



FLAF12



## FLINTSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

29<sup>th</sup> June 2026

Wepre Park, Garden Room, Connah's Quay.

### Minutes

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**Members** – Huw Morgan, John Holiday, Councillor Dave Evans, Miranda Dechazal, John Huw Jones, Tom Wasiuk-Williams, Shirley Fermor, Kieren Barlow

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

**Apologies** – Ed Swan, Alan Neale, Jeff Shone.

#### 1/ Welcome -

TW welcomed everyone to the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the LAF, the first in a new 3 year term. As Secretary to the Forum, TW took the Chair in advance of a new Chair/Vice-Chair being elected.

#### 2/ Introductions –

Introductions were given by all present and apologies received.

#### 3/ Setting the scene -

TW went through the agenda for today's meeting and gave an overview of what would be discussed.

#### 4/ Induction Part 1-

TW gave a presentation to members (attached), to provide key information and background into the business of the Local Access Forum, to include its statutory purpose and terms of reference.

TW reflected that all members were appointed as individuals not to represent a group, and should focus on strategic issues rather than individual cases. He said we have good representation of knowledge and experience but there were some gaps, for example equine.



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KB asked if it was possible to run a virtual meeting sometimes. TW said that yes maybe we could think about it over the winter months when it's harder for people to attend in person.

HM said as we are a statutory service how many meetings are we required to have a year. TW responded that the guidance suggests a minimum of 2 per year but it was down to each forum to decide

## **5/ Induction Part 2-**

SJ gave a presentation to members (attached) to provide an overview of the service, which included network statistics and examples of work carried out. SJ highlighted the Teams CAMs system and suggested that he run another training session for members.

JH asked what we do in terms of promoting the good work of Flintshire and the LAF? SJ said we have a Facebook and Instagram page which is under Flintshire Countryside and Coast. TW added that we have a specific web page for LAF business but it would be a good idea to strengthen the forums profile which may lead to more interest from people joining.

## **6/ Potential topics for the LAF to consider-**

TW reminded members that the forum would set its own agenda and asked members to consider future topics

TWW asked what have been the biggest successes in the past?

TW suggested that members have a look at past work of the forum via the annual reports on the web page. He continued to reflect that the things he has valued most are the feedback on the National Park Consultation, the production of the Rural Walks booklets, the resolution of the Access Barrier issues

SJ said we need to recognise that Active Travel was considered very important by the last forum.

JH agreed and would like to see a program of traffic free routes Mold to Deeside, Buckley to Deeside.

DE said connecting communities is very important such as Sandycroft to Airbus and Airbus to Saltney and there needs to be a safe route between Connah's Quay and Flint.

DE highlighted that Network Rail wants to close the level crossings. SJ said he deals with Network Rail on a regular basis and they are always looking for ways to improve.



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DE said they are putting lifts in the Flint station by 2028 he said this would be great for cyclist and wheelchair users and give them access to the railway.

TW said that network rail could come and give members a presentation.

HM reflected that the forum had spent the previous 3 years discussing potential access travel routes throughout the county and it would be disappointing if we were still just discussing them in another 3 years' time, and had not progressed into actioning some of them.

HM confirmed that farmers who sign up the Sustainable Farming Scheme will have to adhere to the new Statutory Management Requirement 14 which sets out rules for compliance with public access legislation, public rights of way and open land management in Wales.

MD asked if we have covered ethnic minority groups within the LAF, she said she could get someone to give a talk.

MD said there is a lack of education on the Countryside Code and maybe schools could be approached.

List of future agenda items:

- Active Travel and community connections

- Railway Crossings

- Widening diversity in access the countryside

- Improving education and the Countryside Code

- Raising awareness of the historic and cultural Flintshire through the right of way network

- Review and production of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan

- Sustainable Farming Scheme

## **7/ Consideration for the role of the LAF chair.**

TW re-iterated the need to elect a chair and vice-chair of the forum; it could not be by an Officer. TW highlighted the broad expectations and its duties and how the Access Team would support the role administration. HM commented that the vice chair role last term was not burdensome.

TW asked all members to consider their interest and contact him before the next meeting to discuss.



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**8/ AOB and Date of the next meeting.**

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 1.45pm.

Date of next meetings –

28<sup>th</sup> September 2026

18<sup>th</sup> January 2027