

# Minutes

## Newport Local Access Forum

Date 21<sup>st</sup> February 2018

Time 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Present **Brian Jelf, Debbie Russell, Anne Underwood, Wyneira Archer, Doug Knight, Andy Fleming, Yvonne Forsey, John Harris**

Officers in Attendance **Luke Stacey, Jo Gossage** (Newport City Council)

*Minutes regarding 'Agenda Reference Number: 01/2018'*

### Item

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**  
Chris Heap (NRW), Les Handy, Jo Evans, Anna Harris
- 2 **Involving Community Councils in PROW**  
The meeting discussed how closer working with Community Councils could be achieved in order to improve RoW network. There are approximately 15 community councils in the Newport area. There is a quarterly Liaison Meeting of Community Councils and it was recommended that Luke could attend one of these meetings. This would start to build a closer relationship and clarify the responsibilities and powers that Community Councils have with regard to public rights of way.
- 3 **LAF contribution to Newport City Council**  
Luke asked the attendees how they would like to contribute. Ideas put forward were as follows:
  - Build closer links to walking groups
  - Active participation in a survey of the rights of way network – use the CAMs survey forms
  - Help to set clear, measurable goals for the year for the LAF? E.g. % of network that is passable
  - Identify problem paths that need to be cleared every year so that maintenance can be scheduled without being asked.
  - Housing developments are reducing the rights of way network – help to reduce impact
  - Improve the user evidence forms (Anne Underwood has some forms from other areas which might be useful).
  - The “Living Levels” initiative is looking to create circular routes in the Gwent levels (Jo Gossage) – the LAF might be able to help with this.

- Help to gather evidence to create/upgrade rights of way. E.g. "Enclosure Orders" can be used as evidence of a public right of way. As can details in the Finance Act 1920 of highways.
- Anti social use of the RoW network by 4x4s and motorbikes was discussed.

#### 4 **ROWIP Review Update**

Luke, Debbie and Anne gave feedback from the first sub committee of the LAF ROWIP Update which was held on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February. Subjects covered include:

- How to prioritise resources for the RoW network.
- Use of drones to survey paths (and identify path abuse)
- Recording paths before the 2026 deadline (how to gather and present evidence).
- Ploughing/cropping – reporting areas where paths are not restored within 14 days
- Unclassified paths – could we look at improving/utilising them?
- Lack of a furniture standard policy for Newport – could this be created as part of the ROWIP. How to encourage landowners to put in gates rather than stiles to improve access.

#### 5 **Any other business**

- John has seen a map of possible fracking areas which includes some in Newport wetlands
- Doug mentioned that a "heritage trail" was proposed to take in historical sites from Newport via Caerphilly to Cardiff. Also a chartist heritage route from Blackwood to Newport (via Rogerstone)
- Everyone to look out for any news on these proposals

#### 6 **Date of next meeting**

Weds 16 May 2018 at 6.30pm

#### **Action Points:**

1. *Discharged* - Luke to circulate the current ROWIP to the members
2. *Discharged* - Members should contact Luke if they would like to be part of the sub-committee to review the ROWIP – *first meeting held 15 Feb*
3. *C/F* - Luke to find out what the next step is for the consultation document; Taking Forward Wales' Sustainable Management of Natural Resources – *no update available at this time*
4. *Discharged* - Luke to inform members when the Rights of Way Section of the Newport Web Site is live – *site is now live*
5. *Discharged* - Luke to clarify funding model for 2018, particularly for the LAF and rights of way network. *Currently there is no specific ROWIP funding for 2018 so may need to apply for grants*
6. *New* - Luke to ensure that the LAF minutes are easy to find on Newport Web Site.
7. *New* – Jo to inform Alison Boyes of the Living Levels initiative that the LAF is interested in working with them to improve paths in the Gwent Levels area.
8. *New* – Luke to circulate the pro-active maintenance schedule
9. *New* – Luke to circulate the URL for the online map of rights of way in Newport.
10. *New* – Luke to review the Bishton path (behind the church) where a step over barrier was installed rather than a "Kent Carriage Gap". This has resulted in horse drawn carriages being prevented from using it.
11. *New* – Luke to add M4 Relief Road update to next agenda (c/f from November meeting).