme 2026-27 to be sent out	DW	
AP26/2/2	Consult SWCP Association for new rep	SC	
AP26/2/3	Send out declaration forms prior to AGM	TP	
AP26/2/4	Surface standards / access points on maning	JE/AC	
AP26/2/5	Mid Cornwall Metro – MUT case history	TP	
AP26/2/6	MUT barriers / safety discussion – next steps	PA/DC	
AP26/2/7	A30/A38 access & links with MUT	JE	
AP26/2/8	Circulate A30/A38 consultation with members	DC	30/04/26
AP26/2/9	CLAF website domain – check payments	DC	
AP26/2/10	AGM room bookings / send out invites	TP	08/05/26
AP26/2/11	CLAF Annual Report prior to AGM	DC	

Forum Membership (as at date of meeting):

<i>Landowner/ Manager Group (7)</i>	<i>User Group (7)</i>	<i>Others Group (3)</i>	<i>Cornwall Council (3)</i>
Martin Howlett Jeremy Elvins Carly Cosh	Carol Wilson David Cooper Paul Rabbeth Philip Allen Shelley Barratt Stephen Church Rob Knill	Jim Hancock Kay Driver Susan Parker	Karen LaBorde Julian German Steven Webb

Working Group Members (as at date of meeting):

- Major Schemes WG: Carol Wilson
- Multi User Trails WG: Jeremy Elvins, Adam Chell
- Parish and Town Council WG: Phil Allen (Chair), Rob Knill, Shelley Barratt, David Cooper
- RoWIP WG: Shelley Barratt (Chair), Kay Driver, Rob Knill, Jim Hancock, David Cooper
- Health and Wellbeing WG: Jim Hancock, Steven Webb,
- China Clay Area WG: Jeremy Elvins, Ollie Howe, Hannah Rodger, Paul Rabbeth