

**Unconfirmed Minutes of the 8th BBNP Local Access Forum Meeting held at 14.00 on  
Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2013 at The National Park Visitor Centre**

**Present**

Chairman: - Mike Scott Archer (MSA)

Secretary: - Richard Ball (RB)

Ian Maberley (IM)  
Denis Murphy (DM)  
Gwyn Gwillim (GG)  
Hilda Williams (HW)  
Pam Bell (PM)  
Colin Woodley (CW)  
Julian Atkins (JA)

**Observer:**

Eifion Jones (EJ)

Avril Barnes (AB)

Huw Price (HP)

Michael Smith (MS)

Angela Waring (AW)

John Evans (JE)

Right of Way Officer BBNPA

Rights of Way Assistant

Community development Officer and Volunteer  
Coordinator

CCW

Chair Llangattock Community Council

Member of the public

**1. Welcomes and Apologies**

MSA welcomed members and observers. Apologies for absence were received from Janet Bailey and Pavel Vitek

**2. Confirmation of Minutes from the 7th Meeting on 10th October 2012**

The Minutes were accepted with one alteration and it was agreed MSA should sign them as a true record.

**3. Matters Arising Not Otherwise Appearing On the Agenda**

MSA thanked the team at BBNPA who had organised the River Usk clean up as part of the SPLASH Project.

MSA mentioned how pleased he was to see the newly installed benches at either end of the Beacons Way being featured on the television programme, 'Weather Man Walking'.

MSA explained the Crickhowell Walking Festival was taking bookings for the forthcoming festival.

#### **4. Mosaic Project Update**

MSA introduced Huw Price, BBNPA's Community development Officer and Volunteer Co-ordinator.

HP explained his role with in the BBNPA, and presented the back ground to the Mosaic Project and it aims to create Mosaic Ambassadors to help introduce black and minority ethnic communities (BME) to the National Parks within England and Wales.

IM enquired to how many ambassadors have been created for the BBNPA so far.

HP explained that 15 so far, but the final aim is sixty within the project as a whole.

MSA asked if a member of the LAF would be able to attend any future events.

HP welcomed the idea explaining that the experience of the LAF could only benefit the project.

DM asked if eastern Europeans were also included within the project

HP responded yes and explained there was already Eastern Europeans acting as Champions.

IM enquired whether visitor facing businesses etc within the BBNP were prepared, in terms of having suitable facilities and trained staff etc, to provide an excellent service to people from BME communities.

HP explained that already certain aspects of this were being worked on with, for example, the provision of specific menus and the provision of Prayer rooms etc at certain establishments.

MSA thanked HP for his presentation.

#### **5. National Park Visitor Management Plan (VMP)**

MSA explained that Richard Tyler was unable to present this item due to sickness but JA provided a brief update in his absence.

JA mentioned that the BBNPA was currently in the procurement process and inviting consultants to tender for production of the VMP. The details were available on the Buy for Wales website.

JA gave a brief background for the need for a Visitor Management Plan and suggested that in previous years the BBNPA had not been particularly effective at managing visitor pressure in the BBNP. In order to address this issue (and to provide robust evidence to allow Planning colleagues to make decisions based on objective landscape criteria) the BBNPA had employed a consultant to produce Landscape Character Assessments across the Park. Following on from this piece of work, the BBNPA will use the 15 assessments as a basis for the VMP. The VMP is likely to identify, in broad terms, the carrying capacity of different areas of the Park and make recommendations about a number of issues such as how best to encourage visitors away from more fragile areas and towards more robust areas. Colin Woodley asked what level of consultation would be held with Commoners and Farmers - MSA responded by reading out the first part of the final paragraph of section 2 of the tender brief 'Imperative for conservation management is the development and maintenance of a good working relationships with landowners, farmers, graziers and users of the landscape such as activity providers'

CW also asked if Community Councils would be consulted during the VMP production.

RB noted that a number of consultees were listed in the tender brief that had been sent to consultants but that Community Councils were not explicitly listed.

JA assured CW this point would be raised with the steering group at the tender stage.

MSA thanked JA for presenting this item at short notice.

## **6. Natural Resources Wales Update**

MS reported that the Chairman and Chief Executive had been appointed in the Summer/Autumn of 2012. The next tier of management has now been announced as well as a new logo. MS confirmed that the process of creating the new body was still on target to be completed by the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013.

## **7. Review of CROW Access Maps**

MS informed the LAF that there had been little response to the consultation concerning the review and the consultation had ended in November with only 240 responses across Wales and only ? in the BBNP.

MS circulated revised access maps and explained that landowners will have the opportunity to appeal any alterations to the revised maps.

MS informed the LAF that it was still unsure if a review will be taking place in England due to financial constraints

## **8. Black Mountains Volunteer Group**

RB gave a short presentation high lighting the work carried out by the Black Mountains Volunteers.

JR informed the LAF of the training received by the volunteers and future plans for the group.

DM asked if there were opportunities for outside groups to take part in future projects undertaken by the group.

JR welcomed the idea and explained there would be plenty of opportunities to do so and that he would keep DM informed.

## **9. Disabled and easier access**

HW circulated a paper regarding disabled and easier access within the BBNP. HW referred to the situation near Storey Arms and provided photo graphic examples of inadequate disabled access.

IM commented that the problem was same in many areas of the park.

MSA informed the LAF that all access issues should be reported the the Rights of Way department.

RB explained that the BBNPA had a duty under the Equality's Act to consider access for all 'at risk' groups when designing access improvements.

RB stated that the Easier access guide was available free of charge on the BBNPA website and that it provided advice for potential users. He also noted that this information could be added to the Fieldfare Trust website but some additional resource may be required to do so.

HW pointed out that this area of the web site was difficult to navigate to.

JA asked for all the links to be circulated.

## **10. Mixed Use routes code of conduct**

DM informed the LAF that MSA had requested him to produce a draft code of conduct for mixed use paths.

DM informed the LAF that much of the content was made with reference to various Sustrans documents.

DM explained each point of his document and expressed his opinion that shared routes are extremely complex and have potential safety issues attached to them.

PB suggested all routes should be treated as routes for all to reduce any safety issues.

## **11. Rights of Way Report**

EJ informed the LAF that he had sent out the following consultation since the last meeting:

Application for the diversion of public footpath no. 38, Dan y Common, Community of Gwernyfed

Application for the diversion of public footpath no. 42, Dan y chapel, Community of Llanigon

Application for the addition of the public footpath between Rhonas Road and Main Road, Clydach, Community of Llanelly

No adverse comments received from the members.

Also, the Welsh Government has confirmed that we will get almost £50000 through the ROWIP funding scheme in 2013/14.

JA suggested lobbying WAG to insure continued funding for ROWiP

## **12. Any Other Competent Business**

IM informed the LAF that a new Police Officer has been appointed in his local area, he also informed the LAF of the enthusiasm of the new officer in tackling illegal off road use with future Police operations to help address the problem.

IM will convey the outcome of the operations back to the LAF when completed.

## **13. Dates for Future Meetings**

Next Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> April 14.00 Mountain Centre