



Meeting Summary

Title of Meeting:	National Access Forum (NAFW 60)		
Date of Meeting:	6 March 2018	Venue:	Neuadd Reichel Ffriddoedd Road Bangor LL57 2TR
Present:	Ruth Hall (NRW, Chair), Carys Drew (NRW), Quentin Grimley (NRW), Mark Weston (BHS), Jo Hughes (BHS), Ray Wood (BMC), Steve Rayner (Canoe Wales), Arthur Lee (Disabled Ramblers), David Evans (Elan Valley Trust), Bernard Griffiths (FUW), Andrew Stumpf (Glandŵr Cymru), Emily Lewis Stumpf (Glandŵr Cymru), Rebecca Brough (Ramblers Cymru), Max Grant (OSS), John Watkins (WG), Rowland Pittard (YHA), Sue Williams (NRW), Steven Morgan (Sport Wales), Russell Elliot (NRW)		
Apologies:	Stuart France (CCC), Rachel Evans (CA), Jean Rosenfeld (CPRW), Kieron Foster (Cycling UK), Charles de Winton (CLA Cymru), Mark Stafford-Tolley (WLGA, WROWMWG), Gwyn Smith (Sustrans), Duncan Green (LARA), Ruth Rourke (IPROW*), Kerry Thatcher – Visit Wales		

Item No:	Item	Action
1.	Welcome and Apologies.	
	Ruth welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly new attendees and speakers, Jo Hughes BHS Cymru and Steven Morgan who was presenting for Sport Wales. Carys noted housekeeping and apologies.	
	Ruth advised the meeting of a number of changes in representatives: This was Andrew Stumpf's last meeting and Ruth thanked him for his contribution to the Forum's meetings and subgroups over many years and wished him well in his retirement, she welcomed Emily Lewis who would be attending future meetings on behalf of Glandŵr Cymru.	
	Carys has received a phone message from Jean Rosenfeld sending apologies and standing down as representative for CPRW. CPRW Chair Peter Alexander-Fitzgerald would attend in future. Ruth suggested and it was agreed that in his absence, she write to Jean on behalf of the Forum to thank him for his fantastic contribution over the years as CPRW representative and previously as National LAF representative.	

Catrin Dellar had recently moved on from her role in access and recreation to another department in Welsh Government. Catrin has represented WG at Forum meetings over a number of years and it was agreed that Ruth would write to Catrin to wish her well in her new role and thank her for insight and support of the Forum.

Carys provided an update on the actions from the last meeting, some of which were still in progress.

Action 59.1: *Secretariat to liaise with Welsh Government to invite Hannah Blythyn AM, Minister for Environment to a future meeting.* CD/WG

Carys was continuing to liaise with Welsh Government about the best time for this to take place.

Action 59.2 *Carys Drew to produce a briefing note including national timetable and local contacts, distribute the presentation.* CD

Carys had been focussed on developing NRW's way of working in this area and would move on to providing the briefing note and addressing the further information.

Action 59.3: *Stuart France to present item about Caving at the next meeting* SF

Stuart had been invited to present at the meeting but would preferred to put the presentation off for the time being.

2. National Survey for Wales

Findings of the Outdoor Recreation section of the 2016-2017 National Survey for Wales, Sue Williams NRW

See presentation slides attached

Sue Williams gave a presentation about the recently published summary results from the recreation section in the National Survey for Wales. A bulletin on the results had been circulated to members in advance and was available [online](#)

Sue started by noting that the National Survey for Wales had replaced the Wales Outdoor Recreation Survey however the results were not comparable; future surveys would enable trends to be identified.

The Survey provides information about participation in outdoor recreation by people living in Wales, the activities they do and the places they visit, what motivates them and what the barriers to undertaking activities. Further questions provide information about the health and economic benefits from outdoor recreation.

The on-going analysis of the national survey data was covered, and how the data is being used in research projects, along with an overview of the new questions that will be asked in the 2018/19 round of the survey. Sue asked NAFW members to consider how they might use the results of the survey in their own work and what additional analysis would be useful, if anyone has questions or suggestions these can be passed to Carys.

60.1 Carys to circulate the presentation and bulletin

CD

60.2 Members to pass any questions about the data and suggestions for further analysis to Carys

All

Discussion points

- 'Recreation' in the survey has a wide definition and includes informal outdoor recreation as well as some potential overlap with sport and active travel due to people's perceptions of their activity having a dual purpose
- The survey captures tourism within Wales but not beyond Wales. NRW work closely with Natural England and there is an equivalent survey in England but due to different methodologies results are not comparable. The UK Tourist Survey and UK day visits survey captures more information about tourism.
- Only statistically significant differences are recorded in the survey reports. Whilst some activity percentages seem low e.g. 3%, they are still important since they represent that proportion of the adult population in Wales.
- The results indicate that a lot of visits fall under informal/social recreation e.g. picnics and visits to parks which leads to a question about how such interest is represented and for NAFW how do we capture the collective 'voice' of social recreation
- The results are available in data tables in the [results viewer](#)

3. Consultation on the Draft Vision for Sport in Wales

How do we maximise the use of natural resources? Steven Morgan, Sport Wales

Steven Morgan explained that Sport Wales are engaging with people and organisations to coordinate and develop a shared vision for Sport in Wales, this follows the statement by [the Minister for Social Services and Public Health 3 October 2017](#). Sport Wales had held events and run a questionnaire survey to enable people to express 'what sport meant to them' through the My Welsh Sport - Conversation to inform the development of the vision.

Steven explained that the vision would be for the sector and that Sport Wales would then develop its own strategic plan. He led discussion by sharing some of the key themes that had emerged from

the Conversation. It was the intention to avoid defining what sport is but look at it in its widest context and to consider the role of sport in getting people more active and increasing the proportion of the population that is physically active. The challenge was how to tackle lack of participation whilst also supporting elite athletes.

Steven invited discussion around the statement 'Wales a nation where everyone has a lifelong enjoyment of sport' and noted that he would take the points made back to feed into the Draft Vision which would be out for consultation shortly.

Discussion points:

- Terminology and definitions: it was noted that it is important to understand the outcomes sought from the vision for sport and define terminology accordingly. Members considered that if the desired outcome is to get more people more active, it is important to include wider recreation and physical activity in the terminology being used
- Members thought that sport should be defined within the vision so that the scope can be understood and so that it is clear which organisations need to be involved and who the 'sector' is
- There is a need to accommodate people to do things informally
- Noted that there are costs associated with providing facilities for outdoor recreation and 'green gym'
- Sport and physical activity are two different things and 'sport' could be done a disservice if diluted too much
- Thoughts about setting a level of ambition for individuals about what is possible to achieve in an appropriate and sensitive way
- The draft vision cannot be achieved by Sport Wales alone, there would be further opportunity to feed into consultations from 19th March.

Action 60.3: all to consider the consultation of a vision for sport in Wales

All

Post meeting note: The consultation is now available online [here](#) closing date for responses is 30th April 2018.

4. Ramblers Cymru

The next stage of the Community Council Toolkit work and development of Let's Walk Cymru, the Big Welsh Walk and GB-wide festivals and other updates and developments, Rebecca Brough

Rebecca Brough updated the meeting about changes within the Ramblers, there had been a shift in culture, modernisation and new partnerships being formed, such as funding through the People's Postcode lottery and went on to share information about specific work areas.

- A toolkit had been developed to help Ramblers maintenance volunteers work with Town and Community councils. This is being piloted in Powys, with Welshpool and a rural community council.
- 'Let's Walk' was a Sport Wales project now being run by the Ramblers, following the end of funding in September, work was being done on developing a sustainable model for the scheme to continue. Participants in the scheme to date are predominantly women over 50. There is a social angle to the scheme countering loneliness and isolation. Coordinators are local and work together as a network.
- Ramblers had developed a training programme which would be available to non-members and bookable through Eventbrite
- Big Welsh Walk would be taking place on 2nd June 2018 it was being held in Devil's Bridge, Ceredigion again following the success of last year when there had been some 280 participants. The theme for the walk is 'hidden gems'. Rebecca explained that feedback was that these events did leave a legacy with infrastructure improvements made in advance of the events
- Ramblers GB are leading a 'don't lose your way' project to coordinate volunteer efforts to record unrecorded rights of way before the 2026 cut-off date introduced by the CROW Act 2000
- Work with the Cambrian Way Trust who are part funding an officer, work involves route checking and refreshing promotion and waymarking
- Rebecca covers all policy areas in Wales and sits on the Active Travel Board

Action: 60.4 Rebecca to send the training PDF and Carys to circulate

RB/CD

Discussion

- Points were made about the opportunity to explore any overlap in interests between the Active Travel Board with some NAFW members being represented on it and a question of how best to do this.

5. **Area Statements: setting out an evidence base and translating WG priorities into action**

Russell Elliot, NRW

See presentation slides attached

Russell provided an update on the implementation of the Environment Act 2016. He set out the policy context for Area Statements, the next stage in delivery, which follow on from the [State of the Natural Resources Report](#) (delivered by NRW every 5 years) and the [Natural](#)

[Resources Policy](#) (delivered by Welsh Government). He shared a map showing where the 7 Area Statements in Wales be. These will be produced by NRW and will need to:

1. Set out the natural resources in the area
2. The benefits they provide
3. The priorities, risks and opportunities for sustainable management

Russell showed how Area Statements will cover these elements and he focussed on how outdoor recreation fits into these and the evidence being looked at to develop Area Profiles. He finished by giving the broad timetable for developing Area Statements and external stakeholder engagement.

Discussion

- Noted that the priorities are set at the national level by Welsh Government
- Noted that rather than have duplication, the Welsh National Marine Plan would fulfil the role of the Marine Area Statement

Action 60.5: Members can feed thoughts back through Carys. Carys to pass on NAFW details into the stakeholder mapping

All/CD

6. Contributions from all

See NAFW Contributions 6 March 2018 in addition the following points were made:

NRW: Ruth Hall noted that NRW has a new Chief Executive, Clare Pillman. Ruth will be reporting to the next NRW Board meeting about the Forum.

Canoe Wales: Noted the lack of forums to discuss issues in relation to water related recreation

WATO: Visit Wales funding was coming to an end.

Welsh National Parks:

- Snowdonia National Park had recently produced [guidance for competitive events](#)
- Welsh National Parks are facing substantial funding cuts from their settlement from Welsh Government. There is concern about the impact on access budgets and loss of staff and that this will affect relationships on the ground.
- Local Access Forums had written to the National Park Authorities and the Minister to voice their concerns.

Welsh Government:

- Responding to the update from National Parks, WG put these cuts into context of wider austerity measures and noted that there was parity with the settlements that NPAs in England. Whilst not ideal, WG had made additional funding available in-year for NPAs to respond to pressures. It was also noted that NPA make the decisions about how they spend their core budget and that LAFs were right to raise issues with the authority.
- The next steps in relation to the consultation on 'Taking Forward the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources' is the issuing of a summary of the response to the consultation. This would be published for the consultation as a whole. Following this, Welsh Government will set out its response separately for each section, the timetable for delivering these stages has not be set out.

7. Any Other Business

It was noted that there are current consultations that members may wish to respond to:

Draft National Marine Plan – deadline 29th March 2018

<https://beta.gov.wales/draft-welsh-national-marine-plan>

Planning Policy Wales – deadline 18th May 2018

<https://beta.gov.wales/planning-policy-wales-edition-10>

Members were invited to consider items for inclusion on future agendas and to pass these through to Carys.

8. Dates of next meetings

- Members were invited to consider items for inclusion on future agendas and to pass these through to Carys
 - 3rd July 2018 – Welshpool TBC
 - 6th November 2018 – Cardiff TBC
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