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County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

14th July 2021

Notice of meeting

Local Access Forum

Thursday, 22nd July, 2021 at 2.30 pm,
County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance

AGENDA

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Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor:

A. Webb

Sheila Hampshire
Mark Storey
Anne Underwood(Chair)
Irene Brooke (Vice Chair)
Anthea Fairey
Shan Lewis
David Smith
David Farnsworth
Tracy Hook
Gordon Davies
Jenny Cockitt
John Askew
Mark Storey
Martin Sweeney
Phil Mundell
Sylvia Fowles

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

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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

Public Document Pack Agenda Item 2

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the meeting of Local Access Forum held
at County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance on Tuesday, 9th March, 2021 at 2.00 pm**

PRESENT: I.Brooke, R. Campbell, J. Cockitt, A. Fairey, D. Farnsworth, S. Fowles, S. Hampshire, T. Hook, S. Lewis, P.Mundell, D.Smith, M.Storey, S. Tindal and County Councillor A. Webb

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Laura Bazely	Legal Services
Susan Hughes	Active Travel Officer
Paul Keeble	Group Engineer (Highways and Flood Management)
Matthew Lewis (Countryside)	Interim Performance, Evaluation and Programme Development Lead for MonLife
Ruth Rourke	Principal Officer - Countryside Access

1. Apologies for Absence / Introductions

Apologies were received from members: Gordon Davies, Anthea Fairey and Martin Sweeney.

ML welcomed members to the meeting which was being held virtually in accordance with the provisions of The Countryside Access (Local Access Forum) (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020.

The meeting was the second meeting of the new local access forum and accordingly set by the appropriate regulations and guidance, and initially chaired by the Local Access Forum Secretary. Introductions were made around the table with members outlining their areas of interest and observers their role in assisting

2. Declarations of Interest

LB outlined the requirements on LAF members and the circumstances where a declaration of interests would be appropriate, whether a personal or prejudicial interest.

3. Election of Chair and Deputy Chair

ML advised that one nomination had been received for each post, Anne Underwood for Chair and Irene Brooke for Deputy Chair. The nominations were put to the members and were unanimously agreed.

AU took the Chair

4. To confirm and sign the minutes of the Monmouthshire Local Access Forum meeting of 24 November 2020

The minutes of the meeting of 24 November 2020 were approved as a correct record.

5. Agreement of terms of reference

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Local Access Forum held at County Hall, Usk - Remote Attendance on Tuesday, 9th March, 2021 at 2.00 pm

The terms of reference for the Local Access Forum were approved

6. Discussions regarding additional members and observers

AU introduced the item, the LAF was well represented in respect of walking and horse-riding interests and had more land owner representation than previously. It was noted that member's interest also extended to water based access and off road cycling but that no motorised access interests were present. A discussion ensued as to whether the LAF should seek to recruit representation from the motorised access interests, potentially a member from one of the representative groups, and it was agreed that the appointing authority would explore this further.

ML introduced the proposed observers to the LAF; noted that MCC, NRW and have one observer as of right, RR and ST respectively and by agreement that additional observers can be added as following: for MCC, PK & SHu, and for NRW: RC. This was agreed.

A discussion followed considered the impacts of the emergency Covid closures on countryside access, including public forests, and how these arrangements developed over the period and the different lockdown. Both ML and RC outlined their respective approaches to visitor management and how both MCC and NRW had tried to develop a more nuanced approach in the second lockdown and built on experience as the situation developed. The need to promote the Countryside Code was also raised.

7. Future Work Programme

ML presented the outline work programme and outlined the core items, delivery of the Countryside Access Improvement Plan, statutory consultations, performance measures and funding / projects.

ML reminded the LAF that the forum has the ability to appoint working groups if members see fit for specific tasks

A discussion followed on other work programme priorities and the following were identified for future consideration: Access during an emergency / promotion of the Countryside Code; Definitive Map Modification Order prioritisation; the Ramblers Association Lost Ways project / Slow Ways, this was identified as a potential working group; Active Travel; Reinstating access to the IPROW magazine for LAF members was raised.

8. Dates and timing of future meetings

The forum agreed it would continue to meet on an afternoon, and virtually as long as the Regulations allow (Secretary's note: the Regulations allowing virtual meetings have been extended to 31 December 2021).

The meeting ended at 4.25 pm

Agenda Item 3

Monmouthshire

Local Access Forum

AGENDA ITEM: 3

SUBJECT: ACTIVE TRAVEL CONSULTATION

MEETING: MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

DATE: 22 JULY 2021

1. PURPOSE:

- 1.1 To allow the Local Access Forum to comment on the updating of the Active Travel Network Map (ATNM); these maps show where walking and cycling routes are identified.

2. RECOMMENDATION:

- 2.1 For the Forum's consideration and views.

3. BACKGROUND:

- 3.1 Legislation is in place requiring all local authorities in Wales to continuously improve their Active Travel routes, and plan how routes will join up to form networks so that people can more easily get around by cycle or as a pedestrian. The legislation requires that councils consult the public during the process of updating their Active Travel Network Map (ATNM); these maps show where walking and cycling routes are identified.
- 3.2 The definition of Active Travel in the legislation does not cover walking and cycling purely for pleasure, although it could significantly enhance leisure activities by helping link up networks.
- 3.3 Welsh Government criteria is primarily (but not exclusively) based on settlements with a population of more than 2,000. In Monmouthshire this means Abergavenny, Caldicot (including Rogiet and Portskewett), Chepstow, Gilwern, Magor with Undy, Monmouth, and Usk.
- 3.4 This exercise was first undertaken 3 years ago and must now be refreshed.
- 3.5 The Active Travel Officer, Sue Hughes will outline the proposals, however the consultation information is substantial and it would therefore be helpful if LAF members could review it prior to the meeting, so that we can have a focussed discussion on any issues identified.
- 3.6 The background to the consultation is at <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/about-active-travel/> and the Active Travel Network Maps can be viewed at <https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/local-active-travel-routes/>.
- 3.7 Specifically we are seeking views on
 - Whether we have identified the correct routes for improvement (future routes) and those that meet the agreed standards (existing routes)

- If we have identified all the appropriate new routes
- Whether you agree with the routes called Primary Routes. These are the suggestions for key corridors that have the greatest potential for encouraging the public to travel less by car and more through Active Travel modes
- Cycling and walking facilities or policy issues that might need addressing

4. AUTHOR:

Matthew Lewis

LAF Secretary matthewlewis@monmouthshire.gov.uk 01633 64485

Agenda Item 7:

Appendix 2: Future Work Programme

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

<i>Item</i>	<i>Background</i>	<i>Reporting Arrangements</i>
<i>Standard Items:</i>		
<i>Performance Measures</i>	<i>MonLife performance measures of CAMS issues (all issues& high priority issues) Available quarterly /</i>	<i>Regular report to LAF</i>
<i>Countryside Access Improvement Delivery Plan</i>	<i>Progress on implementation of the Countryside Access Improvement Plan</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>
<i>Working Groups:</i>		
<i>To be determined</i>		<i>Report to LAF as required</i>
<i>Work Programme Items</i>		

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