

Brecon Beacons National Park Local Access Forum
Confirmed Minutes of the 7th Meeting held at 2pm on Thursday 11th April 2019
at BBNPA Offices, Brecon

Present

Ian Mabberley (IM) - Chairman	Tracy Purnell (TP)
Richard Ball (RB) - Secretary	Steve Rayner (SR)
Pam Bell (PB)	Dave Sharman (DS)
Stuart France (SF)	Paul Sinnardurai (PS)
Hywel Morgan (HM)	Katherine Whitrow (KW)
Josie Pearson (JP)	Colin Woodley (CW)
Ruth Pickvance (RP)	

Observers

Fiona Ford (FF)	Torfaen CBC/Eastern Valleys LAF
Sarah Tindell (ST)	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
Caroline Ferguson	Carmarthenshire CC/Carmarthenshire LAF
Steve Bignell	Black Mountains land use partnership (BMLUP) Ranger
Eifion Jones (EJ)	Rights of Way Officer BBNPA (Item 5 & 11)
Lisa Lloyd	Rights of Way Assistant BBNPA
Ilona Carati	Activity Leader – Active Aging Project BBNPA (Item 6)

1. Welcome, Introductions and apologies

IM welcomed members and observers to the meeting. Apologies were received from Toby Veall, Denis Murphy, Chris Waterhouse, Debra Hughes, Philippa Cherryson, Ian Jenkins and Judith Harvey (BBNPA). RB confirmed that Patrick Dobbs had resigned from the LAF.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of 6th Meeting held on 10th January 2019

With one minor amendment the minutes were accepted and the Chairman authorised to sign them as a correct record.

3. Matters arising not otherwise appearing on agenda

RB reported that the BBNPA ENRAW Grant bid was unsuccessful, as yet Welsh Government (WG) hasn't provided any feedback. Across Wales very few access project bids have been successful.

BMLUP Rangers – IM introduced Steve Bignell who has taken over from Matt Kersely as lead ranger. IM thanked Steve for attending the meeting.

Bryn Arw Woodland Creation – RB said that he had received notification that consent under Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 had been applied for.

4. Funding for access and rights of way in the BBNP

PS provided members with a verbal update and explained that access and rights of way work is facing extreme funding constraints as there is currently no capital money for 2019-20 following the end of ROWIP grants. There may be another ENRAW grant window so members were asked to give some thought on potential projects. Members discussed possible ways of raising money for access and rights of way.

5. Draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation

EJ gave an update on the draft ROWIP. Consultation on the Draft Plan ended on 17th March with 11 responses being received. LAF members were provided with all the responses and EJ outlined the BBNPA's response to the comments and details of proposed changes to the Draft ROWIP document. LAF members agreed to support the proposed amendments and agreed with the reasons for not making some of the suggested changes put forward during the consultation.

The Draft ROWIP would now be amended and submitted to the BBNPA Planning, Access and Rights of Way (PAROW) Committee for signing off. A delivery plan will be produced with a set of actions which will generate a work programme. This document will be presented to the LAF for comment.

IM thanked the rights of way team for all the work carried out producing the ROWIP.

6. Active Aging

Ilona Carati, Activity Leader for the Active Aging Project, provided members with a summary of the project and explained that it aims to improve health and wellbeing of older people, loosely defined as 55yrs plus by engaging with them and encouraging access into the countryside. The focus is as much about social interaction as it is the walking activity. The project is currently running 4 walks over two day in Brecon and Ystradgynlais and is looking to offer walks in other areas. Leaflets for upcoming walks were circulated.

7. Annual Report

Members accepted the annual report and RB explained that IM would present the report to the BBNPA at the PAROW committee in June.

8. Llyn y Fan Fach access

Judith Harvey provided an update via email. Drawings and costing for the improvements to the track have been commissioned. Once Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) are happy with the proposals graziers, residents and user groups will be consulted.

A planning application has been submitted for the soft expansion of the car parking area. Objections have been received.

IM added that the meeting with Jonathan Jones DCWW had been very positive

9. LAF Chairs Meeting

IM gave members a brief summary of the meeting.

10. National Access Forum Wales Update

SR circulated a summary of 4th April meeting and gave a brief outline of the discussions.

Members discussed the WG response to the Taking Forward Wales' Sustainable Management of Natural Resources Consultation – Access Proposals, the WG written statement was published on 4th April 219 and circulated to members.

11. Rights of Way Diversion

Govilon School – Two of the LAF members had raised concerns and questioned the need for the footpath to be diverted. EJ explained the situation regarding the application to divert the public footpath due to development and outlined the weakness in the planning process whereby the applicant requires planning permission before they can apply for diversion of the right of way.

CF said that the same issue had arisen in Carmarthenshire and the LAF had agreed to receive all planning consultations that affect a right of way so that they have an opportunity to comment at the earliest opportunity. FF said that she forwards planning applications that have a significant effect on row to the LAF members to provide comments.

Members agreed for all planning consultations affecting rights of way to be sent to the LAF Members to comment on. Responses to be sent to LL/EJ. This will be trialled until the next meeting.

12. LAF Member Recruitment

Patrick Dobbs has tendered his resignation from the LAF and IM to write to thank Patrick for his contribution to the LAF over the past few years

There is now a vacancy on the LAF and IM advised members that two expressions of interest have been received – from a fishing and cycling background. Members agreed that another member should be appointed. RB advised that the maximum number of members that are allowed to sit on the LAF is 22 so unfortunately only one of the interested parties could be appointed. Members voted and agreed that a cycling background would be very useful given the WG proposals.

13. AOB

IM said that he had written to Joe Daggett, National Trust, and had received a response giving an update regarding the proposed car parking at Pont ar Daf.

Date of the next meeting

9th July 2019, Venue to be confirmed.