



WLAF 31

WREXHAM LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

CONFIRMED MINUTES

Thirty-first meeting of the forum held in Committee Room 3 at the Guildhall, Wrexham on Friday, 14 November 2008 at 2.00 pm

35/08 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Attendance:

ACTING CHAIR

Mabyn Pickering

SECRETARY

Emma Haldane

MEMBERS

John Cooper-Poole
Mike Crawshaw
Sue Gittins
John Marchant (WCBC)
Shelagh Roberts
Gerald Moss
Edward Wardle
Karl Prakerl

NON MEMBERS

Sean Hanratty (WCBC)
Matthew Ellison (WCBC)
Dave Rogers (CRAG)
Wayne Hughes (WCBC)
Helen Cook (WCBC)
Tim Stratton (Rider)
Jo Hughes (BHS)
Carol Bryce (BHS)
Martin Howorth (WCBC)

Apologies:

Members: Margaret Murphy and Mavis McBride

Non-members: Alun Price CCW, Peter Cade, Janet Williams

36/08 Dog Control Orders

Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2005

Helen Cook, Senior Environmental Health Officer and Wayne Hughes, Senior Environmental Enforcement Officer gave a Power Point presentation on Dog Control Orders, making reference to the following:

- What the current legislation was
- Police legislation
- Options for Dog Control Orders
- Consultation
- Results of consultation
- A summary of the advantages and disadvantages of Dog Control Orders
- How it would be implemented
- Recommended Orders



Helen explained that Dog Control Orders were introduced by [s55-67 of the Clean Neighbourhood Act 2005](#) (CNEA) on 6 April 2006 and that there was currently no duty on a Local Authority to enact these orders. The Local Authority also had a duty to consult with any parties that may be significantly affected by the Order and that the Order be necessary and proportionate.

As part of the consultation process, local community councils and affected bodies had been contacted asking for their views and a public survey in 'Connect' magazine had been carried out specifically looking at:

- Dogs on leads in public areas such as cemeteries and existing byelaw areas
- Dogs on leads when directed to do so by an Officer on any land in the open air to which the public have access
- Dogs to be excluded from e.g. Children's Play Areas, Crematoriums and designated sports pitches
- Dog Fouling Order – An Offence of failing to remove faeces in line with current legislation.

Helen explained that as part of the recommendations made further consultations would be made before introducing DCO's and that they would focus resources on priorities. They would also monitor and review the DCO's in 2 years time.

37/08 Matters Arising from Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 August 2008

15/08 Cross Border Issues

Wrexham was keen to forge closer ties with other LAFs. One suggestion was to join working groups to look solely at the issue of cross border paths between Wrexham and neighbouring counties. This was felt to be a way of instigating closer working.

Secretary had written to Denbighshire, Flintshire, Powys and Cheshire LAF secretaries and had received a positive response from Cheshire, Powys and Denbighshire.

AGREED: Action to be agreed at the next meeting of the new forum in February 2009

27/08 Chairman's Report Overton Volunteer

Ken stated that he would be retiring from his volunteer work in Overton shortly and hoped that his work would be taken over by another local resident.

John was pleased to report that David Barton had volunteered to help with footpath work in the Overton area.

28/08 WLAFF Membership

15 applications had been received to date. John felt that there was a good balance between landowners and users. The forum had received no applications from cyclists.

Action: Secretary to look at ways of promoting interest.

38/08 Countryside Recreational Access Group (CRAG)

Dave Rogers gave a presentation on work completed and currently underway.

Dave explained that CRAG seeks to develop close partnerships with highways authorities to help assist them in managing their networks and to provide voluntary

support in updating records, repairing routes and undertaking general maintenance.

A project to replace and re-lay some of the sleepers on the "Wayfarer" was organised by CRAG in the summer of 2008. One problem found initially was the task of sourcing the sleepers. He explained that the authority had helped the project by providing 12 sleepers to help in repairing the track.

On behalf of the authority, John Marchant thanked CRAG for all their hard work and help.

39/08 Secretary's Report

- Secretary thanked all existing members who had decided to re-apply for the new forum.
She explained that interviews would be held shortly and that she would be writing to confirm in due course.
- As part of the Communication Strategy, secretary proposed future dates for next years meetings, these being:

Friday, 6th February in Committee Room 3 (first meeting of new forum)

Thursday 7th May – Field Trip followed by meeting

Thursday 6th August – Field Trip followed by meeting

Friday, 6th November in Committee Room 3

AGREED: Timetable to be agreed at the next meeting

40/08 Safer Access to Bridleways – Tim Stratton Presentation

Concerns had been raised at the previous meeting around safer roads and rider access to North East Wales bridleways.

Tim Stratton identified various problems and gave an informative presentation of his findings looking significantly at:

Facilities and routes for riders locally and in surrounding counties;

Busy Roads 'Pinch Points';

Rider hazards such as Blind Access, Cattle Grids and Gates, Slippery Surfaces/ORPA's

Matthew Ellison, Transport and Asset Management stated that Tim's comments and findings would be noted and that he would look at ways the Council could help to try and solve the problems raised looking mainly at safer crossing points for riders/ carriage drivers and trying to control the speed of traffic in hazardous areas.

41/08 Rights of Way Improvement Plan – Update

Martin confirmed that the allocated money had now been received from WAG and that the Rights of Way team were working hard using it on identified projects.

The authority would be looking at applying for £60,000 per year to keep in line with the ROWIP.

He would report in February and let new members know how the money is to be spent.

Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs)

Sean reported that the team were on target and that by the end of this current year 5 would have been completed.

He asked that the forum come up with a proposal for a new bridleway link i.e. Minera, Moss Valley, Brymbo.

Action: Mabyn to speak with Sean and Tim Stratton.

42/08 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 Coedpoeth project is complete and the signpost installation and new flags will follow soon. The Gwersyllt project has been surveyed and a schedule of works drawn up. Tenders will go out to a number of different contractors next week and a decision will be made before the end of the year as to which will receive the works.

Dave reports that:

- Offa's Dyke Path work is currently underway and due to be completed on time, and he is in the process of identifying works for the next year.
- November's BVPI's are underway, and he is happy that the Wats Dyke Way Heritage Trail has now officially opened.

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. More than half of the work to be carried out as part of the ROWIP has been completed with the remaining work to be completed before Christmas.
- A contractor will shortly begin work on clearing/brushing various paths with steep gradients and steps as part of the public rights of way winter maintenance schedule.

Charlotte reports that:

- Since advertising for volunteers to help walk the county's promoted routes there has been a really good response. Nearly all the promoted routes have now been allocated to individuals, some have been allocated to walking groups such as a section of the Wats Dyke Way, and already we have received feedback for a number of walks. Over the next few months she hopes to receive more feedback and to start improving the promoted routes.
- We are also closer to launching our volunteers web page on the website. There will hopefully be a place that volunteers can go for information re. volunteering and what they can do in Wrexham to help. We also hope to include a message board so that the volunteers can interact with one another.
- We have received some 5 year surveys back from surveyors recently and now only have 7 communities left unallocated and 11 still being surveyed.

43/08 Countryside Council for Wales
Apologies received from Alun Price

44/08 Any other Business
Shell Brook

The footbridge at Shell Brook near its confluence with the Dee has been unusable since flooding in late 2007. Part of the Maelor Way, the route had been temporarily diverted onto the B5069, Overton to St. Martin's road.

Edward had received a copy of a letter addressed to Owen Paterson MP from Valarie Beint, Director of Community Services at Shropshire County Council.

It reported that the bridge had now been righted for the time being and staked down by a local volunteer who has also cleared the access to the west of the bridge. The bridge is now a temporary solution. A new steel structure is to be installed in the next financial year.

It stated that the route west of the bridge is not shown on the definitive map and that they intended to work with the landowner to get it added. Gordon Emery, a local volunteer and instigator of the Maelor Way is continuing the process after the initial work is done by Dave Smith and all parties intend to resolve this long running situation.

45/08 Items for Next Agenda

- Cross Border Issues

46/08 Date and Location of Next Meeting

Friday, 6 February 2009 at 1.30 pm in the Guildhall, Wrexham