

# WREXHAM LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

## CONFIRMED MINUTES

of the fifteenth meeting held at Guildhall, Wrexham on 8 April 2005

### 13/05 ATTENDANCE & APOLOGIES

#### Attendance:

#### CHAIR

Edward Wardle

#### SECRETARY

John Marchant

#### MEMBERS

Paul Davies  
Sue Gittins  
Andrew Kelly  
Dave Liddy  
Gerald Moss  
John L Roberts  
Shelagh Roberts  
Colin Simpson  
Tim Stevens

#### NON-MEMBERS

P Humphreys  
John Pugh  
Trefor Jones (CCW)  
Richard Granville (RA)  
Alan Guest (WCBC)

#### Apologies:

Michael Edwards  
Naomi Klenerman  
Harry Prankard

Mike Griffiths  
Ieuan Lewis

Gwynfor Jones  
Mabyn Pickering

### 14/05 MINUTES OF MEETING 14 (4/2/05)

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed after two minor amendments.

### 15/05 MATTERS ARISING

(03/05) (73/04) The secretary wrote to the Chief Transportation and Engineering Officer as instructed and a reply has been received in which the CTEO said that he had asked his staff to contact the 4X4 clubs. However, the senior engineer for the Ceiriog area had reservations about insurance and also wanted to follow up references before allowing voluntary work on the roads. TS pointed out that the Council had said nothing about seeking to implement a system of voluntary restraint. He also said that insurance is not the problem it is often made out to be. He offered to help with liaison between the Council and volunteers. SG gave details about how the Ramblers dealt with the matter of insurance and volunteers. The forum was unanimous on the following:

***Action: Write again to the Council setting out the above points.***

(05/05) SG reported that she had visited the Wynnstay Estate in Ruabon. There was a problem with a public right of way across one corner. There were pedestrian permissive routes available if a permit is purchased for £10. She reports that the area is a beautiful parkland landscape and she believes that it would be worth trying to talk to the estate

about access. TS commented that the estate should be applauded for having permissive routes but it should be confirmed that there are no public rights.

**Action: Write to the estate about the intended research.**

#### **16/05 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

There was no report on this occasion.

#### **17/05 SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The discs showing the access symbol had been received from CCW. These will be erected as soon as possible after 28 May. A first draft of a larger sign had been produced for the members to view.

A work plan for LAFs had been produced by CCW.

**Action: Write to CCW at Newtown asking for details about what the Forum was going to be asked and when.**

Reports from the Open Access officers confirmed that almost all the public paths on access land had now been strimmed. They were well advanced with the programmed contact of all landowners and graziers with access land. Guided walks were being planned for the launch weekend.

#### **18/05 EXCLUSIONS AND RESTRICTIONS**

Trefor Jones of CCW presented this item about the provision for exclusions and restrictions on access land. Members asked about the need for easy access to the information, the efficiency of the signing operation and the need for notices to be dated. It was confirmed that there would still be access along the public rights of way when an exclusion or restriction was in force.

#### **19/05 ARRANGEMENTS FOR LAUNCH OF OPEN ACCESS – 28 MAY 2005**

The forum will wait to see what the Council will arrange before deciding if it wishes to act independently. Members asked that the local MPs and AMs were invited.

#### **20/05 RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

CS said that additional resources required had not been made available. Now that there was a new management structure in place within the Council, he hoped that progress would be made. AK asked if the Council had ruled out the possibility of an external contractor carrying out the ROWIP. CS replied that it was for the management in the Environment Department to decide. AK reported on the progress that was being made in Cheshire.

**Action: Express concern about the delay to Wrexham Council and ask for a timetable for preparing the ROWIP. Suggest that reference be made to the draft ROWIPs prepared by other authorities.**

## **21/05 NATIONAL ACCESS FORUM**

The secretary read out an appeal to the LAFs for items that they think should be discussed at the NAF meetings.

**Action: Ask the NAF what progress other authorities were making with their ROWIPs.  
Action: Request that the NAF discusses the issue of whether forum members should be given time off work for the public duty of attending forum meetings.**

## **22/05 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) GM and AK had attended a course on the CROW Act 2000 and they both reported back points of interest to the members.
- b) TS reported on the slow progress made in England with "Lost Ways". CCW has admitted that Wales was even further behind.
- c) TS drew attention to the changes made to the method DEFRA uses to pay subsidies to farmers in England and warned that the change could well happen in Wales. Landowners cannot now make claims for land where they allow motorsports events to take place. This will inevitably mean that more 4x4s and motorbikes will be driven on public rights of way, with further arguments about their status. The change was made with no consultation to the motorsports organisations.
- d) CS announced that as he no longer had any responsibilities with regards to access and rights of way, he would be standing down as the Council's representative on the forum. Another officer will be attending in his place. The chairman thanked him for his contribution.

## **23/05 ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA**

As time was limited no items were suggested.

## **24/05 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS**

The next meetings have been confirmed for 10 June 2005 at Ceiriog Centenary Hall in Llanarmon and on 2 September 2005 in the Guildhall. Members decided that the following meeting should, if possible, be on 25 November 2005.

The meeting closed at 4.47pm.

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