

FLINTSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

Prepared in accordance with
Regulation 16 of the Countryside Access (Local Access Forums)
(Wales) Regulations 2001
(approved by Flintshire County Council on ????????)

[as submitted to and agreed by
the Flintshire Local Access Forum on 14th January 2013]

FLINTSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

TENTH ANNUAL REPORT 2011/12

INTRODUCTION

1. The Flintshire Local Access Forum was established for the whole of the geographical area of Flintshire on 14th October 2002. Flintshire County Council had a statutory duty to establish the Forum as required by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. The statutory function of the Forum is to advise the County Council, the Countryside Council for 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. All meetings of the Forum are open to the public.
2. The present Forum membership was appointed with effect from 16th January 2012 for a period of three years.
3. This is the tenth annual report of the Forum.

THE STATUTORY FUNCTIONS OF THE FORUM

3. The Forum was not consulted during the year in relation to any of its statutory functions.

OTHER MATTERS CONSIDERED BY THE FORUM

4. The following matters were considered by the Forum during the year:-

Topic Considered : Dates Considered : Summary :	All Wales Coastal Path/Coastal Access. 11 th July 2011, 3 rd October 2011 & 6 th February 2012. The Forum was advised of progress on the Wales Coastal Access Improvement Plan.
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Topic Considered : Dates Considered : Summary :	Flintshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP). 11 th July 2011, 3 rd October 2011 & 6 th February 2012. The Forum was advised of progress on the implementation of the ROWIP.
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Topic Considered : Dates Considered : Summary :	Cycling Provision in Flintshire. 11 th July 2011, 3 rd October 2011 & 6 th February 2012. Updates were presented to the Forum.
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Topic Considered : Dates Considered : Summary :	Involvement of Town and Community Councils in Public Rights of Way Maintenance. 11 th July 2011, 3 rd October 2011 & 6 th February 2012. The Forum sought to encourage the County Council to persuade town and community councils to have greater involvement in preserving, enhancing and promoting the public rights of way network, and agreed to establish a Forum committee to consider the matter further. Meetings took place with town/community councils which led to the identification of potential projects.
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Topic Considered : Date Considered : Summary :	<i>Troedio Clwyd Walks.</i> 11 th July 2011. The Forum received a presentation regarding the above initiative.
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Topic Considered : Date Considered : Summary :	Approval of the Ninth Annual Report of the Forum. 3 rd October 2011. The Forum agreed the contents of the draft report for submission to the County Council for approval.
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Topic Considered : Date Considered : Summary :	Appointment of the new Forum membership. 16 th January 2012. The appointment of the new Forum membership took effect at this meeting.
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Topic Considered : Date Considered : Summary :	Appointment of the new Chair and Deputy Chair of the Forum. 6 th February 2012. Dr. Jean Rosenfeld and Bryan Harrison were appointed as, respectively, Chair and Deputy Chair of the Forum.
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Topic Considered : Dates Considered : Summary :	Representation of the Forum on other bodies. 6 th February 2012. The Forum nominated the following:- <u>Clwydian Range AONB Joint Advisory Committee:</u> David Hÿtch <u>Halkyn Common Joint Consultative Board:</u> Gareth Williams <u>Coastal Access Steering Group:</u> The Chair David Evans David Hÿtch <u>ROWIP Working Group:</u> Alison Chamberlain Vera Darby Neville Howell John Richards Howard White <u>Denbigh-Mold-Saltney Greenway Working Group:</u> Bryan Harrison Gareth Williams Janet Williams <u>Coed Talon Way Management Group:</u> Vera Darby <u>Clwydian Ranger Bus Group:</u> Howard White.
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PROGRAMME OF WORKS FOR THE COMING YEAR (2012/13)

5. Regulation 16(2)(b) of the Countryside Access (Local Access Forums) (Wales) Regulations 2001 requires the annual report to include a programme of works which has been agreed between the Forum and the County Council which the Forum plans to undertake during the twelve months commencing after 31st March in each year.

6. The Forum has not been specifically informed by the County Council that it will seek its advice regarding particular matters. However, it is envisaged that the following matters will be considered by the Forum in the forthcoming year (the list is not intended to be exhaustive):-
 - Rights of Way Improvement Plan
 - Wales Coastal Access Improvement Plan
 - cycling provision in Flintshire
 - *Linking Flintshire Communities* project

7. The Forum has already been advised by the Countryside Council for Wales that it will be consulted upon the matters set out on the following table supplied by CCW:-

CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU / COUNTRYSIDE COUNCIL FOR WALES
LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS – WORK PLANS 2012/ 2013

The following are matters that CCW & WAG anticipate that they will refer to LAFs during the year. This is for guidance only and may change to reflect work priorities. **It should not be taken as definitive.** In addition Local Authorities and National Park authorities will refer matters to LAFs. LAF members themselves should also be encouraged to put forward agenda items.

	Referred by	Approx Timing	Nature of Referral	Which LAFs?
ROWIP Monitoring Implementation	CCW	Ongoing	Work with local authorities to support and monitor the implementation of the provisions of the rights of way improvement plans. The 2km coastal zone continues to be eligible for ROWIP funding in 2012/13.	All
Coastal Access – Development of the Wales Coast Path and associated links	WG/CCW	Ongoing	Work with coastal local authorities and the 2 national parks (SNP and PCNP) to further develop, enhance and promote the WCP and associated links following the launch in May 2012.	Those with coastal areas
Review of Open Access Draft Map	CCW	April – November 2012	Take an active interest in the draft map stage of the review of open access land, disseminating information about the process to relevant local groups/individuals that members may be involved with. Identify any areas of open country (mountain, moor, heath and down) that should be on the maps, or areas shown on the maps that no longer qualify as open country (mountain, moor, heath and down).	All

	Referred by	Approx Timing	Nature of Referral	Which LAFs?
Implementation of the Walking and Cycling Action Plan for Wales 2009 - 2013	WG	Ongoing	<p>Support the implementation of the Walking and Cycling Action Plan for Wales 2009-2013 by supporting local and national initiatives to improve access to networks, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identifying requirements for maintenance/signage of promoted mountain bike and National Cycle Network routes. 2. Support for EU funded projects that utilise the rights of way network to improve the cycle tourism network 3. 	All
Outdoor Wales online (OWoL)	CCW	Ongoing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support the use and promotion of CCW's Outdoor Wales onLine (OWoL) interactive map which local authorities can use to promote access, recreational sites and associated facilities in their area. 2. Work with local authorities to contribute routes and sites in their areas to OWoL, including the development of smart phone technology 3. Consider opportunities to promote OWoL in their local areas. 	All

	Referred by	Approx Timing	Nature of Referral	Which LAFs?
Access to water	WG / CCW	Ongoing	<p>Take an active interest in promoting access to water agreements.</p> <p>It would be helpful if LAF considered potential areas for new or improved access to water (lakes rivers and the coast) and identified any obvious barriers that could be resolved</p> <p>Provide support for adding any new access to inland water opportunities to the interactive maps on OWoL.</p>	All
Improving Local Environment	WG/CCW	2013-2014 (if confirmed)	<p>LAFs to identify and draw to the attention of local authorities urban green space sites which might be considered for bids for funds from the Tranquil, Greener and Cleaner programme of the Welsh Government, to improve the local environment should that programme be confirmed for the 2013/2014 financial year.</p> <p>http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/cleanneighbour/greenerplaces/?lang=en</p>	All

	Referred by	Approx Timing	Nature of Referral	Which LAFs?
Countryside Code Campaign	CCW	Ongoing	Many thanks to the LAFs for inputting into the refresh of the Countryside Code and the creation of the 1 st three activity codes (canoeing, angling and wild swimming). A further three activity codes will be created in 2013/14. At present the subjects being considered are dog walking, sea angling and sea kayaking. LAF involvement in the consultation on these codes would be gratefully received.	All
Suggested other areas of work for LAFs to get involved with which aren't directly managed by WG & CCW				
Green Flag/Green Flag Community Award	WG/ CCW	Ongoing	Suggest public green spaces managed by local authorities, corporate organisations and community groups that could be eligible for this award which recognises and publicises the best parks and recreational areas in the country. http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/GreenFlag/	All

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DETAILS

8. The details of the County Council are set out in Appendix 1 to this report, and are substantially unchanged from the previous annual reports.

DETAILS OF MEETINGS OF THE FORUM

9. The date and venues of meetings of the Forum are set out in Appendix 2 to this report.

MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

10. The present Forum consists of 15 Members, including the Chair and Deputy Chair who were appointed with effect from 16th January 2012.
11. Brief details of all persons who have served as Members of the Forum during 2011/12 are set out in Appendix 3 to this report.

FORUM COMMITTEES

12. At its meeting on 15th May 2006, the Forum established the Maintenance Priorities Committee. Its purpose is to provide to Flintshire County Council a prioritised list of public rights of way requiring maintenance works, in order to inform the County Council's budget preparations, based upon criteria agreed with the appropriate Council officers. The Committee was reconstituted at the Forum meeting on 26th January 2009. However, it was agreed at the Forum meeting on 11th July 2011 that the work of the Committee be combined with the County Council's ROWIP Working Group.
13. At its meeting on 11th October 2010, the Forum established the Engagement with Town and Community Councils Committee to enhance local awareness of public rights of way.

14. A meeting of the Committee was held on 18th February 2011. It was reconstituted at the Forum meeting on 6th February 2012.

MINUTES OF THE FORUM

15. Copies of the approved minutes of the four meetings of the Forum held during the year are set out in Appendix 4 to this report.

COSTS OF THE FORUM

16. The costs of the Forum during the year are shown in summary below:-

Cost Heading	Cost 2011/12
	£
Officer time (estimated)	7320.45
Room Hire, Refreshments and lunches	197.65
Members' and Secretary's Travelling Expenses	50.38
Printing, postage and sundries	1,478.50
Translation	1,476.50

17. The above costs are paid for from the budget of the Environment Directorate of the County Council.

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL DETAILS

The appointing authority for the Flintshire Local Access Forum is Flintshire County Council. The area covered by the Forum is the whole of the County of Flintshire.

The Secretary of the Forum is:-

David M. Davies
Principal Solicitor
Corporate Directorate
Flintshire County Council
County Hall
Mold
Flintshire CH7 6NR

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DETAILS OF MEETINGS

Meetings of the Forum took place on the following dates, the venue on each occasion being either the Clwyd or the Delyn Committee Room at County Hall, Mold:-

11th July 2011,

3rd October 2011,

16th January 2012, and

6th February 2012.

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DETAILS OF MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Forum during 2011/12 was as follows :-

Name	Date Appointed to LAF	Date LAF Membership Terminated	Date Reappointed (if applicable)	Brief Background Details
Mrs. Alison Chamberlain	5.12.05	22.12.11	16.1.12	Stud owner and horse rider. British Horse Society member.
Mrs. Vera Darby	16.1.12	N/A	N/A	Retired teacher. Owner of agricultural holding. Access and bridleways officer for British Horse Society.
Mr. David Evans	16.1.12	N/A	N/A	Parliamentary caseworker. Walker and cyclist. Member and chair of several councils.
Mr. Bryan Harrison (Deputy Chair: appointed 26.1.09 & 6.2.12)	5.12.05	22.12.11	16.1.12	Chairman, Flintshire Disability Forum and Flintshire Access Group. Member of Access Panel for Wales.
Mrs. Eileen Hird	14.10.02	22.12.11	N/A	Retired, Footpath Officer to the Clwydian Group of the Ramblers Association, and involved with the BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers).
Mr. Neville Howell	16.1.12	N/A	N/A	Retired systems and planning director for steel processing company within British Steel. Volunteer walk leader for <i>Troedio Clwyd Walks</i> . Past Acting Sec. of Friends of Walkabout Flintshire. Volunteer footpath worker for Ramblers' Association. Member of various groups.

Name	Date Appointed to LAF	Date LAF Membership Terminated	Date Reappointed (if applicable)	Brief Background Details
Mr. David M. Hýtch	5.12.05	22.12.11	16.1.12	Retired teacher. Experienced mountain walker. Volunteer ranger – SUSTRANS. Volunteer warden – RSPB. Member of Deeside Naturalists. Member of Friends of Rhydymwyn Valley.
Mr. Michael Moriarty	16.1.12	N/A	N/A	Retired police officer. Community councillor. Walker.
Mr. P. John Richards	22.12.08	22.12.11	16.1.12	Retired former Head of Flintshire CC Countryside Service.
Dr. Jean Rosenfeld (Chair from 16.1.06: reappointed 26.1.09 & 6.2.12)	5.12.05	22.12.11	16.1.12	Research Scientist (renewable energy, solar). Past Chair of Clwyd/Flintshire branch of CPRW.
Mr. Barry Scragg	16.1.12	N/A	N/A	Retired trade union official. Walker. Member of Holywell Town Council.
Mr. Howard Sutcliffe	5.12.05	5.12.08	N/A	Countryside Officer and AONB Officer for Clwydian Range AONB for Denbs. CC. Manages Moel Famau Country Park for DCC and FCC.
Mr. Howard White	14.10.02	22.12.11	16.1.12	Self-employed Planning Consultant, Member of the Ramblers' Association, Open Spaces Society, North Wales Wildlife Trust, National Trust, SUSTRANS and Forestry and Timber Association.

Name	Date Appointed to LAF	Date LAF Membership Terminated	Date Reappointed (if applicable)	Brief Background Details
Mr. E. Gareth Williams	22.12.08	22.12.11	16.1.12	Retired. Member of Halkyn Graziers' Association. Nominated by the Association.
Miss Janet O. Williams	22.12.08	22.12.11	16.1.12	Retired. British Driving Society Commissioner for NE Wales/N Powys. Chair of Coed Llandegla Carriage Driving & Horse Riding Association.
Mr. T. Henry (Harry) Williams	22.12.08	22.12.11	N/A	Farmer. Member of the FUW Land Use and Parliamentary Committee. Nominated by FUW.
Mr. John Woolley	16.1.12	N/A	N/A	Geologist and environmentalist and engineer by training. Member of Buckley Town Council.
Councillor Matt Wright	20.5.08	22.12.11	16.1.12	Appointed by Flintshire County Council as its representative. Executive Member for Regeneration and Tourism.

APPENDIX 4

Copies of the approved minutes for the meetings on:-

11th July 2011 (Appendix 4A)

3rd October 2011 (Appendix 4B)

16th January 2012 (Appendix 4C)

and

6th February 2012 (Appendix 4D)

are enclosed.

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