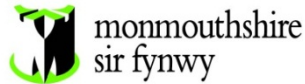


Public Document Pack



County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

16th January 2020

Notice of meeting:

Local Access Forum

Wednesday, 22nd January, 2020 at 2.00 pm,

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Introductions / 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 of 19 November 2019	To Follow
4.	Countryside Access (Rights of Way) Improvement Plan Review: Public consultation responses and post consultation draft (report attached)	1 - 2
5.	Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020 - 2025 (Report Attached)	3 - 4
6.	Monmouthshire Local Access Forum Annual Report 19/20 (Report Attached)	5 - 18
7.	Date of next meeting: This is the final meeting of the current LAF whose term expires on 25 January 2020. Date of the first meetings, a) Appointing Authority's Briefing and b) election of new Chair and Vice Chair / Agreement on terms of reference, for the new LAF to be confirmed in due course.	

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: 22 JANUARY 2020

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To allow the Local Access Forum to review the results of the consultation on the draft plan and the content of the finalised Countryside Access Improvement Plan and the Countryside Access Policy, Protocol and Operational Management Guide

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 For the Forum's consideration and views.

3. BACKGROUND:

- 3.1 The background and issues are set out in the attached report and appendices:
 - a) [Countryside Access Improvement Plan](#) – Report to Strong Communities Select Committee 23 January 2020.
 - b) Appendix 2: [Final ROWIP consultation report December 2019](#)
 - c) Appendix 3: [Countryside Access Improvement Plan](#) (showing changes from consultation draft)
 - d) Appendix 4: [Countryside Access Policy, Protocol and Operational Management Guide](#)
<https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/app/uploads/2019/09/Draft-Policy-and-Protocol-Appendix-5.pdf>

4. AUTHOR:

Matthew Lewis
LAF Secretary matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk 01633 64485

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Monmouthshire Local Access Forum

AGENDA ITEM: 5

SUBJECT: WYE VALLEY AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020-2025

DATE: 22 JANUARY 2020

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To update the Local Access Forum on the review of the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025 and identify any issues they wish the review to consider further.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 For the Forum's consideration and views.

3. BACKGROUND:

- 3.1 The background and issues are set out in the attached report:
 - a) [Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020 – 2025](#) – Report to Strong Communities Select Committee 23 January 2020.
 - b) Appendix 2: Draft Management Plan: <https://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Public-Consultation-Draft-Wye-Valley-AONB-Management-Plan-2020-25.pdf>
 - c) Also available version showing proposed modifications from 2015-2020 plan: (<https://www.wyevalleyaonb.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/Public-consultation-DRAFT-Wye-Valley-AONB-Management-Plan-2020-25-changes-v2015-20.pdf>)

4. AUTHOR:

Matthew Lewis

LAF Secretary matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk 01633 644855

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Monmouthshire Local Access Forum

AGENDA ITEM: 6

SUBJECT: ANNUAL REPORT

MEETING: MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

DATE: 22 JANUARY 2020

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To update the Local Access Forum on the annual report for 19/20.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 To approve the draft Local Access Forum's annual report for 2019/20.

3. BACKGROUND:

- 3.1 The appointing authority is required to prepare an annual report of the Local Access Forum containing details of the work done by the LAF in the preceding year and a work plan for the coming year.
- 3.2 The 19/20 report covers the third and final year of the current LAF from 25 January 2019 to 25 January 2020 and is appended.
- 3.4 The draft final report will be available for the new LAF to include a forward work plan to allow its publication.

4. AUTHOR:

Matthew Lewis

LAF Secretary matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk 01633 644855

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FIRST DRAFT FOR LAF 22 JANUARY 2020

[Photograph to be inserted]



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Version Control

Title	Monmouthshire Local Access Forum Annual Report
Purpose	Annual Report 19/20
Owner	Local Access Forum
Approved by	
Date	130120
Version Number	0.1
Status	First Draft

Published in accordance with Regulation 16 of the Countryside Access (Local Access Forums) (Wales) Regulations 2001 by the Appointing Authority, Monmouthshire County Council, on behalf of the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum.

Chairman's Foreword

This Report covers the third and final year of the current Forum to 25 January 2020.

[To be revised / completed]

I am the elected Chair and my Deputy is Irene Brookes. Our Secretary is Matthew Lewis, Environment and Culture Manager, MonLife and meetings are attended by Ruth Rourke, Countryside Access Manager, Paul Keeble, Group Engineer Highways and Flood Management and Alan Clarke the Minute Secretary.

Details of our workload for the year are set out in the Review below. We have spent considerable time this year debating and commenting on a variety of issues including the Rights of Way Improvement Plan review and the response to Welsh Government's consultation paper. Irene and I have also worked closely with the National Representative for Welsh LAFs attending the National Chairs meeting and the National LAF Conference.

I also very much appreciate the contribution made by all the members who have a wide range of knowledge and experience.

Anne Underwood

Secretary's Report

This report marks the completion of the third year of the current LAF from its first meeting on 25 January 2017. The forum has continued to operate below the statutory minimum during the year. However the forum's has continued to contribute to the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, including considering the responses to public consultation and the proposed final plan.

The more formal approach to the LAF agenda's, reports and meetings has continued this year and has been successful in focussing the LAF activities. Workload pressures within the appointing authority has meant the LAF has met on three occasions during the year.

During the past year the forum met on 10 July 2019 in Usk, 19 November 2019 in Monmouth and 22 January 2020 in Usk also in Monmouth.

The LAF members continue to contribute to the resolution and development of countryside access issues and policy in Monmouthshire.

We are very grateful for their voluntary input and for the experience and advice they provide and their commitment to the work of the forum.

Matthew Lewis, Secretary

The Year reviewed

These are some of the issues where the LAF have advised and been consulted:-

1. RoWIP Review

The forum has considered the RoWIP Review, including the pre-consultation draft in July and the results of the public consultations in November 2019 and January 2020, and the proposed post consultation draft of the Countryside Access (Rights of Way) Improvement Plan in January 2020, prior to its proposed consideration by the Council's cabinet in February 2020.

Implementation of the new RoWIP including the preparation of a RoWIP delivery plan is likely to continue to be the main focus of the LAF's work over the coming year. The LAF Secretary and the Countryside Access Manager will ensure the LAF is appropriately briefed and involved.

2. Consultations

The LAF has responded to consultations on the Brecon Beacons RoWIP, the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan and a proposed road traffic order on Glynwood Road (Cross Farm to Fair Oak) Tintern.

We have received updates from the Chair and Vice Chair and the Countryside Access Manager from the LAF Chairs joint meetings, including on the progress of Welsh Government's proposed legislative changes.

3. Projects and funding

We have received updates on the options for a new delivery mode, now established as MonLife, for the future delivery of Tourism, Leisure, Cultural & Youth Services, including countryside services, countryside access sites and rights of way.

We have received updates on various externally funded programmes and projects and the recruitment of the new LAF.

We have also received an update on progress on the Lower Wye Valley Catchments Green Infrastructure and Natural Flood Management Project, a joint MCC and Wye Valley AONB project supported by grant aid from Natural Resources Wales.

Work Carried Out in 2018/19

No	Item	On Draft Plan or Additional	When Done
	Membership		
1.			
	Rights of Way Improvement Plan Review		
2	ROWIP Review: Pre-consultation Draft	Yes	10 July 2019
	Rights of Way Improvement Plan Review Consultation Responses	Yes	19 Nov 2019
	Countryside Access (Rights of Way) Improvement Plan Review: Public consultation responses and post consultation draft	Yes	22 Jan 2020
	Consultations		
3.	Brecon Beacons ROWIP	Yes	10 July 2019
	Proposed Road Traffic Order: Glynwood Road (Cross Farm to Fair Oak) Tintern	Yes	10 July 2019; 19 Nov 2019
	Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020 – 2025	Yes	22 Jan 2020
	Special Projects		
4.	Proposed new delivery model for Tourism, Leisure, Culture & Youth Services / MonLife	Yes	10 July 2019; 19 Nov 2019
	Lower Wye Valley Catchments Green Infrastructure and Natural Flood Management Project	Yes	19 Nov 2019

Future Work Programme

The forum's future work programme for 2020/21 is ... as set out in Appendix 2 **[to be considered by the new LAF prior to the report's publication]**

Role of the Forum

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 requires local authorities and National Parks, to establish Local Access Forums (LAFs). These forums advise Natural Resources Wales (NRW), local authorities and National Park authorities on ways in which local access can be improved.

The statutory purpose of LAFs is to advise on the improvement of public access to land for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment of the area in which they are established. LAF's must have regard to the needs of land management, natural beauty, flora, fauna, and geological and physiographical features.

The following bodies must have regard to any relevant advice given by the LAF: National Park authority, the highway authority, Natural Resources Wales, Welsh Government and, for matters relating to defence or security, the Secretary of State.

The forums must have a balance between:

- Users of access land and local rights of way; and
- Landowners and occupiers of access land and land with rights of way.

People with other interests especially relevant to the area will also be represented.

The Regulations specify there should be between 12 and 22 members, including the Chair and the Deputy. In addition the Chair may invite other individuals and organisations to observe and give advice.

Members are appointed by the Appointing Authority the local Highway Authority or National Park Authority. Monmouthshire County Council is the appointing authority for the Monmouthshire LAF which covers the administrative County of Monmouthshire outside the boundary of the Brecon Beacons National Park. It includes the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Beauty within the county.

Within the area there are Registered Commons and 1657 Kilometres of registered Public Rights of Way. There is in addition a substantial length of County Unclassified Roads, the responsibility of the Highway Section, many of which are un-surfaced.

Monmouthshire County Council and the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority have a Delegated Responsibility Agreement covering most aspects of the management of Public Rights of Way within the National Park.

Contacts

Monmouthshire LAF Secretary

Matthew Lewis
Environment and Culture Manager
MonLife
Monmouthshire County Council
County Hall, The Rhadyr
Usk NP15 1GA

Tel: 01633 644855

Email: countryside@monmouthshire.gov.uk

More details on the Monmouthshire LAF are available at

<https://www.monlife.co.uk/outdoor/countryside-access/monmouthshire-local-access-forum-laf/>

This includes link to the LAF agendas, reports and minutes on the Council's meetings calendar under the appropriate dates <http://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/home/local-democracy-and-councillors/council-meetings> If not available please contact the Secretary.

Appendix 1: Forum Membership

a) 2017/20 Membership (to 25 January 2020)

NAME	INTERESTS
Irene BROOKE (Deputy Chair)	Farmer with local business and tourism interests. Enthusiastic walker in Monmouthshire and other areas of UK. Dog walker, horse rider and photographer. Flora and fauna of Angiddy Valley. Member of CLA, NFU and Monmouthshire Meadows Group.
Anthea FAIREY	Chair of Friends of Castle Meadows, Abergavenny which works together with Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) to encourage access for all into the Meadows and to encourage various groups and individuals to participate in the enhancement and conservation of this unique habitat.
Sheila HAMPSHIRE	I am keen to promote safe and responsible access for walkers, horse riders and where appropriate bikes, with the interests of all parties at heart. I have knowledge of the local area having lived here for 40 years and enjoyed walks and horse riding myself, as well as having a keen interest in the needs of wildlife.
Gwyneth JONES	As an explorer (albeit close to home) I have an interest in signage and information, along with an appreciation of the work that goes into producing it. My family connections and business interests give me some insight into the pleasures and frustrations of various forms of off-road motorcycling; trials, enduro, motocross, etc. where access is frequently a vexed issue.
Philip MUNDELL	I have been a volunteer with Monmouthshire County Council Countryside section for the past nine years. I am particularly proud of my involvement with the Fit4Life scheme and was part of the team that initiated both the Abergavenny and Chepstow groups. I am now an active member of the Chepstow team. I have recently agreed to take on the role of Path Care Officer with Chepstow Walkers are Welcome.
David SMITH	Since my retirement, I have been a rights of way volunteer in the Monmouthshire countryside service. This has involved repairing and maintaining public rights of way, as well as undertaking periodic path condition surveys. I lead guided walks in the Monmouthshire walking programme and help with activities such as "Moths and Bats Evenings".
Mark STOREY	Local resident, living in the Wye Valley AONB. Walker cyclist and climber (BMC member). Some familiarity with local rights of way issues and some understanding of the CROW act.
Anne UNDERWOOD (Chair)	A horse rider for most of my life, a volunteer with the British Horse Society to promote and improve access provision for equestrians. A keen walker and explorer of the countryside. Local history, health promotion, yoga.
Ann WEBB	Councillor for Tintern. Appointed as the County Council's representative.

In addition, Sylvia Fowles has been a regular observer since July 2017.

b) 2020/23 Membership

NAME	INTERESTS
Irene BROOKE	Farmer with local business and tourism interests. Enthusiastic walker in Monmouthshire and other areas of UK. Dog walker, horse rider and photographer. Flora and fauna of Angiddy Valley. Member of CLA, NFU and Monmouthshire Meadows Group.
Anthea FAIREY	Chair of Friends of Castle Meadows, Abergavenny which works together with Monmouthshire County Council (MCC) to encourage access for all into the Meadows and to encourage various groups and individuals to participate in the enhancement and conservation of this unique habitat.
Silvia FOWLES	[to be added]
Sheila HAMPSHIRE	I am keen to promote safe and responsible access for walkers, horse riders and where appropriate bikes, with the interests of all parties at heart. I have knowledge of the local area having lived here for 40 years and enjoyed walks and horse riding myself, as well as having a keen interest in the needs of wildlife.
Philip MUNDELL	I have been a volunteer with Monmouthshire County Council Countryside section for the past nine years. I am particularly proud of my involvement with the Fit4Life scheme and was part of the team that initiated both the Abergavenny and Chepstow groups. I am now an active member of the Chepstow team. I have recently agreed to take on the role of Path Care Officer with Chepstow Walkers are Welcome.
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Mark STOREY	Local resident, living in the Wye Valley AONB. Walker cyclist and climber (BMC member). Some familiarity with local rights of way issues and some understanding of the CROW act.
Anne UNDERWOOD	A horse rider for most of my life, a volunteer with the British Horse Society to promote and improve access provision for equestrians. A keen walker and explorer of the countryside. Local history, health promotion, yoga.
	[Additional members to be added when confirmed]
Ann WEBB	Councillor for Tintern. Appointed as the County Council's representative.

Appendix 2: Future Work Programme

[To be revised / added after consideration by the new LAF]

Item	Background	Reporting Arrangements
Standard Items:		
<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>MonLife Delivery Plan performance measures of CAMS issues (all issues & High priority issues) Available quarterly</i>	<i>Regular report to LAF</i>
<i>Funding</i>	<i>Progress on and opportunities for external funded & MCC capital funded countryside access projects programmes</i>	<i>Regular report to LAF</i>
<i>Consultations</i>	<i>LAF Consultations</i>	<i>Report to LAF as required</i>
Working Groups:		
<i>To be determined</i>		<i>Report to LAF as required</i>
Work Programme Items		

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