

DENBIGHSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Minutes of the Denbighshire Local Access Forum held at Coed Llandegla Visitors Centre, Llandegla on Tuesday, 27th May, 2008 at 1.30 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor M.Ll. Davies, E.L. Hart, G. Jones, C. Marshall, P. Scarle, V. Walker Jones and R. Williams.

ALSO PRESENT

A. Walls (DCC Rights of Way Officer and Secretary to the Forum), R. Hickey (PROW Services) and C.I. Williams (Administrative Officer).

In the absence of the Chair, J. Hughes, the Vice Chair, R. Williams, took the Chair for the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

H. Crosswood, K. Culhane, D. Harding Maddocks, J. Hughes (Chair), A. Pennant, G. Roberts, S. Roberts, R. Wardell and H. Sutcliffe (Principal Countryside Officer – Warden Services)

2 MINUTES

The minutes of the Denbighshire Local Access Forum held on Tuesday, 22nd April, 2008 were submitted for information.

Resolved – that the Minutes be received.

3. DENBIGHSHIRE RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLANS – DRAFT

(A) FLINTSHIRE RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN - DRAFT

A draft copy of the Flintshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

The Forum Secretary introduced the report and expressed the view that only issues which related to or impacted on Denbighshire, or Rights of Way's into Denbighshire, would be of relevance to the Denbighshire Local Access Forum.

In reply to a question from Ms E.L. Hart in respect of 3.3.9, Definitive Map Order Work, the Forum Secretary confirmed that in view of limited staffing resources available and the disruptive nature of Public Enquiries it would not be possible to attend more than one Enquiry a month.

The Forum Secretary responded to a question from the Chair and explained that Taith was the public transport board of the six county authorities in North Wales. He informed the Forum that Taith dealt with public transport developments and improvements across the whole of North Wales and worked with the Welsh Assembly Government to deliver the Regional Transport Strategy.

Members of the Forum referred to 3.1.1 of the draft copy of the Flintshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan and referred to the lack of direct day to day involvement in respect of duties and responsibilities.

During the ensuing discussion Members of the Forum agreed that the draft copy of the Flintshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan be received and noted.

Resolved – that the draft copy of the Flintshire Rights of Way Improvement Plan be received and its contents noted.

(B) CONWY RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN - DRAFT

A draft copy of the Conwy Rights of Way Improvement Plan had been circulated with the papers for the meeting.

Ms E.L. Hart in referred to Page 16, Tourism, Recreation and Economy, and highlighted the inclusion of strategies relating to walking and cycling. Reference was also made to Page 17, Maintenance Section, and it was confirmed by the Forum Secretary that the system of maintenance adopted by Conwy had been very fragmented.

Resolved – that the draft copy of the Conwy Rights of Way Improvement Plan be received and its contents noted.

(C) DENBIGHSHIRE RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN- DRAFT

The Chair welcomed Mr Roy Hickey, Consultant in Access and Public Rights of Way, to the meeting and reminded Members that his services had been engaged to assist with the production of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.

Mr Hickey provided a summary of the work undertaken with regard to the production of the draft Rights of Way Improvement Plan, Statement of Action 2008 – 2012, copies of the Statement of Action had been circulated to Members of the Forum previously. The importance of Denbighshire's rights of way and the need for a rights of way improvement plan were highlighted by Mr Hickey and he provided details of the draft statement of action, the consultation process adopted, the process for submitting comments in respect of the document and the projected anticipated timescales involved.

With the aid of a power point presentation Mr Hickey provided a detailed summary of the Statement of Action and highlighted the following areas contained within the document:-

- Development of the Statement of Action.
- Priorities for the Statement of Action.
- Implementing the Statement of Action to deliver the Rights of Way Improvement Plan.
- Budgets and Resources.
- Rights of Way Improvement Plan action, proposals and targets.
- Monitoring the implementation of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan and the ongoing review.

Reference was made to Page 44, Special Projects, and the importance of appointing a project officer was highlighted. Members of the Forum also referred to the need to included reference to funding issues in the document.

During the ensuing discussion Members expressed their support for the document and thanked the Mr Hickey and the respective officers for the work undertaken in its preparation. It was also agreed that any comments or suggestions in respect of the document could be submitted to Mr Hickey or to the Forum Secretary.

Resolved – that the report be received.

4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved – that the next meeting of the Denbighshire Local Access Forum be held on Tuesday, 2nd September, 2008 at 1.30 p.m. at as venue to be confirmed.

Meeting ended at 3.55 p.m.