



Meeting Summary

Title of Meeting:	National Access Forum for Wales: NAFW 64		
Date of Meeting:	2 July 2019	Venue:	Bute Park Education Centre, Cardiff, CF10 3DX
Time of Meeting:	10:30 – 13:00		
Attendance:	Howard Davies (NRW, Chair), Carys Drew (NRW secretariat), Dr John O'Connor (Angling Cymru), Mark Weston (BHS), Elfyn Jones (BMC), Steve Rayner (Canoe Wales), Stuart France (Cambrian Caving Council), Rachel Evans (Countryside Alliance), Charles de Winton (CLA Cymru), Kieron Foster (Cycling UK), Paula Brunt (Disabled Ramblers), David Evans (Elan Valley Trust), Bernard Griffiths (FUW), Ruth Rourke (IPROW), Bronwen Gardiner (NFU Cymru), Jonathan Hughes (National Trust), Beverley Penney (Open Spaces Society), Rebecca Brough (Ramblers Cymru), Gwyn Smith (Sustrans), Rowland Pittard (YHA), Jont Bulbeck (NRW) Tom Sharp (WSA), Sarah Smith (WG), Tom Cosson (WG)		
Observers:	Pete Brunt (accompanying Paula Brunt)		
Apologies:	Neil Buffery (British Driving Society) Chris Tomley (LARA), John Morgan (Welsh LAFs) Representative for (Welsh National Parks), Steven Morgan (Sport Wales)		
Presenters:	Simon Pickering (WG)		

1. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting in particular those attending for the first time. He reminded everyone that they were welcome to contribute in Welsh or English whichever their preference.

2. Actions and Matters arising

The Secretary provided updates on the actions from the last meeting as follows:

Action	Status
New Action 63.1: Carys Drew to finalise the ToR document and issue the final draft to members after this meeting. The Forum will now consider and confirm the final ToR document at the Forum's July 2019 meeting	Ongoing – item included for conclusion on this agenda.
<i>[Page 7] Action 62.3: Carys Drew to investigate appropriate speaker in relation to Active Travel for future meeting</i>	Ongoing - Speaker identified however due to clash with Active Travel conference they will attend and present at the November meeting.
[Page 7] Action 62.4: Carys Drew to contacts MoD contacts with regard to attendance at NAFW	Completed. Contact made and subject to availability MoD will resume attendance. Contact is now James Nevitt, Senior Access & Recreation Advisor (Environmental Support & Compliance Team). James was unable to attend this meeting but looks forward to attending in November.
Action 63.2: Presentation to be circulated to members	Completed
New Action 63.3: Forum members should contact EE-J or Paul Donovan for further information or about the available resources	Discharged
Action[s] 63.4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. There was not a consensus reached on AC's membership based on the presentation of SMS. b. The presentation was felt to be too focused on regional working at the individual River Trust level c. Members wanted further information from SMS as to 	Ongoing - Included for conclusion on this agenda Item 3.

<p>the relevance of Afonydd Cymru's access work to the national-level working of the Forum and for that to be shared with members</p> <p>d. SMS/NRW should be asked to provide the NRW-Afonydd Cymru Memorandum of Understanding. This is also to be shared with Forum members as further information for consideration</p> <p>e. An item to be included on the July 2019 meeting's agenda to conclude on the application</p> <p>f. SMS should be invited as an observer to the next meeting</p>	
<p>Action 63.5: NRW to add the NFU(C) information to the NAFW Contributions document before that it is added to the Website.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Action 63.6 NRW will set dates for the 2020 Forum meetings to inform members in time for the next meeting.</p>	<p>3rd March 2020 – North 30th June 2020 – South 3rd November 2020 - Mid</p>

The Chair then went through the matters arising:

Matter arising	Update
<p>1. (page 2) The Deputy Minister asked SF to put those points in writing for Welsh Government to consider further. SP noted that WG have followed NRW's interpretation on this matter but they will consider the matter further once they have SF's further information.</p>	<p>Stuart France, CCC has submitted further information and WG has responded. Officials have reviewed and will ask Access Reform Group to consider whether should be brought into scope of its work.</p>
<p>2. (top page 3) Cycling UK and BHS wrote to Welsh Government proposing new multi-use National Trails in Wales [and the UK].</p>	<p>WG has responded to the letter. WG position is that there are no plans to establish a new National Trail at this time with the current focus on carrying forward the access reform proposals, while</p>

	<p>noting that a number of these proposals will potentially facilitate the creation of such a trail in the future.</p>
<p>3. <i>(Page 5) BG suggested that the secretariat invite someone from Welsh Government to talk about the recreational access aspects of a future post-Brexit land management scheme.</i></p>	<p>There is a second WG consultation on the new land management arrangements due out imminently and there are public engagement sessions planned to run with this.</p> <p>Members emphasised the importance of having sufficient notice before the Royal Welsh Show so that they could use that opportunity to raise awareness of the consultation and encourage responses.</p>
<p>4. <i>Pg 8 RP (YHA)It will be a significant challenge for organisations to engage with 7 Area Statements. Is there a way for that to happen nationally?</i></p>	<p>NRW has appointed external support (Cynnal Cymru) who will help with facilitation of a national Area Statement workshop aimed at organisations working at the all Wales level, with members of the NRW chaired forums invited to take part. This will likely take place in the autumn. There will be a focus on how Area Statements in combination will address the priorities, opportunities and challenges highlighted in the Natural Resources Policy.</p> <p>We are building into this the particular need to support those smaller NGOs that are unable to engage individually with 7 Places but have an interest in all areas.</p> <p>NAFW members will be invited to the event which will include the Forums that NRW Chairs.</p>

10.40

3. Membership application

Consideration of Membership application from Afonydd Cymru

Observers were asked to leave the room whilst the membership application was considered.

The Secretariat had reviewed and provided members with an assessment of the additional information provided by Afonydd Cymru following their presentation at the last meeting in order to answer some of the questions raised. .

Following discussion between members, it was agreed that Afonydd Cymru should be invited to join the Forum and their representative Stephen Marsh-Smith was invited to join the remainder of the meeting.

Action 64.1: Secretariat to add Afonydd Cymru to membership of the Forum and update associated records.

5. Access Reform Update and discussion

Simon Pickering, Head of Landscape and Outdoor Recreation

Simon Pickering gave a presentation about the next stages involved in developing the Access Reform following the Deputy Ministers [written statement](#) announced at the last meeting. WG will lead the work, with advice provided by NRW and the establishment of a steering group Access Reform Advisory Group (ARAG) to steer and oversee the work.

Discussion points:

- It is useful to reflect on the reasons for access reform and the benefits sought, including mental and physical health, tourism and economic benefits. Suggestion that there is a need to reflect these benefits in the composition of the steering group
- Need to consider the key drivers and deliver big picture improvements not small scale controversial matters
- Opportunity to join up with Area Statements and the work of Public Service Boards and Wellbeing plans at the local level
- Leadership of ARAG is important and needs to have the confidence of stakeholders, important to have clear and transparent ways of working
- There will be a two-tier approach, the ARAG will steer the process with membership drawn from public sector organisations. Expert groups will include representation from landowner and user organisation sectors
- Feedback on the Group 2 proposals will be best provided in the ARAG timeframe (shared at the end of the presentation). Feedback on Group 1 proposals can be provided earlier

- Suggestion that the wider issue of activity events should be considered not just addressing the anomaly of cycling events on bridleways
- Responsible recreation is a laudable aim and there is a need to start early in education for this to become part of people's behaviour. There is a need to have a strong campaign and update and modernise the countryside code
- Question around e-bikes and how these are classed
- Comment around the commerciality of the rights of way network, and who should pay when people are generating an income based on its use
- Noted that there are multiple different areas within Welsh Government that need to be part of the conversation including tourism and health, these discussions are already taking place but will need to show this explicitly as part of the process
- Suggestion that there is a need for a communication plan as part of the process, not just for interested stakeholders but the wider public
- Connection between rights of way and Active Travel needs to be strengthened, concern that there is no additional funding for rights of way whilst Active Travel is attracting significant investment
- Important that support happens at the Ministerial level between Lee Waters AM, Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport and Hannah Blythyn AM Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government
- Following the written statement, NAFW will establish a subgroup to consider access to inland water. Noted that access to water requires different management to access on land.
- WG are happy to share the Terms of Reference for ARAG with the Forum
- WG expect to establish 4 expert groups working to ARAG looking at the access reform proposals
- WG will have to undertake a range of impact assessments in developing legislation
- There will be a need to manage and be transparent about the access reform development alongside the work in relation to the Brexit and our land consultation

Action 64.2: Secretariat to circulate presentation on Access Reform to members

12:20

5. Terms of Reference

The Forum endorsed the Terms of Reference (ToR) subject to the addition of a review clause which was agreed to be every 3 years.

Action 64.3: Secretariat to include review clause and publish ToR on NAFW webpage

6. Contributions from all

The Chair reminded everyone of the benefit of including written contributions to share with colleagues. Those that had been received had been collated and circulated by the secretariat. Additional points included:

- IPROW: Ruth Rourke noted that the IPROW update on the National Street Gazetteer provided a good starting point for the all Wales statutory digital map
- Canoe Wales: Steve Rayner noted that CW are currently recruiting staff
- Sustrans: Gwyn Smith noted that the RDP programme had come to an end. They are developing project to fill gaps in the National Cycle Network. Gwyn noted that given the climate emergency, could the Forum consider its carbon footprint and look to reduce this.
- Disabled Ramblers: Paula Brunt highlighted the events being organised by Disabled Ramblers in Wales and invited members to join
- Angling Cymru: commented that having attended the meeting he was optimistic about working together with Forum members within the Forums Terms of Reference
- Cycling UK: Kieron Foster noted that Cycling UK are working on an off-road route between London and John O'Groats – 700miles mostly off-road and a future phase of the project in Wales.
- WSA: Tom Sharp noted that WSA represent over 80 members with many organisations in the room being members. He raised the importance of being mindful of emerging sports and technology in taking forward access reform.
- BMC: Elfyn Jones noted that BMC is currently going through reorganisation and review, addressing the need to modernise and a new board had been formed, with consideration being given to the BMC identity in Wales. Climbing would be included in the 2024 Olympics and there is a huge interest and a need to manage the transition between indoor and outdoor climbing.
- Open Spaces: Beverley Penney noted that OS are looking at increasing capacity in Wales.
- YHA: Noted the YHA England and Wales AGM was recently held with several documents looking at impact of YHA.
- National Trust: Jonathan Hughes noted that NT have a new Director General and are looking to broaden their appeal to everyone. The countryside has an obvious important role to play and NT has a continued focus on the outdoors and is a major partner in the Future Parks initiative.
- Important to think about access near to where people are. Consider Urban Green Space as a future NAFW topic.

Action 64.5: Secretariat and all members to consider opportunities to reduce carbon footprint of meetings

Action 64.6: Secretariat/Chair to consider Urban Green Space as future agenda item

6. Any Other Business

The secretariat had been contacted on behalf of the Welsh LAF Chairs meeting. The LAF Chairs asked that NAFW consider changing its name to avoid confusion with the Welsh LAF Chairs.

The Forum noted the suggestion and would be mindful of the potential confusion, but as a longstanding Forum did not consider that there was a need to change the name. The updated Terms of Reference make clear the role of NAFW.

7. Forward Look & dates of next meetings

5th November 2019 – Powys Hospitality Centre, Welshpool Livestock Sales, SY21 8SR
3rd March 2020 – North Wales (venue TBC)
30th June 2020 – South Wales (venue TBC)
3rd November 2020 – Mid Wales (venue TBC)

13:00

Lunch
