



Meeting Summary

Title of Meeting: National Access Forum (NAFW 51)

Date of Meeting: 17 March 2015 **Time:** 10.30 **Venue:** Conference Room,
Maes y Ffynnon,
NRW Bangor

Present: Ruth Hall (NRW, Chair), Carys Drew (NRW, Secretariat), Janet Williams (BDS), Mark Weston (BHS), Andrew Stumpf (Glandwr Cymru), Stuart France (CCC), Charles de Winton (CLBA), Adrian Walls (IPROW/WROWMWG), David Evans (Elan Valley Trust), Bernard Griffiths (FUW), Jean Rosenfeld (LAFs in Wales/CPRW), Rachel Lewis-Griffiths (NFU Cymru), Angela Charlton (Ramblers Cymru), Kerry Thatcher (Visit Wales), Chris Wright (WATO), Peter Rutherford (Welsh National Parks), Catrin Dellar (WG), John Watkins (WG), Quentin Grimley (NRW), Jont Bulbeck (NRW).

Apologies: Elfyn Jones and Dr Catherine Flitcroft (BMC), Jeanne Hyett (BHS), Gwenda Owen/Ian Richardson (CTC), Stephanie Price (Mountain Training Cymru), Richard Neale (NT), Gwyn Smith (Sustrans), Ian Dutch (WLGA), Rowland Pittard (YHA),

Item No:	Item	Action
1.	Welcome and Apologies.	

Ruth Hall welcomed everyone to the meeting, and a number of people who were deputising for the usual representatives were introduced.

Minutes of the last meeting had not yet been finalised and circulated. Ruth proposed that from now on, a much shorter summary record of the meeting would be produced and circulated within 2 weeks of the meeting and suggested that people make their own notes should they wish to record any detailed points. The views of Forum members were requested and the proposal was agreed.

Action 51.1: Circulate draft note of last meeting (NAFW 50) and this meeting by 31st March 2015. All to check and respond to Carys with any issues. Carys Drew/All

2. **NRW's Recreation and Access Enabling Plan**

Jont Bulbeck, NRW gave a presentation the NRW Recreation and Access Enabling Plan which had been recently finalised and would steer NRW's work in this area until 2020. NAFW had been involved in developing the Enabling Plan (previously referred to as the Recreation and Access Strategy) in workshops in July 2014.

The Enabling Plan and associated documents (Action Plan and Indicative Results Based Accounting Plan) are now available from NRW and will be made available shortly on the NRW website.

See presentation file for further detail. (Attached)
Contact Jont Bulbeck or Roz Owen for further information:

Jont.Bulbeck@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Rosalind.Owen@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

Discussion points included:

- The important shared agenda around tracking the benefits (particularly the health benefits) of outdoor recreation and access.
- The opportunity to have consistency of monitoring between different organisations and programmes in order to enable wider evaluation and the importance to ensure that measures are proportionate particularly where work is being delivered by partners.

Action 51.2: Circulate Enabling Plan and associated documents to Forum and share web link.

Carys Drew

3. **Welsh Government and NRW Funding Programmes: ROWIP Funding Programme (RFP):**

- Carys Drew highlighted key points from the reports of the achievements of the RFP in 2013/14.
 - Work had been completed for 2014/15 and the payments to local authorities were being processed. NRW would prepare collated reports for 2014/15 and circulated these to the Forum in due course.
 - The Minister for Natural Resources had confirmed that £1million would be available for the ROWIP Funding Programme in 2015/16.
 - Local Highway Authorities would be expected to review their ROWIP within 10 years of publication of their current ROWIP. NRW were developing advice for WG on their Statutory Guidance for this purpose.
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- NRW would wish to consult the Forum on the revision of the Guidance, through establishment of a sub group.

Action 51.3: All to Circulate ROWIP Reports to raise awareness of the outputs of ROWIP Funding.

All

Wales Coast Path:

- Quentin Grimley provided an update on the current situation.
- NRW had provided advice to WG on the future management of the Wales Coast Path.
- WG confirmed they propose an additional £900,000 of funding annually for NRW, and that this amount be spent on the Wales Coast Path each year for at least the next five years. Depending on the need of the Coast Path programme NRW would have some discretion to vary the amount, so long as they can demonstrate an investment of £4.5 million over the period.
- The agreement is in addition to the current arrangements for the Pembrokeshire Coast Path National Trail, which is funded through NRW's National Trail programme.
- Steps were being taken to appoint designated WCP officers with responsibility for managing specific sections of path.

See presentation for further details.

Splash:

Jont Bulbeck updated the Forum on potential funding for water related recreation. NRW had provided advice to and were in discussion with Welsh Government, but any funding programme in 2015/16 had yet to be agreed.

4. Local Access Forums (LAFs) in Wales

Jean Rosenfeld, LAF National Representative provided a brief overview and update of LAF work in Wales. He noted the importance of balance of representatives in each LAF, and he encouraged the organisations represented on the National Access Forum to raise awareness of their local stakeholders of the opportunity to become involved in their LAF to help ensure all interests were well represented.

Action 51.3: All to remind the local members of their organisation of the opportunity for them to apply to

All

represent their areas of interest in their Local Access Forum.

5. The Canal and River Trust: the first two years

Andrew Stumpf gave an overview and discussion of the 3rd sector model which the Canal and River Trust had adopted to managing public assets. Community engagement was key and a great deal was achieved through volunteering, which covered a wide range of work from practical improvements, teaching and clerical work.

6. Contributions from all

See: Paper 5. NAFW 51 Contributions

7. Date of next meeting

Proposed:
7th July 2015 (Mid Wales)
10th November 2015 (South Wales)
8th March 2016 (North Wales)
