

## ENCLOSURE 5 ITEM I

### Confirmed Minutes of the Brecon Beacons National Park Local Access Forum Meeting held at 2pm on Wednesday April 16th 2014 at Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Headquarters, Brecon

#### **Present**

Chairman – Mike Scott Archer (MSA)

Secretary – Richard Ball (RB)

Hilda Williams (HW)

Colin Woodley (CW)

Jon Everington (JE)

Phillipa Cherryson (PC)

Ian Mabberley (IM)

Denis Murphy (DM)

Patrick Dobbs (PD)

Dave Sharman (DS)

Pam Bell (PB)

Julian Atkins (JA)

#### **Observers**

Eifion Jones (EJ)

Michael Smith (MS)

Rob Hughes (RH)

Mark Stafford-Tolley (MST)

Judith Harvey (JH)

#### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

MSA welcomed members and observers to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Pavel Vitek, Janet Bailey, Fiona Ford (Torfaen CBC) and Andrew Fleming (Blaenau Gwent CBC)

MSA asked that everyone stand and remember Gwyn Gwillim who had recently passed away. Gwyn had been the longest standing member on the LAF and he was one of the original members of the Eastern Area LAF when it was established 14 years ago. Gwyn had lived and farmed near Talgarth all of his life and will be very sadly missed.

#### **2. Confirmation of Minutes of the Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014**

The minutes were accepted and it was agreed MSA should sign them as a true record.

#### **3. Matters Arising Not Otherwise Appearing on Agenda**

Draft Events Management Policy

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JA confirmed that the draft policy had been taken to the BBNPA Corporate Management Team meeting where they had requested a couple of minor changes. It was suggested by the team that the consultation times should be shorter and there was a query on the charging arrangement. The draft policy will be presented to the National Park Authority in due course.

JA met recently with the organisers of the Original Mountain Marathon (OMM) where they discussed the production of a Code of Conduct for events. The BBNPA are looking at working with the organisers of the OMM to encourage other event organisers to sign up to a code of conduct.

### Brecon Beacons National Park Visitor Management Plan

JA confirmed that the Welsh translation of the document had been completed and that the consultation period was imminent. RB will keep members updated.

### Beacons Bus

JA confirmed that the BBNPA has made the decision to withdraw the Beacons Bus service in 2014. Following Public Consultation and negotiations for additional funding it was agreed that the regular Cardiff to Brecon bus would include a bike trailer facility on Sundays and Bank Holidays. The bus will run between Brecon and Abergavenny during the day.

#### **4. BBNP Volunteers, an update on activities**

Judith Harvey delivered a well-received presentation on some of the activities and work carried out by volunteers working with the BBNPA.

DM suggested that many students would be interested in volunteering for the National Park and it would be worthwhile the BBNPA attending the Volunteering Fair which is held at the University of Glamorgan.

The volunteering page and contact details for Huw Price, Volunteer Coordinator can be viewed on the BBNPA website at: <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/the-authority/volunteering>.

#### **5. Glastir permissive access**

MSA, EJ, JA and RB have had a meeting to discuss how to feedback the issues with the current approach to the Welsh Government and a letter will be sent in due course. MSA said that he had raised the issue at the Wales LAF Chairs meeting in March.

MSA thanked the members who had carried out surveys of the existing permissive paths. Members went through each of the permissive paths/areas surveyed and summarised problems encountered, advantages to each and concluding if the LAF should support a future application if the landowners wish to enter into the Glastir Scheme.

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To date 42 paths/areas have been surveyed, with members being supportive of 38 with only 4 found to offer little or no benefit. However, two thirds of the paths which the members found beneficial were described as requiring improvements. The lack of signage, overgrown paths and problems with the furniture were found to be the main areas in need of improvement. A further meeting will be arranged to discuss the results of the remaining permissive path surveys.

EJ clarified that the BBNPA has no involvement with the Glastir permissive paths; they are dealt with by the Welsh Government.

JE raised concerns that the paths were difficult for members of the public to find out about. MS confirmed that once the information is forwarded from the Welsh Government then it will appear on the Natural Resources Wales website. IM asked if it was possible for the routes to be included on Ordnance Survey electronic maps. Members discussed other possible ways of publicising the permissive routes. JA suggested that when permissive paths are accepted it may be possible to put details on the BBNPA and Brecon Beacons Destination website.

JA and PC have agreed to produce a press release covering Glastir permissive access.

### **6. A465 Dualling Update**

JA gave a presentation to members and an update on the A465 dualling. Plans showing changes to the Public rights of Way and side roads were circulated to members. The presentation and Public Inquiry documents can be found here: <http://a465gilwern2brynmawr.co.uk/>

The public enquiry has finished and the outcome should be available in 12 weeks' time.

JE asked if the change of ownership along the route would have an effect on access to the cave systems. CW confirmed that the Cambrian Caving Association had been assured that no cave access would be lost.

### **7. Annual Report**

MSA advised members that the Annual Report is usually prepared for this meeting but it has been decided to wait until after the July meeting so as to report on what the LAF has done over the past three years, as this would be the last meeting before the LAF reconstitutes.

### **8. Dog Walking**

Natural Resources Wales are looking to create new guidance for dog walkers and will be consulting with stakeholders including the LAF.

### **9. Wales Government Access Review**

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EJ gave a brief update to members. There has been no Green Paper to date and it is understood that the Minister will make an announcement after Easter.

### **10. Open Access Review**

MS gave an update to the LAF. The review is still at the appeal stage with 4 appeals in the Brecon Beacons National Park, two of which are regarding the Commons Registration map. The Planning Inspector's decision has not yet been received.

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

EJ gave an update to members. There has been no progress with the diversion application at Newcourt Farm, Felindre. The LAF will be consulted on several issues over the summer which will include a proposed Bridleway in Hay Forest and a package of changes to paths in the Waterfalls area.

### **12. ROWIP Funding**

EJ has received confirmation that £1million across Wales has been allocated by the Welsh Government for this financial year. The Minister has yet to confirm the amount that BBNPA will receive.

### **13. Wales' LAF Chairman's Conference**

MSA reported back to LAF members on the topics discussed.

### **14. Powys LAF Meeting**

JE represented BBNP LAF as an observer and thanked MST for allowing him to attend. MST, secretary of Powys LAF, agreed to give an update from the Powys LAF at the next meeting. PC attended the last meeting of Monmouthshire LAF and agreed to circulate the notes to members. MSA stated how important it was to have close links with neighbouring LAF's.

### **15. Any Other Business**

RB reminded members that the term of Office ends on 8<sup>th</sup> August. There is no set date for recruiting but it will probably take place in September. It is hoped that all current members will re-apply, any interested potential new members would be encouraged to apply.

### **16. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 2pm at the BBNPA Visitor Centre, Libanus.