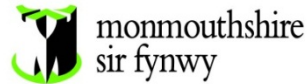


Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

14th November 2019

Notice of meeting

Local Access Forum

Tuesday, 19th November, 2019 at 2.00 pm,
Wye Valley AONB Offices, Hadnock Road, Monmouth NP25 3NG - Wye
Valley AONB Offices, Hadnock Road, Monmouth NP25 3NG

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Introduction/Apologies for Absence	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
3.	Minutes of the last meeting; to confirm and sign the minutes of the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum meeting held on the 10th July 2019	To Follow
4.	Rights of Way Improvement Plan Consultation Responses	1 - 2
5.	Lower Wye Valley Catchments Natural Flood Management and Green Infrastructure Project	3 - 6
6.	Update Report	7 - 8
7.	LAF Annual Joint Meeting 17th October 2019 (verbal update)	
8.	Date of Next Meeting: 22nd January 2020	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillors:

P. Belsten
Bilsborough
Brooke
Clarke
Fairey
Hampshire
Jones
A. Webb

Pat Belsten
Gill Bilsborough
Irene Brooke
Alan Clarke
Anthea Fairey
Sheila Hampshire
Gwyneth Jones
Paul Keeble
Matthew Lewis
Ruth Rourke
Christian Schmidt
Mark Storey
Claire Williams

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Sustainable and Resilient Communities

Outcomes we are working towards

Nobody Is Left Behind

- Older people are able to live their good life
- People have access to appropriate and affordable housing
- People have good access and mobility

People Are Confident, Capable and Involved

- People's lives are not affected by alcohol and drug misuse
- Families are supported
- People feel safe

Our County Thrives

- Business and enterprise
- People have access to practical and flexible learning
- People protect and enhance the environment

Our priorities

- Schools
- Protection of vulnerable people
- Supporting Business and Job Creation
- Maintaining locally accessible services

Our Values

- **Openness:** we aspire to be open and honest to develop trusting relationships.
- **Fairness:** we aspire to provide fair choice, opportunities and experiences and become an organisation built on mutual respect.
- **Flexibility:** we aspire to be flexible in our thinking and action to become an effective and efficient organisation.
- **Teamwork:** we aspire to work together to share our successes and failures by building on our strengths and supporting one another to achieve our goals.

Nodau a Gwerthoedd Cyngor Sir Fynwy

Cymunedau Cynaliadwy a Chryf

Canlyniadau y gweithiwn i'w cyflawni

Neb yn cael ei adael ar ôl

- Gall pobl hŷn fyw bywyd da
- Pobl â mynediad i dai addas a fforddiadwy
- Pobl â mynediad a symudedd da

Pobl yn hyderus, galluog ac yn cymryd rhan

- Camddefnyddio alcohol a chyffuriau ddim yn effeithio ar fywydau pobl
- Teuluoedd yn cael eu cefnogi
- Pobl yn teimlo'n ddiogel

Ein sir yn ffynnu

- Busnes a menter
- Pobl â mynediad i ddysgu ymarferol a hyblyg
- Pobl yn diogelu ac yn cyfoethogi'r amgylchedd

Ein blaenoriaethau

- Ysgolion
- Diogelu pobl agored i niwed
- Cefnogi busnes a chreu swyddi
- Cynnal gwasanaethau sy'n hygyrch yn lleol

Ein gwerthoedd

- **Bod yn agored:** anelwn fod yn agored ac onest i ddatblygu perthnasoedd ymddiriedus
- **Tegwch:** anelwn ddarparu dewis teg, cyfleoedd a phrofiadau a dod yn sefydliad a adeiladwyd ar barch un at y llall.
- **Hyblygrwydd:** anelwn fod yn hyblyg yn ein syniadau a'n gweithredoedd i ddod yn sefydliad effeithlon ac effeithiol.
- **Gwaith tîm:** anelwn gydweithio i rannu ein llwyddiannau a'n methiannau drwy adeiladu ar ein cryfderau a chefnogi ein gilydd i gyflawni ein nodau.

Terms of Reference

Monmouthshire Local Access Forum is the statutory Local Access Forum for Monmouthshire (excluding that part of the county that falls into the Brecon Beacons National Park), as required under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000.

The function of the Forum is to advise the local authority, Natural Resources Wales and others, as to the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and the enjoyment of the area, and to advise and assist with the implementation of the Public Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Membership

Members of the forum are appointed by the “Appointing Authority” (Monmouthshire County Council in accordance with the relevant regulations. The current membership of the forum is as follows:

Mr John Askew

Mrs Patricia Belsten

Mrs Irene Brooke

Mrs Anthea Fairey

Mrs Sheila Hampshire

Ms Elizabeth Hepburn

Ms Gwyneth Jones

Mr Phil Mundell

Mr David Smith

Mr Mark Storey

Mrs Anne Underwood (Deputy Chair)

Cllr Ann Webb (the “Appointing Authority” representative)

Observers;

Representatives from Monmouthshire County Council and Natural Resources Wales

Monmouthshire Local Access Forum

AGENDA ITEM: 4

**SUBJECT: RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN
MEETING: MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
DATE: 19 NOVEMBER 2019**

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To allow the Local Access Forum to review the consultation responses received to date on the Monmouthshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan review.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 For the Forum's consideration and views.

3. BACKGROUND:

- 3.1 In October 2007 Monmouthshire County Council published its Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP). This plan has been the means by which the Authority identified, prioritised and planned for improvements to the access available in the county. Legislation now requires that we review the plan and publish another.
- 3.2 The LAF considered progress on the review and the associated assessments in February and November 2018 and the pre-consultation draft of the ROWIP in July 2019. Based on the LAF's comments an amended version of the draft plan was published (<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/rights-of-way-improvement-plan-rowip/>) for consultation in September 2019.
- 3.3 The consultation period expires on 26 November 2019, however we have subsequently received a request for, and agreed, an extension to 16 December 2019. Consequently an updated schedule of comments received to date will be provided to members prior to the meeting and a full schedule will be provide at the January 2020 meeting.
- 3.4 The results of the consultation will be reported to Strong Communities Select Committee in January, prior to final consideration of the plan by Cabinet in February 2020.

4. AUTHOR:

Matthew Lewis
LAF Secretary matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk 01633 644855

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Monmouthshire Local Access Forum

AGENDA ITEM: 5

**SUBJECT: LOWER WYE VALLEY CATCHMENTS NATURAL FLOOD
MANAGEMENT AND GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT
MEETING: MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM
DATE: 19 NOVEMBER 2019**

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To update the Local Access Forum on progress on the Lower Wye Valley Catchments Natural Flood Management (NFM) and Green Infrastructure (GI) Project being delivered by the Wye Valley AONB unit.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 For the Forum's information.

3. BACKGROUND:

- 3.1 As reported to the last meeting funding by NRW and the Wye Valley AONB Partnership has enabled the delivery of the Lower Wye Valley Catchments NFM & GI project, funded until December 2019. This project takes a catchment approach in 54km² of the Wye Valley AONB, focussing on 4 Wye tributaries between Penallt and St Arvans. The project aims to develop practical sustainable solutions addressing land management, water run-off, access and invasive species through an integrated approach.
- 3.2 A key focus is on resolving where surface water run-off and flooding impact on people's ability to access and enjoy the countryside. The project is supported by a steering group comprising representatives of National Farmers Union Wales, Gwent Wildlife Trust, Natural Resources Wales, Monmouthshire Meadows, Woodland Trust, Wye Valley AONB and Monmouthshire County Council (Countryside Access, Green Infrastructure, Highways and Flood Management).
- 3.3 One outcome of the Lower Wye Valley Catchments NFM & GI project, is to investigate complex, specific and long standing access issues in relation to surface water run-off and land management. The intention is to draw together all the information gathered and take the first steps towards forming an overall strategy with a view to seeking further specific funding to address issues.
- 3.4 A brief project update (taken from the October steering group minutes) is appended and the project officer Chris Radford will provide an update to the meeting.

4. AUTHOR:

Matthew Lewis
LAF Secretary matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk 01633 644855

Lower Wye Valley Catchments Project: Project Update October 2019
(from Steering Group minutes)

- A. Farm management advice (Angidy catchment)
- i. Wye & Usk Foundation (WUF) have completed eleven farm visits and reports in the catchment. Focus for the remaining two months of the project is to ensure agreed capital works are completed, signed off and invoiced through the project budget. A key element to the success of the farm advice through the catchment has been building trust and developing relations with the farmers and the need to strike a balance between proposing land management works and considering business needs of the farm.
- B. Pilot projects to investigate solutions to long standing access issues
- i. Second consultant report completed for unclassified highway issues at Tintern Rd, Glynwood Rd, Horse Way and Robin's Way near Whitebrook (First report was opportunity mapping in the Limekiln Brook catchment). Report proposals have identified, located and mapped potential track-based measures including cross drains, bunds, swales and path reconstruction, resurface and regrading. These measures would look to reduce the volume and speed of water currently adding to surface erosion and discharging at speed from these routes, blocking culverts and entering watercourses. Suggestion in the report has been made for Tintern Road to be used as a trial site where proactive works could reduce damage in the long term and test the implementation of measures. Having now established works that could improve highway condition, the remaining budget will be used to cost out measures should further funding become available, with the aim of helping to remove water from the highways, reduce impact and/or push to drains or areas it can infiltrate. Chapel Hill Road will be the priority for costing works, followed by Tintern Road.
 - ii. Green Infrastructure Strategy: the final piece of work through this area of the project is to draw together all the information gathered and take the first steps towards forming a strategy. The intention is to map all rights of ways/promoted routes/unclassified highways/NFM measures/other data derived from the project to form the basis of a workshop to help develop the GI Strategy. This work will be useful for future funding bids. NRW would be a key partner in any future work.
- C. Best practice/info sharing events
- i. 18 events delivered to date including volunteer days, Monmouth show, talks, guided walks, JAC tour and Farming Connect event. Additional events still in the planning including field visit with Wyedean School Geography Group and leaky dam site visits. Also hoping to hold a 'thank you' event inviting the Angidy catchment farmers visited by WUF, once all visits/capital grant work completed.
 - ii. Wye Valley NFM seminar: Wednesday 27th November to raise awareness and hear from established projects to discover what is possible, successes, opportunities & challenges.
- D. Pilot NFM work
- i. Leaky ditch barriers installed on Limekiln Brook which worked successfully during recent high rainfall event. Consent agreed for leaky dams to be installed within a woodland dingle on the Anghidi Fawr, excellent site with lots of potential & could be

a site to use for future interventions. Operations team from WUF to carry out works, hoping to arrange a group site visit/s when work complete & depending on timescales. CR meeting with a PhD student carrying out a case study on the Trothy and who is more widely exploring “Land manager’s perceptions and preferences for landscapes, and the impact of this on tree planting for NFM”. Although clearly beyond the scope of this project, interest is growing in how different NFM measures slow and store floodwater, sediment and nutrients, helping to prove effectiveness of interventions/projects/reduced flood risk/biodiversity/funding value. CR trying to visit a Woodland Trust/Forest Research trial site in Abergavenny which had some of the earliest leaky dams installed in 2005 and which have been monitored to date.

- ii. Ty Mawr (GWT site) leaky dam prep work done. Consent needs to be finalised, site visit to be arranged to progress this.
- iii. Leaky dam opportunities in NRW woodland can only be moved forward through a management agreement.

E. Invasive weed mapping & control

- i. Significant Japanese knotweed (JK) has been treated throughout project area this Autumn with full budget for this allocated to contractors. Lots of JK in Angidy valley; from surveys can often trace back to bankside earthworks (contaminated soil/gravel movement). This work has also complemented previous JK control carried out by AONB in Tintern. Skunk cabbage (SC) site also treated. Additional SC sites identified but budget already exhausted. Awareness regarding SC appears to be rising nationally.
- ii. The Narth community volunteer group (with support from CR) have carried out significant work on Himalayan balsam (HB) this year including surveying, and then control/pulling on three days (8th Aug, 5th Sep & 30th Sep) which was required due to this plants effective & extended flowering season. This work has been valuable showing how coordinating work in a small prioritised catchment alongside committed volunteers taking local ownership can prove effective to eliminate the plant locally. However, this has involved significant officer time and high volunteer input. Some areas are also inaccessible to volunteers due to steep banks, adding to volunteer frustration. Without major long term funding local site management such as this appears to be the only option at present, with extent of the plant becoming unmanageable in many areas.
- iii. CR looking to electronically map location & extent of SC, JK & HB through project area from surveys and records provided from volunteers etc. training for staff.



The Lower Wye Valley Catchments Natural Flood Management & Green Infrastructure Project is funded by Natural Resources Wales and the Wye Valley AONB Partnership.

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Monmouthshire Local Access Forum

AGENDA ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: UPDATE REPORT

MEETING: MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

DATE: 19 NOVEMBER 2019

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To update the Local Access Forum on progress on MonLife, Local Access Forum Membership and the proposed Glynwood Road traffic order.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 To approve the draft Local Access Forum's annual report for 2017/18 and 2018/19.

3. BACKGROUND:

3.1 MonLife

Further to the report to the local access forum's last meeting County Council on 19 September 2019 approved the Business Plan for MonLife that sets out the strategic direction and the operating model for MonLife. Subsequently the management structure has been put in place and so the Countryside Access team, including public rights of way and the management of countryside sites forms part of an Environment and Culture service grouping with MonLife.

3.2 Local Access Forum Membership

The advertisement / publicity to recruit members for the next period of office of the forum from the end of January 2020 attracted 14 applications. County Council on 24 October 2019 reappointed those existing members of the forum who had reapplied (Irene Brooke, Anthea Fairey, Shelia Hampshire, Phil Mundell, Mark Storey, David Smith and Anne Underwood) and also appointed Sylvia Fowles. The remaining six applicants (Jenny Crockitt, Gordon Davies, David Farnsworth; Tracy Hook, Shan Lewis and Martin Sweeney) will be interviewed by a panel of nominated members who are delegated to make the final appointments. The County Council also reappointed Cllr Ann Webb as the Council's representative on the forum

It is hoped to complete the appointment process so that the new LAF can meet without a delay following completion of the current LAF's tenure. The members panel is also delegated powers to consider further applications should the new forum asks the County Council to seek additional members to reflect any specific interests felt not to be appropriately represented.

3.3 Proposed Glynwood Road Traffic Order

As part of the proposed Various Roads, County Wide Amendment No.1 of Consolidation Order 2019 the Council has resolved to approve and implement the proposed orders not receiving any objections/representations including Glynwood Road (C53-4), St.Arvals to introduce a Prohibition of Motor Vehicles restriction on part of the road; as discussed at the last local access forum meeting.

4. **AUTHOR:**

Matthew Lewis

LAF Secretary matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk 01633 644855