



FLAF08



FLINTSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Minutes - 7th April 2025

Wepre Park

Members – Julian Pellatt, Huw Morgan, Alan Neale, Marjorie Thomson, John Holiday, Jeff Shone, Miranda Dechazal, Ed Swan.

Observers - Hannah Arndt.

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

Apologies – Jonathan Hulson, Shirley Fermor, Ian Hughes.

1/ Welcome -

The Chair welcomed everyone to the 8th meeting of the LAF. Introductions were given by all present and apologies received.

JP welcomed new members MD and ES

2/ Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting 13th January were agreed as written.

a. Matters Arising

JP noted that we still don't have representation from the British Horse Society.

TW said that we have written to see if there are any people interested in stepping forward but we do have someone to give advice from South Wales.

MT said that we don't have anyone with disabilities on the forum. JH said he represents a charity from Chester which is helping people with vision loss.

3/ Access Improvement Grant

DC gave an overview of the work the team have completed and highlighted the criteria for 2025/26 funding. He said if the members have any ideas for the use of the grant money he would be interested to hear, so please let the team know.



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JH brought up the issue on access for cyclists and would like to see it traffic free routes especially Buckley to Ewloe and Ewloe to Mold.

TW said the active travel would be picked up by Streetscene. We can certainly look at opportunities.

JH said he wants people to use active travel to Deeside but we need more facilities there.

JP asked if it would be possible to do a study on access for cyclists on issues raised by JH. JH informed us that one had already been completed. JP said it would be useful to get that document.

TW stated it would be useful from someone from the active travel team to give a presentation with the existing plan.

Action: Invite Streetscene to future LAF meeting to update member on Active Travel and connectivity opportunities.

4/ Hynet Project

SJ gave a presentation and a copy will be sent with the minutes.

JH asked what the timescale is for the Hynet project.

SJ said they are hoping for a decision in 2026.

MT asked if you do circular walks, how are you going to know if paths are blocked.

SJ said there will be temporary closures but there will be 2 weeks' notice before. The contractor will put advanced closure's in. There is no requirement for diversions to be put in place however, we do encourage developers to put diversions in place on well-used, popular routes.

JP asked that when details are put forward could it be made available to the forum.

SJ said that there is a permanent diversion on the Hanson site in Padeswood as this is where the new plant is going to be.

JS asked if it will impact the old railway line.

SJ said the new route will run along the old railway line.



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JS asked does the work gain any projects for no traffic lanes.

SJ said yes, Deeside lane is only recorded as a footpath but used by vehicles. There should be community benefit to every area that is affected. We are pushing for anything that might be an improvement.

JP said this will cause a disruption but we need SJ and the team to keep us updated.

Action: SJ to keep the forum updated

5/ Map Consolidation

ND gave an overview of the process to members and shared that although we don't legally need to do a 6 months consultation she thinks that we should have a consultation of some sort. Suggested open sessions to see what members think and have access for ramblers.

JP stated that we need to ensure that interested parties are consulted and need to remind everyone that the definitive map and statement is the legal document and a very important piece of work.

ES our members would like to see the map.

SJ said anyone can come in and see the maps this is just the final process which is putting in all the changes in the last 45 years.

ND said there will still be anomalies on the new maps and we will be required to do an order to change them.

SJ said we are going to start using a solid line instead of a dash line as this caused problems on the old maps.

JS asked if local community councils could be involved in the process.

JP said it would be an idea to put together a consultation plan for the next meeting with the people we should consult and then get members opinions. It must be a controlled process.

MT said I think you are going to have to do areas or have it in a central area.

HM asked are you going to proactivity fix orders on the anomaly list.

SJ said it's going to be on a priority list.

ND said it's going to be a process by process case.

Action – Officers to engage with members throughout the process.



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6/ Access service update

TW said FCC have now agreed upon a budget for 2025/26 and there are no reductions in the PROW budget and no cuts to staff numbers.

7/ AOB

TW gave a brief overview of the work to establish a new National Park and said that until there is further information on funding, governance and planning, Flintshire cannot not support the establishment of a new national park. Work is currently underway to provide some detail on the questions raised through the recent consultation. NRW are going to make recommendation to their board in the summer.

Action: TW will invite one of the national park team to the next meeting for an update.

Future Suggested Agenda Items –

HW would like to see an update on diversions through farmyards.

MD would like statistics on how many people use PROW.

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

The next meetings due - **8th July 2025 - Rhydymwyn**
13th October 2025
19th January 2026