



FLAF05



FLINTSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Minutes - 13th May 2024

Wepre Park

Members – Huw Morgan, Shirley Fermor, John Holiday, Ian Gibbons, Councilor Dave Evans, Sarah Hampson.

Officers in Attendance - Tom Woodall, Derrick Charlton, Natalie Davies, Adrian Hibbert, Suzanne Williams, Jon Hill, Stuart Jones.

Apologies – Alan Neale, Julian Pellatt, Jonathan Hulson, Jeff Shone, Marjorie Thomson, Nia Thomas, Ian Hughes.

1/ Welcome -

The Vice-Chair welcomed everyone to the 5th meeting of the LAF. Introductions were given by all present and apologies received.

2/ Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting 6th February were agreed as written.

- a. Matters Arising – none raised

3/ Review of LAF first year

a. Meeting times and venue

TW introduced the item as a reflection on the 1st year. He invited comments from members on how the forum was run adding that we have tried to vary the venues and meetings, although have tended to be on Tuesday. Members expressed that they liked the opportunity to see other parts of the County but would also value a regular meeting venue. TW said the base of the meeting can be Wepre but is happy to move around when required, for example to see a project of relevance. Regular meeting days were judged best to be Monday afternoons.

b. Agenda items

TW reflected on the agenda items over the last year;

Active travel, Linking communities, Disability access, Flintshire Coastal Park, Railways, Accessible walks, Access barriers, the new National Park.

TW thought that the initial suggestions from members at the 1st meeting had been covered, and invited comments.



FLAF05



HM asked if we could work with the CAMS system to put the planning on there.

SJ said each planning application received that affects a footpath, needs to make sure, if the surface of a footpath is disturbed, then it needs to be put back the same, if not better.

SJ said that we need to work on responses on large Planning applications that come in. He said that if a housing developer needs to close a footpath, although developers don't need to provide an alternative footpath, the Access Team do encourage it.

IG and JH said one agenda item they would be interested in would be Hynet and he would be interested in seeing a presentation on it.

IG said that Hynet is going to affect flooding on the Chester to Sandycroft road.

JH said he would like an item to cover stopping the use of motorbikes on footpaths and look at the disused railway lines as opportunities for active travel.

TW said the Railway lines had been looked at extensively, but it became unmanageable because of land ownership issues

JH said that under access travel Local Authorities are supposed to provide footpaths between schools, work places and that driving seems to be the normal mode of transport these days.

TW said we can always get the active travel colleagues back.

IG said the Saltney Broughton cycle path stops at Queensferry and its mostly Gladstone Estate Land on one side. He doesn't know how viable it is to put a path there.

DE said it has been identified as a route because they can't come to an agreement with the landowners. Mold to Chester route is still being worked on. DE said he has been pushing it for 10 years.

IG said drainage is a big issue.

DE said he doesn't see much of a need for the safer routes to school along the Alltami Road.

c. Annual report

TW said the forum must produce an annual report and submit to NRW, and the team are currently compiling information on last years meeting.

. **Action** – Members to consider agenda items and email the Chair or Secretary



FLAF05



4/ CAMs demonstration

SJ gave an overview of the CAMS system and took questions from members.

IG pointed out that in Tinkersdale carpark all the stiles are in a poor state of repair and the path is dangerous.

DE said could we make more dog friendly routes?

ND said that it is not required by law so may have some trouble convincing landowners. We do not hold the information on CAMS whether footpaths have dog latches or not.

DE asked if there was an annual inspection maybe this is something that could be updates.

HM said that on somedays you could have problems with cattle.

.

5/ Improving behaviors in the countryside

TW introduced this item as a reflection on user behaviors post covid and invited members to put forward their experiences and possible interventions.

IG said while he was out 3 dogs off leads came over and started attacking a dog and got told by the dog owners "well you should have your dog off the lead and train it"

There are incidents of elderly walker getting knocked over by large dogs. In other areas in the south of the UK there are great signs.

HM said there is a lack of education in the countryside with dog owners.

TW suggested that dogs, nesting and lambing seasons need to be a future agenda item.

DE said there is a problem with closing gates on footpaths. There is a problem with litter and dog fouling but haven't got the manpower to deal with it.

DE said maybe put signs up to encourage people by offering free dog bags to members of the public or fine people when their dog attacks someone.

DE said there is a need for more public space protection orders in more areas.

TW said this pushes people to other areas when some areas have restrictions on them.



FLAF05



6/ Access service update

a. Access Team report 2023/24 review

JH and AH gave a presentation of their latest work.

b. Access improvement grant 2024/25

The requirement from Welsh Government in 2022 was for Authorities to provide a 3 year works program, and this final year work plan for 2024/2025 is underway. The LAF will be consulted on priorities should any future funding become available..

7/ AOB

TW read out a letter from the Minister to LAF Chairs regarding the sustainable farming scheme.

SF asked when the new Flintshire rural walks booklet would be available.

SJ/TW said it had gone over to print and there are a few hard copies. This is a good time for it to be made available.

IG said there are led walks for people with disabilities with a cost of £5 and thinks maybe the insurance needs looking into and walkabout Flintshire do training courses.

HM said that landscapes do £2 a walk.

SJ asked about dog walking businesses with them make money from walking dogs on their land should there be public liability insurance.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12pm.

The next meetings due - 16th September 2024
14th January 2025
8th April 2025