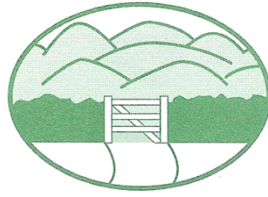


**Flintshire  
Local Access  
Forum**



**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 TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14**

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 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015]

## **FLINTSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**

### **TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Flintshire Local Access Forum was established for the whole of the geographical area of Flintshire on 14<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012 for a period of three years.
3. This is the twelfth 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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| <b>Topic Considered :</b><br><b>Dates Considered :</b><br><b>Summary :</b> | All Wales Coastal Path/Coastal Access.<br>15 <sup>th</sup> April 2013.<br>The Forum was advised of progress on the Wales Coastal Access Improvement Plan. |
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| <b>Topic Considered :</b><br><b>Dates Considered :</b><br><b>Summary :</b> | Flintshire's Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP).<br>15 <sup>th</sup> April 2013, 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2013, 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013 & 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2014.<br>The Forum was advised of progress on the implementation of the ROWIP. |
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| <b>Topic Considered :</b><br><b>Dates Considered :</b><br><b>Summary :</b> | Natural Resources Wales's (NRW) Evaluation of the Implementation of ROWIPs and the role played by the ROWIP Funding Programme.<br>8 <sup>th</sup> July 2013.<br>The Forum considered the above and agreed to establish a sub-group comprising members of the ROWIP Working Group to respond to a Welsh Government questionnaire. |
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| <b>Topic Considered :</b><br><b>Dates Considered :</b><br><b>Summary :</b> | Cycling Provision in Flintshire.<br>15 <sup>th</sup> April 2013, 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2013, 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013 & 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2014.<br>Updates were presented to the Forum. |
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| <b>Topic Considered :</b><br><b>Dates Considered :</b><br><b>Summary :</b> | Flintshire County Council ROWIP Equine Sub-Group.<br>15 <sup>th</sup> April 2013, 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2013, 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013 & 20 <sup>th</sup> January 2014.<br>The Forum was advised about the deliberations of the above Group. |
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| <b>Topic Considered :</b> | Involvement of Town and Community Councils in Public Rights of Way Maintenance.                      |
| <b>Dates Considered :</b> | 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2013, 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2013, & 30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013.           |
| <b>Summary :</b>          | The Forum received updates about progress on the various projects arising from the above initiative. |

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| <b>Topic Considered :</b> | Statement of Priorities for definitive map modification and public path orders.           |
| <b>Dates Considered :</b> | 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2013.   |
| <b>Summary :</b>          | The Forum endorsed the above statement prepared by the Head of Assets and Transportation. |

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| <b>Topic Considered :</b> | Complaint Priorities.   |
| <b>Dates Considered :</b> | 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2013.   |
| <b>Summary :</b>          | The Forum endorsed the priorities set out in a report prepared by the Head of Assets and Transportation, subject to the inclusion of a reference to obstruction-free walks as part of the proposed hierarchy. |

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| <b>Topic Considered :</b> | Maintenance Priorities.   |
| <b>Dates Considered :</b> | 7 <sup>th</sup> April 2013.   |
| <b>Summary :</b>          | Subject to a minor addition, the Forum endorsed the list of priorities for maintenance work, as prepared by the Head of Assets and Transportation, and subject to the list being reviewed in 12 months' time. |

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| <b>Topic Considered :</b> | Draft Code for Multi-User Routes.  |
| <b>Dates Considered :</b> | 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2013.   |
| <b>Summary :</b>          | The Forum considered the above draft Code. It was agreed that, should any Forum member wish to comment upon it, they should be sent to the Chair for him to pass on to the author, Dennis Murphy of the Brecon Beacons Local Access Forum. |

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| <b>Topic Considered :</b> | Local Access Forum Annual Conference 2013.   |
| <b>Date Considered :</b>  | 8 <sup>th</sup> July 2013.   |
| <b>Summary :</b>          | The Chair provided a summary of the deliberations at the above Conference, held on 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2013. |

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| <b>Topic Considered :</b><br><b>Dates Considered :</b><br><b>Summary :</b> | Destination Management Group.<br>30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013.<br>The Forum received a presentation from David Evans, Flintshire County Council's Tourism Manager, and Adrian Barsby, Chairman of the Destination Flintshire Partnership, and agreed to accept an invitation to be represented at Partnership meetings. |
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| <b>Topic Considered :</b><br><b>Dates Considered :</b><br><b>Summary :</b> | NRW Review of Local Access Forum Working Practices.<br>30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013.<br>The Forum agreed responses to a questionnaire submitted by NRW concerning the above. |
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| <b>Topic Considered :</b><br><b>Date Considered :</b><br><b>Summary :</b> | Approval of the Eleventh Annual Report of the Forum.<br>30 <sup>th</sup> September 2013.<br>The Forum agreed the contents of the draft report for submission to the County Council for approval. |
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| <b>Topic Considered :</b><br><b>Dates Considered :</b><br><b>Summary :</b> | Consultation by Welsh Government on where the Active Travel (Wales) Act will apply in Wales.<br>20 <sup>th</sup> January 2014.<br>The above consultation was considered and it was agreed that the Chair, Bryan Harrison and Neville Howell would meet to prepare a response to the consultation. |
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## **PROGRAMME OF WORKS FOR THE COMING YEAR (2014/15)**

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 31<sup>st</sup> 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 is normally advised by Natural Resources Wales that it will be consulted upon various matters. It has not done so this year.

## **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 16<sup>th</sup> January 2012.

11. During the last twelve months, by virtue of the operation of regulation 14(1)(g) of The Countryside Access (Local Access Forums) (Wales) Regulations 2001 (failure to attend Forum meetings over a continuous period of 12 months), the membership of one Forum member was terminated (see Appendix 3).
12. Brief details of all persons who have served as Members of the Forum during 2013/14 are set out in Appendix 3 to this report.

### **FORUM COMMITTEES**

13. At its meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009. However, it was agreed at the Forum meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2011 that the work of the Committee be combined with the County Council's ROWIP Working Group.
13. At its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> 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. Arising from meetings of that Committee, the initiative of involving town and community councils in public rights of way maintenance and related matters (see page 4 of this report) has evolved.

### **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:-

| <b>Cost Heading</b>                          | <b>Cost 2013/14</b>      |
|--|--------------------------|
|  | <b>£</b>                 |
| Officer time (estimated)                     | 8,467.72                 |
| Room Hire, Refreshments and lunches          | 66.00 (all refreshments) |
| Members' and Secretary's Travelling Expenses | 82.40                    |
| Printing, postage and sundries               | -                        |
| Translation                                  | 590.31                   |

18. The above costs are paid for from the budget of the Planning and Environment Department 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](mailto:david.m.davies@flintshire.gov.uk)

**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:-

15<sup>th</sup> April 2013,

8<sup>th</sup> July 2013,

30<sup>th</sup> September 2013, and

20<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

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## DETAILS OF MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Forum during 2013/14 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.  |
| Councillor David Evans  | 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<br><b>(Deputy Chair:<br/>appointed 26.1.09 &amp;<br/>6.2.12)</b> | 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. 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<br><b>(Chair from 16.1.06: reappointed 26.1.09 &amp; 6.2.12)</b> | 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.<br>Member of Halkyn Graziers' Association.<br>Nominated by the Association.   |
| Miss Janet O. Williams | 22.12.08              | 22.12.11                       | 16.1.12                          | Retired.<br>British Driving Society Commissioner for NE Wales/N Powys.<br>Chair of Coed Llandegla Carriage Driving & Horse Riding Association. |
| Mr. John Woolley       | 16.1.12               | <b>9.7.13</b>                  | N/A                              | Geologist and environmentalist and engineer by training.<br>Member of Buckley Town Council.  |

## **APPENDIX 4**

Copies of the approved minutes for the meetings on:-

15<sup>th</sup> April 2013 (Appendix 4A),

8<sup>th</sup> July 2013 (Appendix 4B),

30<sup>th</sup> September 2013 (Appendix 4C), and

20<sup>th</sup> January 2014 (Appendix 4D),

are enclosed.

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