

Minutes

Newport Local Access Forum

Date 10th November 2016

Time 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Present **B Jelf, D Russell, D McAllister, S Cliffe, W Archer, Y Forsey, L Handy, D Knight, A Fleming and J Harris**

Officers in Attendance **C Bustin and M Lea** (Newport City Council)

Minutes regarding 'Agenda Reference Number: 02/2016'

Item

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**
Anne Underwood, Joanne Evans and Joanne Gossage.
- 2 **Minutes**
The minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2016 were confirmed.
Carl Bustin informed the meeting that he will be moving on (last day is 11th November).
- 3 **Election of Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson**
The new Chairman for the Newport LAF will be Les Handy and the Deputy Chair will be Douglas Knight.
- 4 **Active Travel Update**
Carl Bustin briefed the meeting on Active Travel explaining the map of existing routes has been complete and the next phase is to create an Integrated Network Map. Six information gathering workshops will be held around the Newport area, looking at possible ideas to improve certain links etc. The LAF members were encouraged to attend the workshops. More information (including dates and venues) can be found on the following website:

<http://www.newport.gov.uk/en/Transport-Streets/Active-travel.aspx>

There was a discussion regarding the canal path and how the Newport section of the path is in poor condition compared to the Caerphilly section. Advice - Attend one of the Active Travel workshops and put forward suggestions / ideas that may become included for the next step of the consultation.

There is a proposal to claim a path in Rogerstone as a PROW (the steps connecting between the upper and lower roads) that used to lead to the old power station at Afon Mead. The period of consultation ends on 2 December. Yvonne Forsey, who is leading the project, stated that £20k has been set aside to restore the steps, lighting, handrails etc.

Another possible idea was also suggested to claim a path alongside the Ebbw (located within Rogerstone) adjacent to the old Alcan site which is being developed for housing. Douglas Knight will look to lead the work with the help from Yvonne Forsey to bring this forward, although the ownership of the land is unclear but Newport City Council are looking to hopefully adopt this area sometime next year.

Yvoone Forsey asked where she could find the standard criteria that would meet Active Travel multi user paths - Matthew will provide this.

5 14 Locks Canal Volunteer Group

A new group has been created to carry out physical work that will improve the Monmouthshire Brecon canal tow path especially within the Community of Rogerstone and 14 locks centre. Good progress has already been made - Volunteers meet every Thursday at 10am. Mark Benson is the Countryside Warden who's currently supporting the project and welcomes anyone who would like to join. Please inform Matthew Lea if you're interested and he will ask Marc Benson to arrange. Both Yvonne Forsey and Douglas Knight have signed up as a member of the group and are helping out with activities.

6 Any other business

There's a separate Rights Of Way volunteer group who work all over Newport maintaining PROW footpaths - Contact Matthew Lea if you would like to get involved.

Way marking - Deborah Russell asked what the policy is regarding 'maintaining way markers' as many were disappearing in Michaelston -Y Vedw. Carl Bustin said the 10 promoted circular routes within Newport are reviewed annually which should be all up to date. A proposal was suggested to create a more efficient way for LAF members to report issues with paths including 'lack of way marking and signposting' to the wardens without going through the Contact Centre - This will be discussed as a possible agenda item at our next meeting.

A public enquiry was held in early October to review the Llandevaud Bridle path - The outcome is still awaited and will be discussed once a decision has been made.

The current ROWIP will need to be reviewed and recreated in 2017 - LAF member's will play a crucial part for this document and may need to provide input. Les Handy suggested a sub-committee to be formed and draft the ROWIP document with full support from the Council.

7 Date of next meeting

The next LAF meeting is likely to be January / February (2nd or third Wednesday of the month starting at 6.30pm).

LAF members were asked to put forward ideas for the next agenda.

Ideas so far:

1. Look for a more efficient way for LAF members to report Rights Of Way issues directly to Countryside Wardens rather than having to go through the Contact Centre (to reduce large call waiting issues).
2. Volunteers to survey the Rights Of Way network and feedback the information to Council Wardens who can input straight to CAMS.
3. Update on the ROWIP document (current and future).
4. Update on the proposed paths in Rogerstone.
5. Update on Llandevaud Bridleway.\