

**Confirmed Minutes of the 9th BBNP Local Access Forum Meeting held at 14.00 on Friday
19th April 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)
David Sharman (DS)
Pavil Vitek (PV)

Observer:

Eifion Jones (EJ)	Right of Way Officer BBNPA
Lisa Lloyd (LL)	Rights of Way Assistant
Michael Smith (MS)	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
Keith Morgan (KM)	Carmarthenshire LAF
John Davies (JD)	Carmarthenshire LAF
Richard Tyler (RT)	BBNPA Sustainable Tourism Manager
Louise Tricklebank (LT)	Land Use Consultants

1. Welcomes and Apologies

MSA welcomed members and observers. Apologies for absence were received from Janet Bailey and Julian Atkins.

2. Confirmation of Minutes from the 9th 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

IM reported that there was a good turn out by a number of partners to support an operation aimed at catching illegal off roaders, but felt that the off roaders may have been informed of the operation as few off roaders were seen on the day.

4. Brecon Beacons National Park Visitor Management Plan Consultation

MSA welcomed Louise Trickbank of Land Use Consultants.

LT explained the purpose of the Visitor Management Plan and emphasised that it was a process that was at its consultation stage. The VMP will look at issues such as where visitors come from, how long do they stay, what visitors do and their current experiences while visiting the BBNP. The findings from this fact finding stage would inform and develop key objectives.

DM enquired how the consultants had determined their target audience. LT explained the information came from a National Tourism Business Data Base.

RB asked if this plan would be dynamic. LT replied it would but still revolve around key elements, such as opportunities, visitor facilities, sense of place, transport and traffic, land/water management, wildlife, marketing and interpretation.

LT asked the LAF for their thoughts.

PV stated that additional and improved long distance routes with strategic parking would encourage people to stay longer.

RB explained that upland path improvements are vastly under resourced and the on-going costs of improvements and maintenance is extremely under funded.

DM suggested a small voluntary charge to users of self catering and other holiday accommodation may provide additional income.

MSA mentioned that government funding should be ring fenced to ensure that Local Authorities spend it on activities such as rights of way maintenance.

CW suggested that the severe erosion issues within the Black Mountains should be addressed, he also suggested that Community Councils should be consulted because they have a great deal of local knowledge.

LT confirmed there was a meeting with Community Councils arranged, she also added there was a feedback session on the 9th May at the Peterstone Court Hotel and the LAF were welcome to attend.

5. Glastir Promoted Routes

MSA informed members that Max Grant from the Ramblers Association had made a presentation at the LAF all Wales Chairs meeting suggesting that local communities should suggest areas that would benefit from improved access facilities with promoted routes.

MSA & EJ thought that if Community Councils fed back this information it may help landowners with their Glastir application.

EJ informed the LAF that the Tir Gofal / Glastir permissive routes could be found on the Natural Resource Wales web site.

It was agreed that a sub group comprising MSA,DS and EJ should consider new routes and that all members should make suggestions to this group.

6. Annual Report

RB explained that the LAF that the draft report was in the same format as previous years and that it had been distributed prior to this meeting. RB asked for any comments to reach him by the end of the week so that he can present the draft to BBNPA's Planning Access and Rights of Way Committee and that the Chairman will make a presentation to PAROW at a later date.

7. Active Travel Bill

MSA informed members that the LAF had responded to the questions for the Active Travel Bill, but there was now an additional consultation.

MSA read the consultation questions out with the responses from himself and EJ. MSA asked the LAF if they were happy with the responses, the LAF agreed.

8. Review of Access improvements works (2012-13) LAF proposals for Access improvements (2013-14)

RB Informed the LAF the ROWIP funding for this year was £48,000 with proposed works on the Beacons Way, Usk Valley Path, ODNT, resurfacing work at Llangasty (to create easier access) , and the Waterfalls country.

Additional work was already underway on the Monmouth and Brecon canal tow path with grant aid from the Welsh Government (via Powys County Council).

DM was concerned about user conflict between cyclists and pedestrians on the canal and suggested extra signage.

RB asked the LAF whether it had any additional suggestions for access projects for the forthcoming year. No suggestions were received.

9. Any Other Competent Business

MSA tabled some interesting articles and books for the LAF to look at.

RB tabled the BBNPA resident survey form, explained its use and encouraged members to complete it and encourage others to also complete it.

10. Dates for future meetings

10th July 14.00 at The National Park Visitor Centre, Libanus.