

WREXHAM LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
DRAFT MINUTES

**Forty second meeting of the Forum held at the Guild Hall,
Wrexham, on Friday 30th September 2011.**

01/11 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

Attendance:

SECRETARY:

Caroline Selby (CS)

CHAIR:

Mabyn Pickering (MP)

MEMBERS:

Sue Gittins (SG)

Shelagh Roberts (SR)

John Cooper-Poole (JCP)

Mike Crawshaw (MC)

Gerald Moss (GM)

Tim Stratton (TS)

Bill Stephens (BS)

Ken Mumford (KM)

Edward Wardle (EW)

NON-MEMBERS:

Sean Hanratty (SH) WCBC

Sion Roberts (SR) WCBC

Nicola Holmwood (NH) WCBC

Melina Jones (MJ) Observer

Apologies:

Martin Howarth

George Kinder

MP welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Ken Mumford as a new member.

02/11 MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING HELD ON 3RD JUNE 2011:

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

- **Narrow Stiles**

The Kissing Gates in Overton are extremely narrow as are the gates by the old school in Marchwiell.

It is planned to replace the Kissing Gates in Chirk.

- **Local Development Plan**

MP, SG and TS have asked that Wrexham LAF be consulted.

LAFs are not statutory consultees but are a statutory forum of the Welsh Government.

- **4x4s in Countryside**

Some vehicles are still going off the designated route. Also some of the signs have been removed.

Wayfarers is a highway but not a public Right of Way.

- **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty:**

There are people in the Ceiriog Valley who are unhappy with the proposed extension of AONB. The Glyn Ceiriog & Chirk Partnership is an unelected body but it is representing the views of local people.

There are other designations in place to protect the Glyn Ceiriog Valley.

MC stated that there are elected representatives to represent the residents and farmers. People who work the land have the best interests of the land at heart and also have the expertise.

- **Glastir Scheme:**

It may be 2014 before it has any impact on landowners.

Permissive Paths may be negotiated in Glastir – a targeted element. It was hoped that ways for carriages could be included, if at all possible.

AONB and Glastir need to be discussed as a political aspect.

- **Broughton Community Path Project:**

Kissing Gates have been put in place.

- **Access Rangers:**

The survey has taken place.

Some funding is available via Northern Marches. It is hoped that some paths could be included around the canal, including the buffer zone.

- **Minera Quarry Trust**

MP and TS visited Minera Quarry Trust and it was noted that some paths are not accessible. North Wales Wildlife Trust is looking into more open access. This would probably be in partnership with WCBC.

- **Claim Forms**

These are available from the secretary.

- **Updates**

Windy Hill – confirmed as a footpath.

The Flash (Brymbo) – the Order should be made in the next few weeks.

Bettisfield Railway Line – no further progress to date.

- **Planning Update**

Information is sent via email. Members, listed below, are able to assist in the following areas of the county borough:

BS – Gwersyllt and Moss

KM – Gwersyllt

GM – Bronington and border also Ceiriog Valley

JCP – Rossett

SR – Garth

MC – Ceiriog Valley

TS – Bwlchgwyn, Brymbo and Moss

MP and SG – Erddig, Bersham, Hafod and Esclusham

- **Bronington 37**

Sion has contacted the landowner, who has removed the padlocks from the gate.

- **Terrier Maps**

These include a list of old railway lines and other land owned by WCBC. The Asset Management department of WCBC is able to provide information and assistance.

03/11 CHAIRS REPORT:

Members were encouraged to re - apply for membership to the new LAF, as it is a steep learning curve and there should be some continuity.

It is hoped to have an Induction Session for both new and long standing LAF members.

The process of Orders, Diversions, and Modifications is time consuming, bureaucratic and costly.

The Rights of Way personnel, Martin, Sean, Sion, Dave, Nicola and Alison, being a small but dedicated team.

Sue Gittins has recently undergone knee surgery and so wishes to step down as vice chair, with immediate effect. Tim Stratton has agreed to be the acting vice chair for the remaining time of this LAF. The procedure for the appointment was checked with the Chair of LAF Wales.

Sue was thanked for all the work she has undertaken while holding the post of vice chair.

Tim will represent this LAF at the LAF Chairs meeting taking place on 13th October in Llanelwedd.

Funding streams are being sought for projects, some of which may involve other WCBC departments.

Gerald Moss was thanked for his continued vigilance in the Ceiriog Valley.

04/11 SECRETARYS REPORT:

The secretary reported on work undertaken and meetings attended, including the National Conference for Local Access Forums in Wales.

The secretary explained that the second 3 year term would draw to a close in November 2011 and that a new Forum would be appointed. All existing members are invited to re apply for WLAF membership for a further term and application forms would be circulated in due course.

ACTION:

CS to circulate application forms.

05/11 ACCESS RANGERS:

Llanarmon - Sion is to check the Llanarmon D.C. area re access to footpaths and Public Rights of Way, as problems have been encountered by people wishing to access the hill from the road. BS to send details.

Lower Singrett Farm – access is obstructed. SG to send details to SR.

Glyn Ceiriog 2 - confirmed as a bridle path.

Glyntraian 2 – a section has been cleared and new bridle gates have been ordered. The owners, Forestry Commission, are to be contacted re some larger trees that need clearing. SR to inform LAF of progress.

The application for a bridle way was made in 1992. There is a time delay due to a block on the path. The Inquiry was won and the closing date for any appeal is 7th October 2011. Any appeal would be to the High Court.

ACTIONS:

BS to send information to SR.

GM to send survey to SR.

SG to send information to SR.

SR to investigate Llanarmon and Lower Singrett Farm

SR to inform of progress re Glyntraian 2

06/11 COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES:

MP is to contact re attendance at meetings.

ACTION:

MP to contact CCW.

07/11 Presentation by Sean Hanratty, Definitive Map Team Leader, WCBC:

Sean gave a presentation on:

- Public Rights of Way
- Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs)
- Public Path Orders and Agreements

Sean circulated members with copies of the presentation, which explained the processes involved along with definitions. He also circulated a list of cases current as at 30th September 2011 re Modification Orders, Diversions and Creations.

It was noted that some people find the wording on the web re Orders, etc. difficult to understand. The presentation would be useful when navigating the website.

Sean was thanked for an excellent presentation which members found extremely interesting and useful. Sion and Nicola were thanked for their input during the item.

08/11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- i) A bike race in aid of the hospice is taking place on 9th October 2011, across parts of Wrexham and Denbighshire. It was reported that it had been difficult to obtain information and that some consultation had taken place, but at a late stage. There is disruption due to cyclists practising and road repairs. Some local people and businesses feel that there will be no benefit, as some roads will be closed for all or part of the race and that consultation with residents and businesses should have taken place at an early stage. Concern was expressed over the closure of road and the effects on both businesses and residents. It was noted that this is a matter for the Highways Department.
- ii) It was reported that Rossett will be affected by the Chester marathon, but that there had been consultation at all stages, for some time.
- iii) Proposed extension of AONB – SR attended a meeting with WCBC and CLA. This may help landowners and should help tourism.
- iv) MP, SG and TS are hoping to meet with representatives from the Tourism department and will raise this matter.

- v) It was reported that the latch on the gate put in place at Brymbo 66, is very user friendly.
- vi) There is a Definitive Map for Rights of Way but only as part of access rights on the Highways Classification Map. There is a need to have one map with all paths and rights of way marked. KM to bring examples to the next meeting.

ACTIONS:

MP, SG and TS to arrange meeting with Tourism department.
KM to bring examples of paths, etc. to next meeting.

09/11 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

Northern Marches and Sustrans to be contacted.

10/11 NEXT MEETING:

Friday, 11th November 2011, beginning at 2pm. Venue to be circulated.

Friday, 3rd February 2012, beginning at 2pm. Venue to be circulated.

Due to parking difficulties, it was suggested that more meetings could be held at venues other than the Guildhall. Secretary to investigate.