

# Rights of Way Improvement Plan Funding Programme Case Studies 2016-2017.

This report highlights examples of the types of work that the funding Programme made possible during 2016-17, the ninth year of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan Funding Programme.

It is a compilation of the examples provided by the authorities and has been structured to reflect and emphasise the key points and characteristics of the work that was undertaken.

It accompanies the '*Rights of Way Improvement Plan Funding Programme (RFP) 2016/17 Summary Report*', and the '*Rights of Way Improvement Plan Funding Programme End of Year Outputs Report*'.



# On the ground...

Three quarters of the funding (£756,883) was used to make practical improvements to existing access.

**South Wales:            Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council**  
**Ebbw Fach Trail**

The Ebbw Fach Trail is a 16 kilometre trail passing through 14 community green spaces. The trail explores the journey of the landscape from its agricultural origins, through the ravages of industrialisation back to a green and pleasant land. The trail follows the Ebbw Fach river highlighting heritage sites and wildlife hot spots, taking the visitor on a learning journey through the valley.

Following inspection by a structural engineer an old metal bridge at Gloyllau in Abertillery was considered to be in a dangerous condition.

With the advice of an ecologist the bridge was replaced taking into account the breeding season for Dippers.



# On the ground...

## North Wales

### Wrexham County Borough Council

Following a request from North East Wales Wildlife Trust, new easy to use pedestrian gates, together with a 75m recycled plastic boardwalk have been installed on public footpath on a Wrexham Industrial Estate.

Unfortunately the footpath had been neglected for some time with no visible route evident on the ground.

Following discussions between Wrexham County Borough Council and the landowner it was agreed that a robust long term solution was needed to combat poor drainage.

Two hundred and eighty meters of dense vegetation had to be cleared before work on constructing the boardwalk could begin.

Wrexham Industrial Estate is one of the largest industrial estates in Europe. With around 300 businesses providing employment for approximately 8000 people.

The improvements along the path will encourage the public to make use of the route and the adjoining public rights of way network.



(Before)Vegetation obstructing public footpath number 18.



(After) Recycled plastic boardwalk.



(Before) Security gates across public footpath number 18 preventing access for walkers.



(After) Two in one Bristol Combination Gate installed following discussions with the landowner.



# On the ground...

**North Wales: Denbighshire County Council  
Llangollen History Trail**

The Llangollen History Trail is a 6 mile circular walk taking in a number of the key sites of interest in and around the town.

With the aid of RoWIP funding, Denbighshire Countryside Service has been able to plan a review of its linear promoted routes throughout the county. Rural Development Plan funding enabled the update of the Llangollen History Trail leaflet in 2015, which now features an OS map base for clearer navigation and route marking. It also added a loop to Castell Dinas Bran.

This year the RoWIP funding has added further value to this project and has enabled the update of the signage along the route through the purchase of fingerposts, way marker posts and way marker discs.

Work to install the posts has been carried out with a keen group of volunteers from the Llangollen area.

**Cerddwch ymlaen am ½ milltir/0.8km i Fryn Hyrdryn.**  
Walk on for ½ mile/0.8km to Velvet Hill.  
Yn ôl rhai pobl mae'r enw Bryn Hyrdryn yn cyfeirio at ysgerbwrd hir a ddatguddwyd o dan **Biler Eliseig**. Velvet Hill gets its name from the soft texture of the sheep-cropped grass and moss. Its Welsh name, Coed Hyrdryn, means 'wood of the long man' and may relate to the tall skeleton unearthed beneath nearby **Eliseig's Pillar**.

**Ar ôl cerdded am ½ milltir/1km arall fe gyrhaeddwch Abaty Glyn y Groes.**  
A ½ mile/1km walk brings you to Valle Crucis Abbey.  
Ar un cyfnod **Abaty Glyn y Groes** oedd all abaty Cymru o ran cyfoeth. Tintem oedd y cyfoethocaf. Mynachod Satersaidd a'i sefydlodd yn 1201. Bu pobl yn byw yn yr abaty tan gyfnod Didymu'r Mynachlog yn 1537. Cyfeirir enw at Biler Eliseig cyfagos, sef croes carreg o'r nawsfed ganaf a osodwyd er cof am un o arweinyddwr cynharaf Powys.

**Valle Crucis Abbey** was once the second richest abbey in Wales, after Tintern. Founded by Cistercian monks in 1201, the abbey was lived in until the Dissolution of the monastery in 1537. The name means 'Valley of the Cross' and refers to nearby Eliseig's Pillar, a 9th century stone cross set up in memory of an early ruler of Powys.

**O Abaty Glyn y Groes diilynwch am 2 filltir/3km i Gastell Dinas Bran.**  
From Valle Crucis, follow the for 2 miles/3km to Dinas Bran Castle.

Adelladwyd **Castell Dinas Bran** yn yr 1260au gan y Tŷwysog Gruffudd ap Iadog i warchod y ffordd strategol drwy ddyffryn yr Afon Ddyfrdwy. Bu oes gweithio'r Castell yn un fer, ac fe'i gadawyd yn 1282. Yn y murddun trawiadol ceir tyrau ar ffurf y llythren D, sef cynllun a oedd yn hoff gan y Cymry.

Built in the 1260s by a local Welsh ruler, Prince Gruffudd ap Iadog, to guard the strategic route through the Dee valley, **Dinas Bran Castle** had a short working life and was abandoned in 1282. The picturesque ruins features a D-shaped tower – a design favoured by the Welsh.

**O Gastell Dinas Bran, mae'r llwybr yn troi'n ôl am ½ milltir/1km ac i lawr i Llangollen.**  
From Dinas Bran Castle, the ½ mile/1km route heads back downhill to Llangollen.

Gwasanaeth Cefn Gwlad Sir Ddinbych  
Denbighshire Countryside Service  
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[www.sirdinbych.gov.uk/cefn-gwlad](http://www.sirdinbych.gov.uk/cefn-gwlad)  
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[www.denbighshire.gov.uk/countryside](http://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/countryside)

[www.llwybraudyffryndyfrdwy.com](http://www.llwybraudyffryndyfrdwy.com)  
[www.deevalleywalks.com](http://www.deevalleywalks.com)

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devels diwylliant a hamdden yn Sir Ddinbych  
choosing culture and leisure in Denbighshire

# On the ground...

**South Wales: Monmouthshire County Council  
Three Castles Walk**

It has been many years since the fingerposts and other signage have been reviewed on the Three Castles Walk. Several posts were found to be missing and the remaining signage was a combination of old waymark posts and fingerposts in English only.

Following the success of the directional fingerpost signage scheme on Offa's Dyke Path National Trail and the Wye Valley Walk, the opportunity was taken to do something similar on the Three Castles Walk.

The posts are specific to each path and have the name of the trail in both in Welsh and English. New Three Castles Walk waymark discs have also been added to each post.



(Before)



(After)

# On the ground...

**South Wales:                      Bridgend County Borough Council**

## **Access to Park Slip Nature Reserve from Aberkenfig**

Following the completion of project (BR 56A) to re-organise the rights of way network at the former Park Slip Opencast Coal site – now Park Slip Nature Reserve – the Council received a number of requests from local residents to improve access between their properties and the nearby village of Aberkenfig.

As well as requests from the residents for the surface of the footpath to be improved, the Council had also received a request from the British Horse Society for the majority of the footpath to be improved and upgraded to a bridleway. During consultations with one of the landowners it became apparent that they were happy for the route to be upgraded as they were having issues with equestrians illegally accessing other routes within the reserve.



The Council is now in the process of formally registering the route as a public bridleway.

# On the ground...

**North Wales: Conwy County Borough Council & Snowdonia National Park Authority**

## **Ty Hyll**

Works were undertaken by the Snowdonia National Park in conjunction with Conwy County Borough Council on the Ty Hyll path near Capel Curig. The path has been the subject of flooding and complaints over a period of many years.

To alleviate flooding the surface of the path was raised on a 100m section of riverbank by stone pitching. This made the path easier for the public to pass.

The work has almost eliminated the need for walkers to use the alternative route of walking alongside the busy and dangerous A5 highway.



# On the ground...

**North Wales:**                      **Gwynedd Council**  
**Replacement of footbridge – Mawddwy Community**

Pont Dol y Bont in Dinas Mawddwy is one of the most important pedestrian footbridge in Meirionnydd. It is the main access over Afon Dyfi from the centre of the village and provides a crucial link to the wider rights of way network in the area. All the promoted circular walks within the community use the footbridge. Over 1000 walkers a month were recorded using the bridge.

Following a series of temporary repairs finally, in December 2015 the bridge was closed to the public.

Following consultation another two-span bridge design was chosen, at an estimated cost of £100,000. This was considerably cheaper than a single span bridge.

The new footbridge will be a huge benefit for local residents and visitors alike and will deliver a welcome boost to the local economy.



# On the ground...

**South Wales: Torfaen County Borough Council  
The Tramway**

The Tramway forms part of an ancient scheduled monument and is an integral link for a series of promoted walks set in the world heritage site. The works were funded jointly by CADW funding and the Rights of Way Improvement Plan funding.

Over time storm water run-off caused significant erosion to the embankment and surface of the Tramway. The erosion also caused irreparable damage to the clay pipe and outlet.

The works consisted of replacing the existing culvert pipes and constructing a shallow drainage ditch and the construction of rock armour to stabilise and reduce settlement.

A small attenuation pond was formed to reduce the possibility of further erosion of parts of the landscape south of the culvert outlet.



# On the ground...

**South Wales:            Monmouthshire County Council**  
**Catbrook**

This restricted byway had damaged drains and was suffering from erosion.

Resurfacing works were carried out for approximately 800m. New drainage pipe and repairs to the surface were carried out. The total cost of the project was £5,900.



# Multi benefit...

In this year's programme, 5.4% of the actions were of "general benefit to all users" and 30.8% were "multi benefit" i.e. benefitted more than one group of users. Together, these projects accounted for 46.8% of the total value of the programme.

This represents a drop in the value of projects funded compared to recent years where over half of the funding benefitted more than one user group.

## **South Wales:                   Caerphilly County Borough Council** **The Raven Walk**

The Raven Walk is a fourteen-mile circular walk around Sirhowy and Ebbw Valleys.

The Raven Walk follows footpaths, bridleways, and cycleways with only short sections on roads or lanes.

Improvement to drainage and surfacing was carried out near Risca. There were several issues with streams crossing the footpath causing the surface to hold water and become difficult to use.

Pipes were laid and drains were dug to allow the water to pass without causing further damage, and the surface was re-instated.



# Multi benefit...

**South Wales: Carmarthenshire County Council  
Kidwelly and Mynydd y Garreg**

Horse riders can make their way between Kidwelly and Mynydd y Garreg thanks to a funding programme for Public Rights of Way.

The 1.18km bridleway is an important link from Kidwelly to Mynydd y Garreg which suffered frequent flooding and became an impassable bog. Works supported by Kidwelly Town Council and the British Horse Society to remedy the problem involved significant surfacing and drainage work, along with the installation of a special horse-friendly vehicle barrier to prevent future damage to the upgraded route.



# Multi benefit...

**South Wales: Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council**  
**Saint Illtyd's Walk**

For the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The St. Illtud's Walk, NPTCBC (in conjunction with The Ramblers Association) has been re-aligning the route predominantly onto PRow's to ensure a more secure route within Natural Resources Wales woodland estate.

For those wanting to specifically walk the St. Illtud's route or ride the Bridleway without going on the open access land NPTCBC installed 9 waymark posts along the route:



# Multi Benefit...

**South West Wales: Vale of Glamorgan**

**Ash Path, Dinas Powys**

The Ash Path in Dinas Powys suffers from poor drainage and many complaints were received from parents who use the path to walk their children to school.

Various options were considered, including the route being considered for improvement to cycleway.

The resolution was to raise the height of the path through the worst affected areas leaving small margins either side and using materials that could be incorporated later into a cycleway scheme.



# Multi benefit...

**Mid Wales: Powys County Council**  
**Public bridleway near Llyswen**

The public bridleway near Llyswen has now been improved for walkers, cyclists and horse-riders.

Works to the bridleway, which leads up to Brechfa Pool and forms a popular local circular trail past the old fort, took a week to complete.

Re-grading of the slippery bedrock surface was carried out on the bridleway after it became impassable on foot.



# Multi benefit...

**South Wales: Carmarthenshire County Council  
Carmarthenshire Tourism Summit**

Carmarthenshire County Council attended the event on Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> October at Parc y Scarlets Stadium in Llanelli to promote the Wales Coast Path, the ROWIP programme and wider Rights of Way network in Carmarthenshire.

The Carmarthenshire Tourism Summit is the largest annual tourism conference in the region – bringing together a host of suppliers, tourism businesses, inspirational guest speakers, products and business support organisations all under one roof. It is a great opportunity to promote the Rights of Way network & the ROWIP grant programme in Carmarthenshire.



# Access for all...

**South Wales: Pembrokeshire National Park Authority  
Walking Group Directory (Action for Low Use  
Groups)**

The National Park Authority's Walkability project aims to break down the barriers to countryside access by targeting groups that are infrequent or non-participants. Walkability introduces people to walking with a programme of led walks. The intention is that people will progress to walk independently. Following research conducted to appraise the effectiveness of the Walkability project, it became evident from clients' feedback that they enjoyed walking in groups and that the prospect of being able to join a group would encourage them to walk more often. There was, however, a lack of awareness as to the existence of walking groups.

Group Name / Base Location / Meeting Point	Group details, walk programme, other relevant walk info	Contact details
<b>Cerddwyr cyfch Teifi</b> Cardigan area - Ceredigion and North Pembrokeshire, generally within 10 miles of Cardigan  NORTH	Walk 2nd Saturday of every month October - June. Walks usually about 2 hours, meet at 10.20am for 10.30am start.  Varied levels of difficulty, details shared a week before each walk, through e-mail and in local Papurau Bro and other newspapers. Phone for details.  Car sharing where possible, dogs on leads and under control. Terrain generally unsuitable for buggies / wheelchairs. Free walk.	Philippa Gibson, 01239 654561 philippa.gibson@gmail.com  Dyfed / Siân Elis-Gruffydd, 01239 682287 sian.ymaohydd@btinternet.com  Howard Williams, 01239 682182 howard.swynnant@btinternet.com
<b>Cilgerran Walkers are Welcome</b> Cilgerran Area - Meet at Millennium stone in the centre of the village  NORTH	Small group of keen walkers who regularly volunteer to check local rights of way network and liaise with Pembrokeshire County Council to maintain the paths. Group size has varied from 3 to 20.  Walks in the Cilgerran area on local footpaths. No regular programme but check Facebook page for occasional led walks. Various lengths, but nothing too difficult. Sometimes muddy.  No membership requirements.  In 2013 a book of circular routes around Cilgerran was published and has received very good feedback	Sue Brown walkingcilgerran.btck.co.uk Facebook: 'Cilgerran Walkers are Welcome'



A range of walking groups were identified and the directory will be kept under review to ensure that its contact details and entries are up to date. 17

<http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/default.asp?PID=782>

# Access for all...

**South Wales: Pembrokeshire County Council  
Landsker Borderlands trail**

The Landsker Borderlands trail and its community links are in a beautiful and unspoilt part of West Wales. The funding provided has been used to make the trail more accessible for the lesser abled and to provide least restrictive access for its users.

On the 13.6 kilometres of improved trail stiles have been taken out and replaced with easy access gates. Bridges, clearer waymarking, and sleepers have been installed. Improved signage along with scrub clearance give the walkers an easier and more pleasant experience.



## Footpath improvements

Tuesday, 2 May 2017 By [Observer Reporter](#) in [Community News](#)



Post a comment

**Improvements have been made on 13.6 km of the Landsker Borderlands trail from Canaston Bridge to Efailwen.**

Work has included the installation of easy access gates, bridges, clearer way-marking, sleeper walkways and scrub clearance

The work was carried out for Pembrokeshire County Council by Llanychaer-based Pathfinders Countryside Limited under the Natural Resources Wales Rights of Way Improvement Plan funding programme.

George (second left) and Jeanette Allingham, of the Pembrokeshire Ramblers Association, are pictured with Derrick and Dilwyn Thomas from Pembrokeshire County Council's countryside section near Llawhaden church footpath inspecting the work.



# Access for all...

**North Wales: Isle of Anglesey County Council**  
**Llangristiolus Foot Bridge**

The footbridge near Llangristiolus was in poor condition and deemed unrepairable because of serious corrosion to the main beams. It also had a single handrail and was not acceptable for health and safety reasons. This bridge provides access between Footpath no. 28 and Footpath no. 55 which runs on top of the Afon Cefni flood defence embankment.

In July 2016 a contractor was employed to install a new 8 metre bridge on the existing abutments. The new bridge is a steel beam and timber deck.

The new bridge allows a circular route to be made using several level footpaths at Malltraeth Marsh. These paths are all on tracks or along embankments with only a few gates and no stiles, so are suitable for people with mobility problems (but not very suitable for wheelchair use).

The paths are easy to access from the village of Llangristiolus and from the Lon Las Cefni cycle path.



# Access for all...

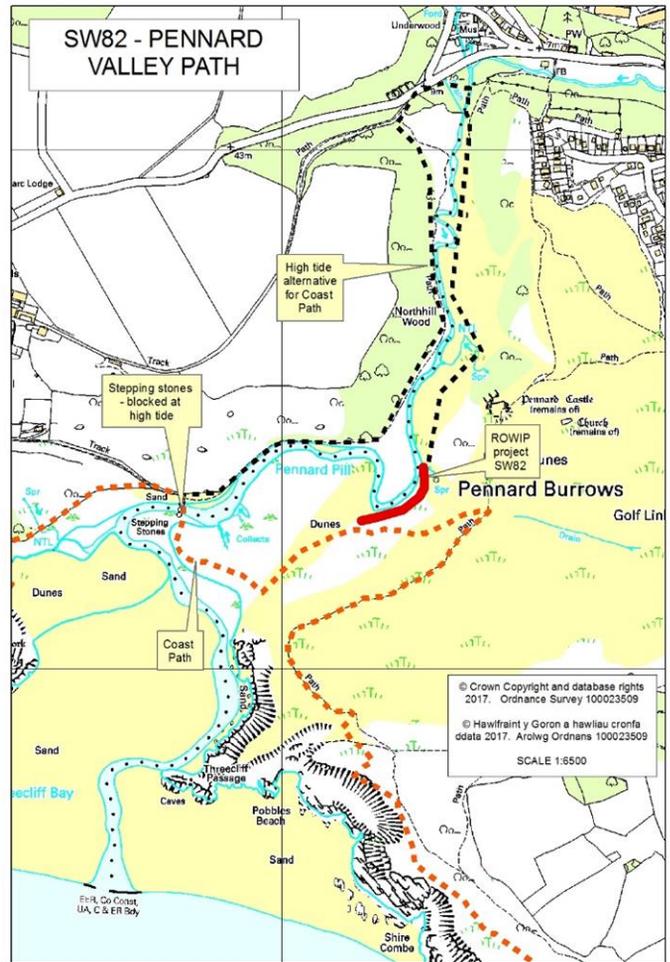
South Wales: Swansea

## Swansea Pennard Valley Walk

This project is one part of providing an alternative route for Coast Path around Pennard Valley, which is a very pleasant walk in itself of around 20 minutes.

Pennard Valley Walk is a very busy path (30K+ users per year) providing access from Parkmill along the valley to the beach and Coast Path. Over the years a section has gradually been washed away by the river and high tides forcing walkers to wade through the river and at high tides all access is prevented. In addition an old timber boardwalk that made up this section of the path was beginning to rot, requiring frequent maintenance.

The old board walk was removed and a new path was created above the high tide, providing easier access for walkers, and access for horse riders.



# Information and promotion...

Actions for improving information and promotion of linear access has been a consistently popular use of the funding over the lifetime of the programme.

**North Wales: Denbighshire County Council  
Moel Famau & Mountain Biking in North Wales**



Cycling in the Moel Famau area gained some publicity in the Cycling World Magazine GB Special following the Rio Olympics. A route was featured with an article and map.

## Outdoor Recreation Network Article

An article about the rise of mountain biking in North Wales, written by Hannah Arndt was published in Volume 26 of the Outdoor Recreation Network Journal

<http://www.outdoorrecreation.org.uk/stories/the-rise-of-mountain-biking-in-north-wales-the-achievements-and-the-future/>



WORKING FOR PEOPLE BEING OUTDOORS



Outdoor Recreation Network > Journals > Stories > 26 > The rise of mountain biking in North Wales: the achievements and the future

The rise of mountain biking in North Wales: the achievements and the future

# Information and promotion...

South Wales:

Bridgend County Borough Council  
Love2Walk

Bridgend's Love2Walk Festival returned in June 2016 for 9 days of walks and experiences showcasing the very best of the great outdoors in Bridgend. The Festival is run in partnership with the Bridgend Local Access Forum.

**Archwiliwch Cefn Gwlad Pen-y-bont**  
Ydych chi'n chwilio am rywbeth i'w gwneud y Porthcawl Bont am darganfod arfordir a chefn gwlad prydferth sy'n oddi allan eich ddiwy?

**Explore Bridgend's Countryside**  
Looking for something to do this Easter? Why not get out and about and discover the beautiful coast and countryside that is right on your doorstep?

**Diwydd Sadwrn 18fed - Dydd Sul 26ain Fehafin**  
Ydych chi'n chwilio am rywbeth i'w gwneud y Porthcawl Bont am darganfod arfordir a chefn gwlad prydferth sy'n oddi allan eich ddiwy?

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## Bridgend walking Fest

# GŴYL Love2Walk

Bydd Gŵyl Dwi ar Gerdded Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr yn dychwelyd ym Mehefin am 9 diwrnod o deithiau cerdded a phrofiadau arddangos y gorau iawn o'r awyr agored mawr ym Mhenybont ar Ogwr.

**M**aer' Wyl yn cael ei redeg mewn partneriaeth â Fforwm Mymediad Llocl Pen-y-Bont ar Ogwr ac fydd yn diwydd rhwng Dydd Sadwrn 18fed a Dydd Sul 26ain o Fehafin a gorau oll, mae'n RHAD AC AM DDIAM.

Mae'r rhaglen ar gyfer yr wyl wedi cael ei ddadornychu yn ddiweddar ac mae mor amrywiol a gweithgareddu gyda theithiau cerdded i deuluoedd a phlant, buffis hanes a rhai sy'n hoff natur gyda chyflwr i roi cyming ar brofiadau newydd. Ymroddwch â'r tîm Porthcawl Harbwrfeistri i ddygu mwy am harlow Porthcawl neu Lyfrgelloddi Ffeyrtoen ar ddiwrnod gerdded stori yn seiliedig ar hoff stori plenty'n Aliens in Underpants.

Dysgwch fwy am hanes y Cwm Llynfi neu archwilio coedwigoedd am gyfle i gael profiad o ystlumod gresafydd.

Bydd arbenigwyr lleol yn cymryd rhan mewn llawer o'r teithiau cerdded, felly yn ddisgwyll i ddygu mwy am y Fforddestraf, ei natur a'i hanes.

Fel byrnyddoedd blaenorol fydd bob taith yn rhad ac am ddim er bod rhai yn gofyn am archebu lle o flaen llaw gan fod llefydd yn gyfyngedig felly gwneswch yn zicr eich bod yn cael eich enw i lawr fel y maent yn sicrhau fod yn boblogaidd.

Am ragor o wybodaeth a rhaglen o deithiau cerdded ymweld [www.love2walk.co.uk](http://www.love2walk.co.uk), ffoniwch 01656 642593 neu e-bostiwch [love2walk@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:love2walk@bridgend.gov.uk).



Metu cymryd rhan yn yr Wyl Love2Walk neu eisiau archwilio ar eich pen eich hun? Peidiwch â phoeni gan fod digon o fyrrdd eraill i ddarganfod y prydferth arfordir a chefn gwlad Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Mae'r tîm Hawliau Tramwy hyrwyddo cerdded, beicio a llywrau ceffylau yn amrywio o deithiau cerdded cychol byr i llywrau pellter hir.

Unable to take part in the Love2Walk Festival or want to explore on your own? Don't worry there are plenty of other ways to discover the beautiful Bridgend Coast and countryside. The Rights of Way team promote walking, cycling and equestrian routes varying from short circular walks to longer distance routes.

## Bridgend walking Fest

# Love2Walk FESTIVAL

Bridgend's Love2Walk Festival returns in June for 9 days of walks and experiences showcasing the very best of the great outdoors in Bridgend.

**T**he Festival is run in partnership with the Bridgend Local Access Forum and takes place between Saturday 18th and Sunday 26th June and best of all it's FREE. The programme for the festival has recently been unveiled and it's as varied as ever with walks for families and children, history buffs and nature lovers with a chance to try new experiences. Join the Porthcawl Harbourmasters team to learn more about Porthcawl harbour or Bridgend Libraries on a Story walk based on the children's favourite Aliens in Underpants.

Underpants. Learn more about the history of the Llynfi Valley or explore woods for a chance to experience the resident bats. Local experts will be involved in many of the walks so expect to learn more about the Borough, its nature and history. As in previous years all walks are free although some require booking in advance as places are limited so make sure you get your name down.

For more info and a programme of walks visit [www.love2walk.co.uk](http://www.love2walk.co.uk), tel 01656 642593 or email [love2walk@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:love2walk@bridgend.gov.uk).

## Dyma dri o'n teithiau cerdded newyddaf



**Rhos Ewenni**  
Taith gyfich 6km o Rhos Ewenni trwy bentref hanesyddol Cerrtuen ac Ewenni. Dysgwch am crochenwaith Ewenni, darganfod Mithrody Ewenni a chywedd am y bobl sydd wedi byw yno, neu, yn sgml mwynhau cafn gwlad y rhesydd ar y bwydy gwyllt ar Afon Ewenni.



**Llangynwyd Ganol**  
Taith gyfich cymunedol 8km o fyd yn mynd â chi o amgylch yr ardal hanesyddol Pentref Llangynwyd lle gallich hwe gogwng ar y Hogon Cross ac Eglwys Sant Cymwyd. Cymwerych y olyfa o'r Cwm Llynfi i'w, coedwigoedd Brynna a Pharc Tir larti wrth ddygu am y meysydd gorrffennol diwydiannol.



**Coytrahen**  
Am ddiwrnod cychol byrrach beth am roi cyming ar y daith gerdded Trefadaeth Coytrahen sydd ond 4km o' hyd. Dewch i ddarganfod y rhyfwrdd a deliadau hanesyddol yn Coytrahen cyn mynd i bentref hanesyddol Shw a dychwelyd i Goetrahen drwy'r gefn gwlad.

## Here are three of the newest walks



**Ewenny Moor**  
A 6km circular walk from Ewenny Moors through the historic villages of Cerrtuen and Ewenny. Learn about Ewenny pottery, discover Ewenny Priory and hear about the people that have lived there, or simply enjoy the countryside of the moors and the wildlife on the River Ewenny.



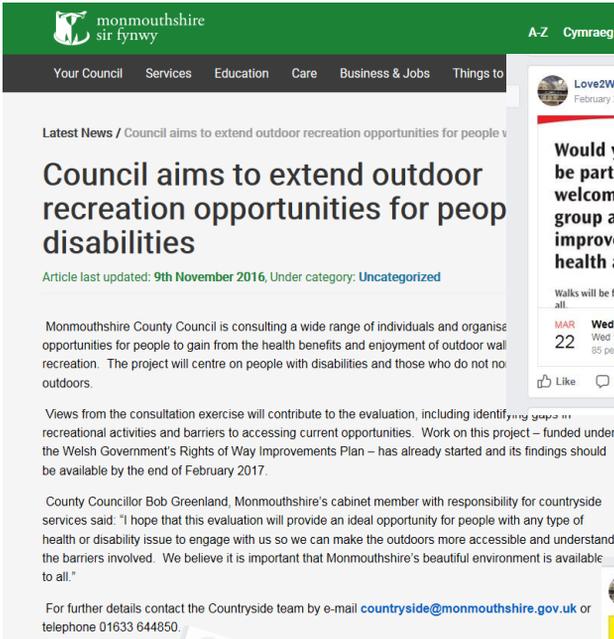
**Llangynwyd Middle**  
A community circular walk 8km long taking you around the historic area of Llangynwyd Village where you can take a look at the Hogon Cross and St Cymwyd's church. Take in the views of the Lower Llynfi valley, the Brynna woods and Parc Tir larti whilst learning about the areas industrial past.



**Coytrahen**  
For a shorter circular walk why not try the Coytrahen Heritage walk which is only 4km long. Discover the many historic buildings in Coytrahen before heading to the historic village of Shw and returning to Coytrahen through the countryside.

# Information and promotion...

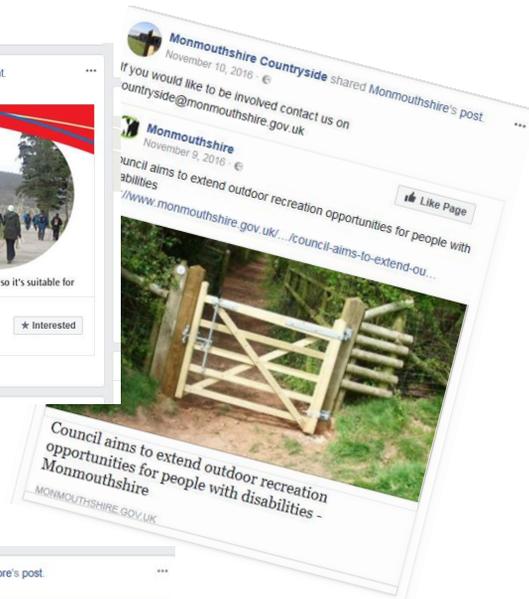
In 2016/17, social media remained a popular and effective media used by a number of authorities to publicise their ROWIP work



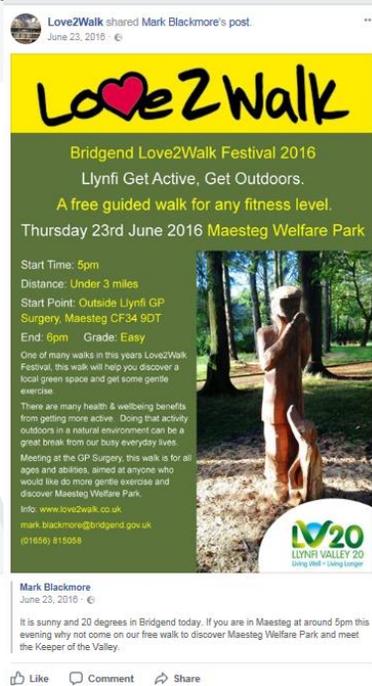
The screenshot shows the Monmouthshire County Council website. The header includes the council logo and navigation links: 'Your Council', 'Services', 'Education', 'Care', 'Business & Jobs', and 'Things to do'. The main content area features a news article titled 'Council aims to extend outdoor recreation opportunities for people with disabilities', dated 9th November 2016. The article text states: 'Monmouthshire County Council is consulting a wide range of individuals and organisations to gain from the health benefits and enjoyment of outdoor walking recreation. The project will centre on people with disabilities and those who do not have any disabilities. Views from the consultation exercise will contribute to the evaluation, including identifying recreational activities and barriers to accessing current opportunities. Work on this project – funded under the Welsh Government's Rights of Way Improvements Plan – has already started and its findings should be available by the end of February 2017. County Councillor Bob Greenland, Monmouthshire's cabinet member with responsibility for countryside services said: "I hope that this evaluation will provide an ideal opportunity for people with any type of health or disability issue to engage with us so we can make the outdoors more accessible and understand the barriers involved. We believe it is important that Monmouthshire's beautiful environment is available to all." For further details contact the Countryside team by e-mail [countryside@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@monmouthshire.gov.uk) or telephone 01633 644850.'



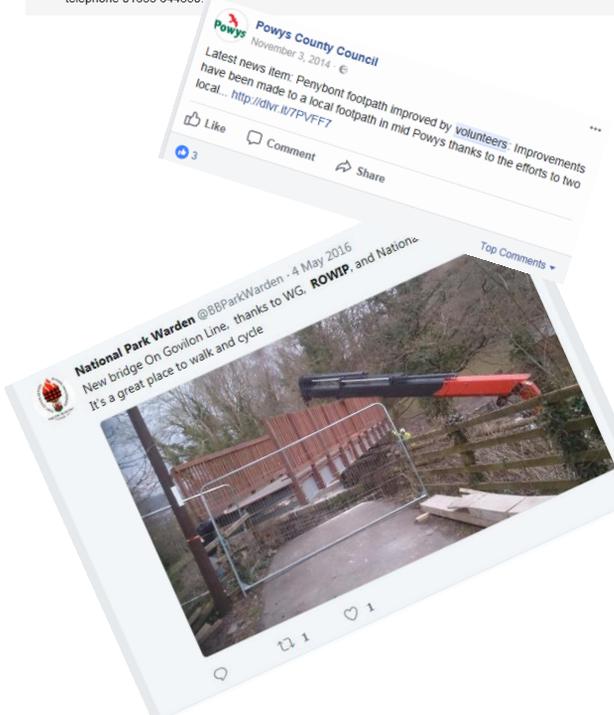
A Facebook post from 'Love2Walk' shared on February 21. The post title is 'Would you like to be part of a friendly, welcoming walking group and help to improve your health and fitness?'. It includes a photo of a group of people walking in a park. The text says: 'Walks will be for no more than 1 hour and on flat surfaces - so it's suitable for all.' The event is for 'Wednesday Walking Group' on Wednesday, March 22, at 10:15 AM, in Margam Country Park, Margam. It has 89 people interested.



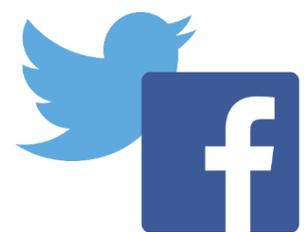
A collage of social media posts. One post from 'Monmouthshire Countryside' dated November 10, 2016, says 'If you would like to be involved contact us on [countryside@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@monmouthshire.gov.uk)'. Another post from 'Monmouthshire' dated November 9, 2016, says 'Council aims to extend outdoor recreation opportunities for people with disabilities' and includes a photo of a wooden gate. A third post from 'MONMOUTHSHIRE.GOV.UK' says 'Council aims to extend outdoor recreation opportunities for people with disabilities - Monmouthshire'.



A Facebook post from 'Love2Walk' shared on June 23, 2016. The post is for the 'Bridgend Love2Walk Festival 2016' and says 'Llynfi Get Active, Get Outdoors. A free guided walk for any fitness level. Thursday 23rd June 2016 Maesteg Welfare Park'. It lists details: Start Time: 5pm, Distance: Under 3 miles, Start Point: Outside Llynfi GP Surgery, Maesteg CF34 9DT, End: 6pm, Grade: Easy. It also includes contact information for Mark Blackmore: [mark\\_blackmore@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:mark_blackmore@bridgend.gov.uk) and phone number (01656) 815058. There is a photo of a person walking in a park.



A collage of social media posts. One post from 'Powys County Council' dated November 3, 2014, says 'Latest news item: Penybont footpath improved by volunteers: Improvements have been made to a local footpath in mid Powys thanks to the efforts of two local...'. Another post from 'National Park Warden @BBParkWarden' dated 4 May 2016, says 'New bridge on Govilon Line. thanks to WG, ROWIP, and National Park Warden. It's a great place to walk and cycle' and includes a photo of a bridge under construction.



# Improving information for management...

This year there were 13 projects to improve records and databases for the purpose of access management were completed. This accounted for 4% of the RFP funding.

## **South Wales: Cardiff Council**

The Definitive Map in Cardiff has not been republished since 1954. Therefore for several years, the Definitive Map officer has been processing Definitive Map Modification Orders to reflect all the changes which have legally occurred since 1954 to today.

The work is near completion and the new Definitive Map will be displayed by Parish and at an improved scale of 1:10,000.

## **Reviewing Parish Definitive Maps**

A couple of Local Access Forum (LAF) members have assisted the PRow Team by walking paths within the Lisvane, Whitchurch and Roath Parishes to survey issues 'on the ground'.

Issues documented included missing waymarks, damaged furniture, poor surface condition, obstructions by landowners (locked gates, vegetation encroachment, etc.)

The exercise identified poor waymarking as the biggest issue, especially along urban paths.

# Improving information for management...



**South Wales: Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council**

## **Adopt a path**

Adopting a path allows individual people, families, local user groups, schools, community and voluntary organisations to choose a path to look after.

There are footpaths, bridleways and byways available to adopt in every part of the County Borough. Volunteers choose a path to adopt, or can be given one in their area. The Council provide volunteers with a description of the path and a map showing where it goes, and a simple report form to complete and return by post or email.

Adopt a Path volunteers follow their chosen path at least twice a year and send in a completed report form about its condition and ease of use.

The information provided helps the Council to keep the Rights of Way network in good condition for everyone to enjoy. Volunteers are not required to approach landowners or do any practical work on the path.

# Investing in Staff and People...

On the basis of information from the authorities funded under the Programme, during 2016/17 10.5 people were directly employed using the ROWIP Funding Programme compared with 7 staff the previous year.

Some of the posts that were included:

**Cardiff:** Outdoor Cardiff Projects

**Ceredigion :** Project Coordinator

**Pembrokeshire Coast National Park–** Public ROW survey & Improvements Officer

Resource used for ROWIP Implementation	No of days spent on ROWIP works
Existing internal Local Authority staff (a combination of permanent and FTA)	2222.5
Contractors	1084.5
Volunteers	945
Consultants	193
Other staff related resources e.g administration	165.5

As well as delivering through own staff, consultants and contractors, in bringing together this casework report the involvement and contribution that volunteers make to access improvement in Wales was evident.

# Managing the network and volunteers...

**Mid Wales: Powys County Council**

## **Countryside Services volunteers get to work on community footpaths**

A team from Powys County Council's Countryside Volunteers have been busy maintaining two public footpaths and part of a National Trail to benefit the local communities of Abbeycwmhir and Bwlch-y-Sarnau.

Additional waymarked posts have been installed on a section of the Abbeycwmhir Community Trail where it enters Coed Sarnau forestry above Abbeycwmhir village.

On the other side of the valley the team have been clearing and waymarking an overgrown section of public footpath. The local community in Bwlch-y-Sarnau plans to include the path as part of a local circular walk linking in with the Glyndwr's Way National Trail. Several old Glyndwr's Way waymark posts have also been replaced as part of the work.

Cllr W. John T. Powell, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Sustainability, said "By actively helping to maintain the public rights of way network in Powys our volunteer teams, each led by an experienced team leader, are providing tangible benefits for both local people and visitors to the area."



Countryside Services volunteers install new waymarker posts along the Abbeycwmhir community trail.

Thank you to all the Local Authorities who have contributed to the compilation of this report.

Note that the information gathered here has come directly from the Local Authorities end of year reports for the last year of RFP.

Report compiled by Rich Dearing, Recreation and Access Advisor and Daniel Lewis, ROWIP Funding Officer

