

Brecon Beacons National Park Local Access Forum
Confirmed Minutes of the 6th Meeting held at 2pm on Wednesday 19th October
2022 at BBNPA Offices, Brecon

Present

Ian Mabberley (IM) – Chair	Karen Harris (KH)
Richard Ball (RB) – Secretary	Nick Lancaster (NL)
Pam Bell (PB)	Simone Lowthe-Thomas (SL-T)
Rachel Chapel (RC)	Hywel Morgan (HM)
Philippa Cherryson (PC)	Denis Murphy (DM)
Robert Dangerfield (RD)	Chris Payne (CP)

Observers

Keira Dobby (KD)	BBNPA
Judith Harvey (JH)	BBNPA
Eifion Jones (EJ)	BBNPA
Lisa Lloyd (LL)	BBNPA
Phil O’Shea (PO)	Brecon Beacons Park Society

1. Welcome and Apologies

IM Welcomed members and observers to the meeting. Apologies were received from, Steve Rayner, Ian Jenkins, Kath Whitrow, Roz Smart, Catrin Price and Sion James.

2. Confirmation of Minutes of 5th Meeting held on 30th June 2022

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

3. Matters arising not otherwise appearing on agenda

Llyn y Fan – JH advised that considerable work had been carried out to the dam since June. They plan to finish work in November and return next year to continue. Once work has been completed there will be pressure for access improvements at the filter bed area to be carried out.

4. Canals, Communities and Wellbeing Project Update (Keira Dobby)

Keira Dobby, Canals, Communities and Wellbeing Project Officer, gave a presentation outlining the agreed access projects. Several projects have been completed.

As part of the project there will be towpath improvements and biodiversity enhancements within the canal corridor including the establishment of 5 wildflower meadows, introduction of bird and bat boxes, orchard planting and hedge laying. The works will provide volunteering opportunities.

RD suggested there may be an opportunity to work with the National Nature Service to carry out some of the enhancement work. NL said that the local Scout group may be interested in the volunteering opportunities.

5. Access Improvement Grant Update (Judith Harvey)

JH gave a presentation highlighting the varied work carried out by the Warden service so far this year including:

- Brinore Tram Road, conservation and maintenance of cross drains and surface on historic route with archaeological watching brief
- Access improvements and rights of way maintenance
- Bridge installations funded by Access Improvement Grant
- Ash dieback and woodland management on BBNP owned land,
- Report commissioned on access and infrastructure improvements in Waterfalls Area

PO asked if there was an update on the section of the Brinore Tramroad/footpath at the head of the Dyffryn Crawnon which has suffered from erosion.

JH said that there is an alternative route which avoids the eroded section and that a new bridge had been installed last year. The erosion on a short section of the Brinore Tramroad is continuing due to the nature of the area and any work to conserve and stabilise the path would be very costly.

IM suggested that LAF members may find it beneficial to receive updates on the rights of way work and types of reports received/work carried out on the network. IM is aware that other LAF's circulate this information. Members agreed that this would be useful, and it was agreed that LL and EJ would look at providing this information to the LAF.

6. BBNPA Access Management (Simone Lowthe-Thomas)

SL-T introduced herself as the BBNPA representative on the LAF. SL-T is BBNPA's Director of Nature Recovery and Climate Change. She gave a presentation on the current position of Future Beacons Management Plan. The plan will be taken to the National Park Authority EGM in December to be adopted. SL-T explained that as she was relatively new in post she was in 'listening' mode and suggested that at the next LAF meeting she could run a session to gather information and views from the LAF.

7. Trig Points in the Brecon Beacons National Park (Phil O'Shea)

PO explained that the Brecon Beacons Park Society have been discussing how the Trig Points located within the BBNP are of historical interest and it's been noted that some are falling into disrepair. The BBPS are looking at how they can be mapped and surveyed, and repairs carried out to safeguard for the future. The Trig Points are of historical interest and are not currently protected. The Ordnance Survey do not own the structures and the responsibility now falls to individual landowners. Landowners would need to be identified; EJ advised that the BBNPA has some landowner information but would not be able to disclose due to data protection.

PO asked if the LAF would support a project to safeguard the Trig Points?

LAF members agreed that the Trig Points need protecting. PC agreed to circulate information that has been provided by OS.

RC suggested that Landowners were likely to be happy to support, however, advised that some of the Trig Points were in locations that were not easily accessible if maintenance was required. It may be worth contacting the Ministry of Defence to see if they could assist as they use the Trig Points during their exercises in the Beacons.

8. Public Spaces Protection Order for Dog Controls in Monmouthshire (Eifion Jones)

EJ outlined the proposals set out by Monmouthshire County Council. A map showing areas of BBNPA owned land within Monmouthshire which would be affected by the proposals had been circulated prior to the meeting. LAF members were asked for their thoughts on whether the proposals should be applied to the National Park Estate within Monmouthshire.

LAF members agreed to support a blanket control on dog fouling. Members discussed the proposals for dogs on leads and dog exclusion areas and agreed not to support.

9. Rights of Way Consultations (Eifion Jones)

EJ confirmed that there had been no adverse comments to the recent consultations that had been sent out to LAF Members.

10. Any Other Competent Business

HM advised LAF Members that there is still time to submit comments to the Sustainable Farming Scheme Consultation as the deadline has been extended until 21st November.

RD directed members to the Country Land and Business Association website where he has summarised the SFS proposals and provided links to relevant Welsh Government documents.

Dates of 2023 LAF meetings

19th January 2023

13th April 2023

6th July 2023

12th October 2023