



FLAF03



FLINTSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Minutes - 17th October 2023

Talacre Community Centre

Present – Huw Morgan, Jeff Shone, Sarah Hampson, Nia Thomas, Councillor Dave Evans, Alan Neale.

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

Observer - Ian Hughes, NRW

Apologies – Neville Howell, Shirley Fermor, John Holiday, Julian Pellatt.

1/ Welcome -

In the Chairs absence, HM as Vice Chair welcomed everyone to the 3rd meeting of the LAF. Introductions were given by all present and apologies received.

2/ Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting 7th October were agreed as written.

a. Matters Arising

TW updated the forum on the access barrier review. The LAF comments were forwarded to Cabinet, who were very grateful for the advice. Cabinet accepted the feedback and asked officers to draw up detailed plans and invite further feedback from the community. Cabinet will re-consider in December.

3/ All Wales LAF's annual Meeting 4th Oct 2023

HM and TW attended this meeting in Builth Wells on behalf of the forum.

HM gave an overview of the discussion, in particular NRW's outdoor recreation strategy consultation, which had previously been emailed out to members, the Access Reform work, which included changes to LAF guidelines.

Action – TW send out proposed LAF regulation document.

4/ An Introduction to the Flintshire Coastal Park



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Presentation by TW and Isobel Smith, Connecting Coast and Countryside Development Officer.

TW provided background, context and current work associated with developing the Flintshire Coast Park.

IS gave an overview of her new role and highlighted that the programme needed to be complete by Dec 2024. There is a real disconnect of communities and she is looking for ways to connect people and businesses and looking for to work in partnership.

TW asked for feedback from the forum on current known access issues along the foreshore and asked that the forum be involved in this process.

AN wanted to know why Greenfield had been missed off, TW went through each of the hubs along the foreshore, which did include Greenfield.

HM asked about opportunities to make connections from the coast.

TW replied that this was the intension, (to join the coast with communities) and they would be looking to develop and enhance connections.

JS asked if Mold and Buckley can get access to the coast.

TW replied that this may be beyond the scope and DC said they can possibly use cycle paths to gain access.

DE highlighted the section - Connah's Quay or Flint and the need to connect at Oakenholt.

JS asked if anyone was a rail user, they could take their bike on the trains and get access that way.

TW said that national cycle routes are a key link. Train stations will provide vital links to the coast and enable linear routes to be accessed.

IH Circular routes are important to build in for locals to access their surrounding environment.

SH asked how are you going to engage with local people?

TW said that engagement work was a core deliverable of the programme but has yet to be defined.

Action – Members to email TW with any further thoughts on the project, in particular known access issues.



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5/ Footpath diversions through farmyards

ND and AH presented their thoughts on the issues relating to footpaths going through farmyards and proposed an amended policy for consideration

JS asked why do footpaths go through farmyards?

AN suggested it was because that's where they were in 1939 and traditionally used for getting to work.

DE would like to understand if most of the complaints are from farmers or users. ND suggested it was users.

AN suggested members of the public are uncomfortable using farmyard footpaths and issues are only going to get worse in the future.

Action – Draft policy/procedure to be developed for future discussion.

6/ Bridleways – opportunity to improve the network

SJ gave thoughts on a potential piece of work to identify areas of improvement on the bridleway network and asked for a volunteer to assist

Action - SH and SJ will get together to scope out the work.

7/ Network Management summary (Standing item)

Action – SJ to send out the quarterly statistics

8/ Inspectors Report (Standing item)

AH presented an update on recent works on the network

9/ AOB

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

The members took a walk around Talacre.

The next meeting due - 6th February 2024.