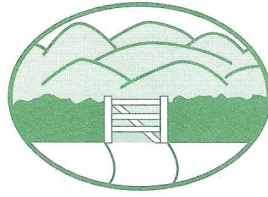


**Flintshire
Local Access
Forum**



**Fforwm
Mynediad Lleol
Sir y Fflint**

*Established under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000
Sefydlwyd o dan y Ddeddf Cefn Gwlad a Hawliau Tramwy 2000*

FLINTSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

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 30th September 2013]

FLINTSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

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, Natural Resources Wales (formerly 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 eleventh 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:-

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| Topic Considered : Dates Considered : Summary : | All Wales Coastal Path/Coastal Access. 23 rd April 2012, 9 th July 2012, 1 st October 2012, & 14 th January 2013. 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). 23 rd April 2012, 9 th July 2012, 1 st October 2012, & 14 th January 2013. 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. 23 rd April 2012, 9 th July 2012, 1 st October 2012, & 14 th January 2013. 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. 23 rd April 2012, 9 th July 2012, 1 st October 2012, & 14 th January 2013. 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 : | Review of the Maps of Access Land Prepared Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. |
| Date Considered : | 23 rd April 2012 & 9 th July 2012. |
| Summary : | The Forum received a presentation from Molly Lovatt, Access and Recreation Officer, Countryside Council of Wales and decided to establish a sub-group to consider the revised maps. |

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| Topic Considered : | <i>Linking Flintshire Communities</i> project |
| Date Considered : | 23 rd April 2012, 9 th July 2012, & 14 th January 2013. |
| Summary : | Updates were presented to the Forum. |

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| Topic Considered : | Public Rights of Way and Level Crossings. |
| Date Considered : | 23 rd April 2012. |
| Summary : | The Forum received a presentation from Christine Booth and Richard Hayden, Network Rail Operations Risk Control Co-ordinators for Wales, regarding the raising of awareness regarding the issues about public rights of way crossings railway lines. |

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| Topic Considered : | Consultation on Active Travel (Wales) Bill. |
| Dates Considered : | 9 th July 2012. |
| Summary : | The Forum considered a response to the above consultation by Welsh Government. |

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| Topic Considered : | Approval of the Tenth Annual Report of the Forum. |
| Date Considered : | 14 th January 2013. |
| Summary : | The Forum agreed the contents of the draft report for submission to the County Council for approval. |

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|---------------------------|---|
| Topic Considered : | Disability Issues. |
| Date Considered : | 14 th January 2013. |
| Summary : | The Forum received a presentation from Stephanie Aldridge, the County Council's Assistant Policy Equalities/Access Officer. |

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 County Council has advised the Forum that it will seek advice from the Forum in relation to the following matters in the forthcoming year:-
 - Rights of Way Improvement Plan
 - cycling provision in Flintshire
 - *Linking Flintshire Communities* project
7. The Forum has already been advised by Natural Resources Wales that it will be consulted upon the matters set out on the following table supplied by NRW:-

CYFOETH NATURIOL CYMRU / NATURAL RESOURCES WALES
LOCAL ACCESS FORUMS – WORK PLANS 2013/ 2014

The following are matters that Natural Resources Wales & Welsh Government 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 | NRW | Ongoing | Work with local authorities to support and monitor the implementation of the provisions of ROWIPs. The 2km coastal zone continues to be eligible for ROWIP funding in 2013/14. | All |
| ROWIP Evaluation | NRW | Summer 2013 | Research is being undertaken by a contractor this year to evaluate ROWIP implementation, the ROWIP Funding Programme and make recommendations to Welsh Government on future support for the management of rights of way and related access. As part of the research we expect the contractor to seek views of LAFs. | All LAF Chairs |
| Review of LAF Working Practices | NRW | Summer 2013 for 3 months | NRW would like to collate information on how LAFs are operating in order to identify how administration, guidance and support can be improved to help LAFs become more effective. There will be a questionnaire for LAF secretaries and questions for LAFs to discuss at a meeting. | All |

| | Referred by | Approx Timing | Nature of Referral | Which LAFs? |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Wales Coast Path | WG/NRW | Ongoing | Work with coastal local authorities and the 2 national parks (SNP and PCNP) to further develop, enhance and promote the WCP and associated community links. | Those with coastal areas |
| Review of Open Access Draft Map | NRW | August – November 2013 | Take an active interest in the provisional 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. At the provisional map stage only those with a legal interest in the land can appeal to the Planning Inspectorate if they feel land is shown incorrectly. | All |
| Glastir Advance | WG | Ongoing | Review and update proposals to proposed permissive access maps on an annual basis which should include access to woodlands. | All |
| Wales Legislative Programme | WG | Ongoing | To engage in consultation and discussion over the development new legislation impacting on opportunities for access and outdoor recreation. To assist Welsh Government, local authorities and other partners in the implementation of new legislative provisions on access and outdoor recreation. | All |

| | Referred by | Approx Timing | Nature of Referral | Which LAFs? |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--|--------------------|
| Outdoor Wales online (OWoL) | NRW | 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 |
| Access to water | WG/NRW | Ongoing | <p>Take an active interest in promoting access to water agreements. 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 |

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:-

23rd April 2012,

9th July 2012,

1st October 2012, and

14th January 2013.

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APPENDIX 4

Copies of the approved minutes for the meetings on:-

23rd April 2012 (Appendix 4A),

9th July 2012 (Appendix 4B),

1st October 2012 (Appendix 4C), and

14th January 2013 (Appendix 4D),

are enclosed.

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