

Minutes

Newport Local Access Forum

Date 20th September 2017

Time 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Present **B Jelf, D Russell, A Underwood, C Heaps (NRW), S Cliffe, W Archer, L Handy**

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

Minutes regarding 'Agenda Reference Number: 01/2017'

Item

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**
None
- 2 **Introduction of new Rights of Way Officer: Luke Stacey**
- 3 **Active Travel Update**

Public consultation on the Integrated Network Map completes on 25th November. Final map will be submitted to Welsh Government in November and if approved, will form the basis of the 15 year improvement plan.
- 4 **ROWIP Review**
Current ROWIP ends in 2017. In early 2018 the process to create the new ROWIP will begin.
- 5 **Taking Forward Wales' Sustainable Management of Natural Resources – LAF response to chapter 4**
The meeting reviewed Chapter 4 of the document.
Proposal 10 – good as a principle, but likely to be practical problems. Will there be additional funding to police the policy?
Proposal 11 – Chris clarified that this proposal applies to areas designated as open access, e.g. common land/open country only. Camping is in tents only. The meeting was broadly happy with revoking b, c and l but s needs more detail and thought given to it before revoking to ensure that no antisocial behaviour results.
Proposal 12 – the meeting assumed that any organised cycle racing would mean that the bridleway was closed to non-participants for the duration of the event (for safety reasons). As

there are so few bridleways in Newport this would put vulnerable horses onto roads for the duration of the event. Also concerns about damage to the routes. The authority should have the power to charge for use of the paths so that funding could be used to improve the RoW Network. Also concern that cycle racing could encourage reckless use of the paths outside the event itself. So in summary the meeting could not fully support this proposal, but if it does go ahead, then charges should be made to the users and the money used on the RoW network.

Also on Proposal 12 – the meeting felt that the use of stiles on footpaths should be actively discouraged as it restricts usage of paths to anyone unable to climb a stile or with a dog. Gaps or kissing gates should be used instead.

Proposal 13 – the meeting supports this proposal subject to seeing the definition of where the “coast” ends, and with an assurance that marine wildlife is given reasonable protection.

Proposal 14 and 15 – the meeting supports these proposals to define permissible access points to rivers and promote responsible use. Though it is noted that additional funding would be required for this new work.

Proposal 16 – The meeting needs more detail to understand the implications of this proposal? How would it be enforced? What is the definition of “sensible”?

Proposal 17 – The meeting supports the proposal as long as criteria are applied to prevent the abuse of the proposal to close paths for unreasonable lengths of time.

Proposal 18 – The meeting supports this proposal.

Proposal 19 – The meeting strongly supports the idea of the definitive map being digitised but clarity is required over “green infrastructure” which may not necessarily accessible to the public. Online public access to the map should be included as part of the proposal.

Proposal 20 – The meeting supports this proposal.

Proposal 21 – The meeting supports this proposal

Proposal 22 - The meeting supports this proposal

Proposal 23 – The meeting is concerned that this proposal could lead to a bias towards active travel rather than recreational use of the rural network. So funding for rural rights of way needs to be ringfenced.

Proposal 24 – The meeting disagrees with this proposal and believes that the existing classification of bridleway or restricted byway should be used thus allowing access to all vulnerable road users.

Proposal 25 – The meeting strongly supports this proposal.

Proposal 26 – The meeting supports this proposal

Proposal 27 – The meeting supports a review of the local access forums to improve their effectiveness and relevance. However Local Access Forums need more pro-active support from local council members and secretarial support from the local authority. The LAF should be added to a specific cabinet member portfolio.

6 Contacting Officers directly with PROW issues

Any maintenance issues with rights of way should be formally recorded via the Newport Web Site so that full visibility is given (and mention “streetscene” in the report).

7 Llandevaud Mill Enquiry

Six years ago a claim was made for a bridleway to be added to the definitive map in the Llandevaud Mill area. Since then there has been several inquiries and the order has been challenged. The next inquiry is due on 3rd October.

7 Date of next meeting

22 Nov 2017 at 6.30pm

There was only 1 **Action Point** from the meeting: The number of stiles(and other furniture) to be reported to the next LAF meeting (using data from CaMMS)