

Brecon Beacons National Park Local Access Forum

Confirmed Minutes of the meeting of the 8th April at 2pm

Via Teams Video Conference

Present

Ian Mabberley (Chairman) (IM) Karen Harris (KH) Kath Whitrow (KW) Colin Woodley (CW) Ian Jenkins (IJ) Steve Rayner (SR) Phillipa Cherryson (PC)	Pam Bell (PB) Ruth Pickvance (RP) David Sharman (DS) Denis Murphy (DM) Stuart France (SF) – unable to continue due to connection issues.
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Observers

NRW – Michael Smith (MS)
BBNPA – Helen Lucocq (HL)
BBNPA – James Lawrence (JL)
BBNPA – Jason Rees (JR)

Member of the public

Phil O'Shea

Secretary

Eifion Jones BBNPA

1 Welcome and Apologies – Chairman

IM welcomed members and observers to the online meeting. Apologies were received from Hywel Morgan, Deb Hughes and Toby Veall

2 Confirmation of Minutes of 1st & 2nd Meeting held on 10th December 2020 – Chairman

The minutes were accepted, and the Chairman authorised to sign them as a correct record.

3 Matters Arising Not Otherwise Appearing on Agenda – Chairman

IM asked about parking at Henrhyd Falls.

KW mention she had a call from the National Trust after a meeting asking her to join the Community Group and said they may be building a car park on their ground but, there has been nothing made official and no works have been undertaken.

JL said Powys County Council and National Trust are looking to undertake a joint project on the car park.

IM said he had presented the Annual Report to the Planning and Rights of Way Committee and it was accepted with thanks.

4 Access at Llyn y Fan Fach – Chairman

IM said the situation has not changed, and negotiations are still ongoing.

5 NRW management of visitors at its sites across the Park - Michael Smith

IM there has be no movement on this and explained the main issue was the present state of finances and an NRW manager will attend the next LAF meeting.

MS replied this was the case, but who that land manger would be is not clear yet.

6 National Park Management Plan - Helen Lucocq

IM introduced HL.

HL explained her role within the National Park and the need for a National Park Management Plan and gave a presentation on the Plan addressing three main points of its purpose being, the Issues, Vision and Objectives.

KW asked about the disparity of wages within the National Park, and the change of landscape seems to suggest a less industrialised landscape and how the two join up, in addition affects water quality and affordable housing.

HL the plan would address these with green growth industry and the development of future affordable housing and making sure rural jobs are paid accordingly and supported.

HL mentioned many decisions are made through consulting with the Stakeholder Group.

KW asked if she could join this group.

HL welcomed her offer.

IM asked JR to send a link to the National Park Management Plan

<https://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/NPMP21-Vision-and-Objectives-links-working.pdf>

7 Update on the Waterfalls car park plans - James Lawrence

JL said they had put a variety of measures in over the weekend and explained the problems on the weekend was nothing that hadn't already been encountered and they have worked with local landowners for extra parking. Also Highways Officers enforcing white lines and paid meet and greet staff and this all worked well, but it's an ongoing project, also looking at sustainable travel and shuttle buses.

8 Woodland Creation schemes update - Nicola Davies

EJ explained ND could not be with us, so he would take this item.
EJ said ND has emailed him a document explaining about woodland creation and asked IM if he could email it to members.
IM agreed.

9 Access to water update - Steve Rayner

SR gave an update presentation on the National Access Forum to Water Group.
SR mentioned Welsh Government had asked National Access Forum to have a dialog on inland water issues and have also encouraged stakeholders to come up with practical solutions and if this was not successful in 18 months legislation could be brought in.
SR explained the groups' members' organisations and explained some the progress with agreed guided principles with stakeholder.

10 ROWIP update - Eifion Jones

EJ said the ROWIP grant funding had now been replaced with the Access Improvement Grant.
EJ explained most of last year's funding has now been spent but there have been some problems with bridge installation over the winter.
EJ mentioned this year's grant is almost £100,000 for access improvements and he has sent a work plan document to the Welsh Government for approval and is awaiting for a response. If successful he will share a full list of improvements with the members.

11 Rights of Way issues - Eifion Jones

EJ said he wanted to add to the point SR made on the access reform plan and said he was part of the steering group working on this with one meeting left. The advice to the Minister is nearly done and this will be more of a set of options than recommendations, but with the up and coming election it is unsure if the advice would be acted on.

12 Canals and Wellbeing ENRAW application - Eifion Jones

EJ mentioned there was not much more to say on this in addition to the last set of minutes, other than the application has been submitted and assessed and partners have been asked to provide more information. He reminded members this was a two year project worth just over £900,000

13 Any other competent business – Chairman

IM asked for any other business.

There was no other business.

Next meeting date and time is provisionally 14.00 24th June