



FLAF10



FLINTSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Minutes - 13th October 2025

Wepre Park, Garden Room, Connah's Quay.

Members – Julian Pellatt, Alan Neale, John Holiday, Jeff Shone, Shirley Fermor, Huw Morgan.

Observers – Ian Hughes, Kieren Barlow, Hannah Arndt

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

Apologies – Councillor Dave Evans, Marjorie Thomson, Miranda Dechazal.

1/ Welcome -

JP welcomed everyone to the 10th meeting of the LAF. Introductions were given by all present and apologies received.

JP welcomed guest speaker Lee Shone, Transport Strategy Manager.

2/ Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting 8th July were agreed as written.

a. Matters Arising

Definitive map consolidation open day – TW informed the members that it had been a really good day but a long process. The engagement with the public was positive. 25-30 members of the public visited and were very interested in the work. ND gave an overview of the definitive map consolidation and all the changes from 1978. JP pointed out that the definitive map is a legal document and the digital map does not have the same legal status as the paper based one. TW said this will be signed off by legal services, we will review it every 5 years.

KB said it's a shame he can't use all the PROW's as he has trouble with the terrain and the cost of the specialist wheelchair is too expensive.

Digital map project – TW apologised to the forum as this item was a mistake on the agenda as it was covered at the last meeting



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3/ Presentation about Active Travel and Safer Routes.

Lee Shone, the Transport Strategy Manager from Streetscene gave a presentation regarding Active travel and current work to improve cycling provision in Flintshire. He said that local authorities are required to create cycle routes and safer routes improve pedestrian safety. They use measures such as traffic calming, pedestrian crossings and path widening.

He said there are many projects on at the moment and detailed some examples such as resurfacing at Aston and Hawarden and £450k works in Holywell. There is Ewloe roundabout where we are looking at putting in more crossing's to make it safer in conjunction with NMWTRA. There is money secured for the Connah's Quay area to identify gaps in the network.

The Active Travel routes are indicated via Datamap Wales and must be in a designated settlement area.

JP Do you have a published plan? LS Yes, can be seen via our website

JH what about the high volume of traffic in Mold? LS agreed and said traffic is high in this area. LS reflected on the change to 20mph and the current work to look at returning some roads back to 30mph

JS asked if there will be any routes to travel between Buckley and Deeside? LS said there are many constraints such as land ownership, multiple people owning land. He said the Highway authority will take note of the concerns.

LS highlighted that there is a consultation next year and the forum should feed into it.

Action - JP asked TW to write to the Chief Officer to thank LS for his attendance and to ask that the forum be kept up to date with Active Travel developments

4/ New National Park for North-East Wales – Statutory Consultation.

TW updated the forum on work to designate a new national park and reminded members of the update given by Richard Sumner last meeting. NRW board agreed in July to move forward to statutory consultation. The consultation is open to members of public, who can feedback on line before 8th December.

FCC have been asked to respond. TW suggested that the forum should respond and he would encourage individuals to also submit their own views. TW added that as statutory advisor to the local authority, it would be valuable if the forum could provide advice to inform their own deliberations.

HM – Farming wise there is a significant amount of funding in the area. Plenty of opportunities.



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JP – asked have the benefits been promoted.

HM – said that it is very hard to come up with a view when we have all these documents to look at.

JP – suggested that the secretary formulate a response from the forum. Additional funding would be welcomed. Benefits need to be simplified.

HM – said should we go through the document and see if there is anything for access already available.

TW – reported that Welsh Government have provided a commitment to fund the new national park, but they can't provide detail at this stage

SF – said that any money needs to make things better not maintain.

JS - He said he doesn't think that our traffic system can deal with the increase in visitor numbers

JP- indicated that a response should cautiously welcome the initiative but there still are concerns.

Action – TW to prepare a response for JP to consider.

5/ Access Service Update

Quarterly update of issues resolved. SJ to send round with minutes.

KB – asked about structures on paths.

SJ – said if a landowner refuses to have a gate we don't have the power to make them remove them. We are committed to make them more accessible.

JP – said while looking at schemes the question will always be can we make them less restrictive.

SJ – has been surveying and hoping to do more in autumn/ winter. He showed pictures of work in Hope.

AH – Provided some pictures indicating recent work in Hope. KB – said can you make the kissing gate bigger (wheelchair friendly)

SJ – said it is down to the landowners preferences but you can get bigger kissing gates.

JP – All the Access team can do is speak to the landowners. It would be good if the team documented the conversations with the landowners for the future.

SJ – said there is a balance between user groups, wheelchair users, horse users.



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JS – said he has seen on Facebook a horse riding group looking at making improvements to bridleways in Buckley. SJ reported that he had been in contact with some of those horse riders.

6/ AOB

TW will share an email to promote the country code useful information. Such as dog ownership on national trails.

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

The next meetings due - 19th January 2026