



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:-

Dates Considered :	All Wales Coastal Path/Coastal Access. 23 rd April 2012, 9 th July 2012, 1 st October 2012, & 14 th
Summary :	January 2013. The Forum was advised of progress on the Wales Coastal Access Improvement Plan.

Topic Considered :	Flintshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP).			
Dates Considered :	23 rd April 2012, 9 th July 2012, 1 st October 2012, &14 th			
Summary :	January 2013. The Forum was advised of progress on the implementation of the ROWIP.			

Topic Considered :	Cycling Provision in Flintshire.
Dates Considered :	23 rd April 2012, 9 th July 2012, 1 st October 2012, & 14 th
	January 2013.
Summary:	Updates were presented to the Forum.

Topic Considered :	Involvement of Town and Community Councils in					
	Public Rights of Way Maintenance.					
Dates Considered :	23 rd April 2012, 9 th July 2012, 1 st October 2012, & 14 th					
	January 2013.					
Summary :	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.					

Topic Considered: Review of the Maps of Access Land Prepared Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000.

Date Considered: 23rd April 2012 & 9th 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.

Topic Considered: Linking Flintshire Communities project 23rd April 2012, 9th July 2012, & 14th January 2013. Date Considered:

Summary: Updates were presented to the Forum.

Topic Considered : Public Rights of Way and Level Crossings.

Date Considered: 23rd 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.

Topic Considered: Consultation on Active Travel (Wales) Bill.

Dates Considered: 9th July 2012.

The Forum considered a response to the above **Summary:** consultation by Welsh Government.

Topic Considered: Approval of the Tenth Annual Report of the Forum. **Date Considered:** 14th January 2013.

The Forum agreed the contents of the draft report for Summary: submission to the County Council for approval.

Topic Considered: Disability Issues. 14th January 2013. Date Considered :

The Forum received a presentation from Stephanie **Summary:** 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.	
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	 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. Work with local authorities to contribute routes and sites in their areas to OWoL, including the development of smart phone technology Consider opportunities to promote OWoL in their local areas. 	All
Access to water	WG/NRW	Ongoing	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 Provide support for adding any new access to inland water opportunities to the interactive maps on OWoL.	All

	Referred by	Approx Timing	Nature of Referral	Which LAFs?
Improving Local Environment	WG/NRW	2014-2015 (if confirmed)	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 2014/2015 financial year. http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/epq/cleanneighbour/greenerplaces/?lang=en	All
Countryside Code Campaign	NRW	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
	Acceptance of the second		hich aren't directly managed by WG & NRW	T
Green Flag/Green Flag Community Award	WG/NRW	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 14 Members, including the Chair and Deputy Chair who were appointed with effect from 16th January 2012 (one member who ceased to be a member as he became a Flintshire county councillor was reappointed as its representative on the Forum see Appendix 3).
- 11. Brief details of all persons who have served as Members of the Forum during 2012/13 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, as more specifically set out in the minutes of that meeting.

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 2012/13
	£
Officer time (estimated)	6,088.66
Room Hire, Refreshments and	221.08
lunches	
Members' and Secretary's Travelling	264.00
Expenses	
Printing, postage and sundries	118.47
Translation	748.11

18. 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

Telephone: 01352 702325

Fax: 01352 700289

e-mail: david.m.davies@flintshire.gov.uk

APPENDIX 2

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 1012, and

14th January 2013.



APPENDIX 3

DETAILS OF MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Forum during 2012/13 was as follows:-

Name	Date	Date LAF	Date	Brief Background Details
	Appointed	Membership	Reappointed	
	to	Terminated	(if	
	LAF		applicable)	
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.
Councillor David Evans (previously a member but appointment terminated when elected as a Flintshire county councillor: subsequently appointed by Flintshire CC as its representative)	16.1.12	7.5.12	11.6.12	Appointed by Flintshire County Council as its representative. Previously 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.
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. Hÿtch	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 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. 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	11.6.12	N/A	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:-

23rd April 2012 (Appendix 4A),

9th July 2012 (Appendix 4B),

1st October 2012 (Appendix 4C), and

14th January 2013 (Appendix 4D),

are enclosed.