

Brecon Beacons National Park Local Access Forum
Site Meeting held at 2:00pm on Thursday June 4th 2015 at Henderson Hall,
Talybont-on-Usk

Present

Ian Mabberley (IM)
Phillipa Cherryson (PC)
Dave Sharman (DS)
Denis Murphey (DM)
Jon Everington (JE)
Richard Ball (RB)
Lisa Lloyd (LL)
Sarah Tindell (ST -NRW)
David Morgan (DMo - Canal and Rivers Trust)

Apologies

Jeff Spencer
Julian Atkins
Debra Hughes
Mark Stafford-Tolley

IM welcomed David Morgan (DMo) from the Canal and Rivers Trust. DMo led a short walk along the Canal towpath and provided members with an overview of access management and CRT's ambitions for the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.

Members were given the new promotional leaflet for the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal produced by the CRT. Promotion of the canal for fishing, cycling, boating and walking and how the canal links in with other promoted route such as the Taff Trail and Usk Valley Walk was discussed.

PC asked if the CRT have considered opening up the towpath to horse riders. DMo confirmed that the organisation is looking at the possibility at a national level. DM was concerned about the conflict between user groups and the over engineering of sections of the towpath. DMo talked about the new scheme called 'Slow your pace, share your space' which aims to address some of the conflict.

DMo advised members that the CRT would be putting the canal forward as a Wales Trail as it meets the criteria for both a water and land based trail. The members agreed that the LAF would support the proposal.

DMo said that one of the ambitions of the CRT is to see the restoration of the section of canal between Cwmbran and Newport.

IM thanked DMo for attending the site meeting and for his informative talk.

Members reconvened at Blaen y Glyn where IM welcomed Sarah Tindell (ST) from Natural Resources Wales. ST provided members an overview of how NRW will undertake its duties in terms of advising the Welsh Government and providing support and advice to organisations such as the LAF.

ST confirmed that local authorities would be required to revise the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) and that the Welsh Government would be issuing guidance to support this. NRW are currently in the process of working on the guidance which will be circulated by the end of the year.

ST said that NRW would shortly be applying the criteria to a long list of routes put forward for Wales Trails.

Members discussed various issues around access and recreation promoted by NRW and ST invited the LAF to feed back any points of concern and agreed to follow up any questions that the LAF may have relating to other areas of NRW work.

IM thanked ST for attending the site meeting and for providing members with an update on NRW issues.

RB led members on a short circular walk from the road up to the waterfalls. Members looked at various access issues along the route and discussed possible improvements and formulated advice to be fed back to BBNPA and Welsh Water.

IM suggested the next meeting be arranged for September, date to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 5pm