



WREXHAM LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Thirty-second meeting of the forum held in Committee Room 3 at the Guildhall, Wrexham on Friday, 6 February 2009 at 1.30 pm

01/09 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Attendance:

PRESIDING OFFICER AND SECRETARY

Emma Haldane

MEMBERS

John Cooper-Poole
Sue Gittins
John Marchant (WCBC)
Tim Stratton
Edward Wardle
Mabyn Pickering
Gerald Moss
Peter Cade
Janet Williams
Gwynfor Jones
Mary Roberts
John Evans
Natalie Edwards
George Kinder
Mike Crawshaw
Guy Springett

NON MEMBERS

Martin Howorth, WCBC
Alun Price, CCW
Zara Lomax (Ecologist, WCBC)

Apologies: Shelagh Roberts

02/09 Presentation by Zara Lomax, Ecologist

Zara Lomax, County Ecologist gave a power point presentation explaining her work within the County and her role within the planning application process.

03/09 Member Introductions

Emma Haldane, acting as Presiding Officer to the forum welcomed new and old members to the first meeting of a new 3 year term. She emphasised the



importance of balanced representation in the forum of recreational access users and landowners and occupiers, together with a representation of other interests.

Members in turn gave a brief presentation of their background, business and leisure interests.

04/09 Matters Arising from Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 November 2008 **15/08 Cross Border Issues**

Wrexham was keen to forge closer ties with other LAFs. One suggestion was to form a working group to look solely at cross border issues.

Secretary had received positive responses from Denbighshire, Flintshire, Powys and Cheshire.

Sue Gittins and Tim Stratton agreed to represent Wrexham as part of the working group.

ACTION: Secretary to contact other LAFs to arrange date and venue

05/09 Secretary's Report

- As part of the Communication Strategy, secretary proposed future dates for next years' meetings, these being:

Date	Venue
Thursday, 7 th May 2009	Coedpoeth – followed by field trip
Thursday, 6 th August 2009	Venue to be agreed – followed by field trip
Friday, 6 th November 2009	Committee Room 3, Guildhall

- Secretary asked that all membership database forms be returned from new members as soon as possible.

ACTION: Secretary to collate information and distribute to all WLAf members

- Lost Ways Research**

Adrian Walls, LAF secretary for Denbighshire had organised a 2 day training session at the Old Gaol, Ruthin at the end of February to specifically look at 'Lost Ways' research. There was one place available for a Wrexham LAF member to attend.

AGREED: Janet Williams to attend on behalf of Wrexham

- Secretary gave thanks to Mabyn Pickering on behalf of the forum for all her time and hard work given as acting chair of the last forum.

06/09 Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Update

Martin Howorth, Parks, Countryside and Rights of Way Manager, presented to the Forum improvement works relating to the ROWIP for 2008/09 with a review of achievements made over the last 12 months.

07/09 Report from Access Rangers

John Marchant presented a report by rangers Alison Whitley, Dave Smith and Sion Roberts of work currently underway in the County.

Alison reports that:

- The path project work in Gwersyllt is half completed and going well. She will be starting to check the completed works in the next few weeks and putting together a press release for volunteer path walkers and adopt a path helpers for schemes in Brymbo, Coedpoeth and Gwersyllt communities.
- Alison is currently looking at the next footpath project for 2009. Broughton is a possibility.

Dave reports that:

- He has identified works to be carried out on the Offa's Dyke Path for 2009/10 and has met with representatives from the trails managing authority and CCW.
- He is dealing with a large backlog of maintenance issue reports by the team of volunteers.
- Dave has now finished designing several new batches of the new destination signpost flags and since the last forum meeting has finished this year's BVPI inspections.

Sion reports that:

- He has been spending most of his time dealing with the backlog of general complaints the council receives and liaising with contractors. All the Rights of Way Improvement Plan work for 08/09 should be completed by the end of this month. He has worked on the provisional list of work to be carried out as part of ROWIP for 2009/10.
- Sean will be leading a guided walk in April starting from World's End car park, details of which can be found in the Information and Events booklet for 2009.

Charlotte Flett (Rights of Way Team) reports that:

- Feedback from the volunteers, who have been walking the promoted routes, has been coming in slowly. This information is currently being input on a database and inspection reports are being printed. Works will be carried out accordingly.
- We have a new footpath adoptee for the Overton area who has recently taken over the work of Mr Ken Farrell. Mr David Burton has already started to survey the network in Overton and has given feedback on 4 paths.
- With help from the web team, a volunteer's website is being discussed in further detail and the next step will be a test page created by the web team, to see how it will look once everything has been finalised.

08/09 Countryside Council for Wales

Alun Price introduced himself to new members of the forum, giving a brief background of his work within CCW, highlighting current projects and issues.

Splash Grant

The Environment Agency for Wales, sponsored by WAG, has launched a Splash Grant scheme to provide large and small grants to support projects throughout Wales that improve or promote public access to waterways, lakes, reservoirs and coastal areas. Grants can cover up to 100% of costs. Applications are invited from voluntary and community groups, the public and private sector or individuals.

Access to Inland Waters in Wales

The Welsh Canoeing Association (WCA) in 2008 had put in a petition of nearly 10,000 signatures to the Assembly calling for new legislation that would secure rights of access to and along inland waters.

The National Assembly for Wales's Petitions Committee is considering the petition from WCA and examining the issue further by carrying out a short inquiry which they aim to complete by the end of March 2009.

Let's walk Cymru Grants Programme 2008/09

'Let's Walk Cymru' is providing grants to organisations and groups across Wales. The programme seeks to explore innovative ways of promoting walking to improve health and well bring. For further information please contact www.lets-walk-cymru.org.uk

09/09 Any other Business

- John Marchant announced that he would be retiring from Wrexham at the end of March. The forum thanked John for all his excellent work, advice and support over the past 6 years.

ACTION: Secretary to advise members of new WCBC representative when appointed.

- **Kings Mills Car Park**

A problem with pot holes to the access road and the car park at Kings Mills had been reported.

ACTION: John to investigate and secretary to report at the next meeting

10/09 Items for Next Agenda

- Election of Chair/Deputy Chair
- Draft Annual Report

11/09 Date and Location of Next Meeting

Thursday, 7 May 2009 at 1.30 pm 'PLAS PENTWYN' Coedpoeth Enterprise & Life Long Learning Centre, Castle Road, Coedpoeth