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Date: 24th July 2023

To whom it may concern,

A digital meeting of the **Caerphilly Local Access Forum** will be held via Microsoft Teams on **Friday, 28th July, 2023 at 10.00 am** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided on request.

This meeting will be recording made available to view via the Council's website, except for discussions involving confidential or exempt items. Therefore, the images/audio of those individuals speaking will be publicly available to all via the recording on the Council [website](#).

Yours faithfully,

PHILLIP GRIFFITHS
SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

A G E N D A

- | | Pages | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 | To receive apologies for absence. | |
| 2 | Declarations of Interest. | |

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

A greener place Man gwyrddach



3	Minutes of the Caerphilly Local Access Forum held on 24th February 2023.	1 - 6
4	Matters Arising from the Minutes.	
5	Chairs Report. - Verbal Update.	
6	Process of Altering the Definitive Map and Statement.	7 - 14
7	Gwent Green Grid Partnership - Gwent Green Corridors Strategic Access Plan Update.	15 - 18
8	National Resource Wales Update.	19 - 20
9	Grant Programmes, Projects and Implementation.	21 - 24
10	Any Other Business.	

Circulation:

Councillor C. Morgan, M. Benjamin, Mr B. Clarke, Mr G. Davies, Mr K. Donovan, Mr A. Edwards, A. Evans, Mrs E. Gwynne, D. Hale, Ms L. Howells, D. Llewellyn, J. Morgan, Mrs A. Palmer, M. Pointon, R. Stones, Ms M. Thomas, W. Williams, A. Wilson and Mr N.D. Yates

Ms S. Tindal (Natural Resources Wales) and Ms C. Deller (Welsh Government)

And Appropriate Officers

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CAERPHILLY LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE REMOTE MEETING HELD VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS ON FRIDAY 24TH FEBRUARY 2023 AT 10.00 A.M.



PRESENT:

M. Benjamin – Chair

B. Clarke, D. Hale, Councillor C. Morgan - (Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure & Green Spaces), L. Howells, J. Morgan, A. Palmer, M. Pointon, M. Thomas, N. Yates, W. Williams.

By Invitation: B. Campbell, and S. Tindall (Natural Resources Wales), R. Garner (Monmouthshire County Council)

Together with:

P. Griffiths (Green Space Strategy and Cemeteries Manager), S. Denbury (Countryside and Rights of Way Assistant), A. Fleming (Countryside and Rights of Way Officer), D. Jones (Health and Well-being Officer), M. Gibbings (Rights of Way Warden), J. Thomas (Committee Services Officer)

RECORDING AND VOTING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chair reminded those present that the meeting was being filmed for administrative purposes only. Members were advised that voting on decisions would take place via a show of Hands Up.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from G. Drinkwater, R. Stones, A. Edwards, A. Evans, D. Llewelyn, E. Gwynne, K. Donovan, G. Davies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest received at the commencement or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES – 17TH JUNE 2022

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2022 be approved as a correct record and a show of Hands Up (and in noting there were 17 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions) this was agreed by the majority present.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Caerphilly Local Access Forum held on 17th June 2022 (minute nos. 3—8) be approved as a correct record.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Mr Phil Griffiths the Caerphilly Local Access Forum Secretary brought to the LAF Members attention that the vacancy for a Vice-Chair was still yet to be filled and that to date no nominations had been received. The Members were advised that the Vice Chair was usually the Cabinet Member. In this case it would be Councillor Chris Morgan. It was agreed by the Members present that the appointment of a Vice Chair would be taken under any other business the last agenda item in this meeting.

The Members were reminded that the Chair had previously requested a brief five-minute presentation on each Local Access Forum Member. The Members were informed that the Chair would be contacting individuals prior to the next meeting to request them to give their presentation on their background and the Association that they represent.

5. LAF CHAIR'S NATIONAL ACCESS MEEETING - CHAIRS REPORT

The Chair gave a summary of the National LAFs Chairs report which took place at the end of 2022.

Members noted that under information relating to Ramblers – there is a 'Paths to Well-Being Community' based project underway which includes training and volunteering opportunities across 18 Communities within Wales. The Members noted that the project is currently on target to exceed the previously agreed set target. Members were made aware that further funding is being sought to continue in the future.

The Chair also made the Forum Members aware of the concerns from the Ramblers with regards the inflexible approach by Network Rail regarding the closure of Level Crossings around the UK with unsuitable route alternatives being provided. The Members noted that the Ramblers are challenging Network Rail and an application submitted to Conway Council by Network Rail has been rejected and WG supports the Council's decision. The Ramblers have requested to hear from other Authorities in relation to their dealings with Network Rail.

Members also noted from the report that the Ramblers are requesting funding to provide courses on "Walk Leader" training and pledges of support sought for increased funding and conditions on the rights of way.

Members were informed that the NRW gave an update at the meeting advising Members that there is a Recreation Strategy which is in the early stages of development and engagement started in January 2023.

The Chair informed Members that WG directly funded some work carried out as part of the Countryside Code Reform Programme which promotes the future direction on the Country Side Code.

Members noted that as part of the Resilient Community Grant, which is a programme which focuses on building community involvement in nature to increase health and well-being, the NRW had received over 210 applications costing in the excess of £20 million. Out of these 210 applications there were 21 winners that will be notified at a later date.

The NRW gave an update on the Forestry Standard Review which is aimed at foresters and not the general public. Members noted that this was a technical paper for sustainable forestry.

The Local Access Forum Members also noted from the report that WG is looking at Countryside Access Reform and looking at dealing with dogs being kept on leads in accordance with the Countryside Code.

Following consideration, the report was noted.

6. GWENT GREEN GRID PARTNERSHIP – ACCESS DEVELOPMENT

Mr Griffiths introduced his report to inform the Local Access Forum of the developments under the access theme of the Gwent Green Grid Partnership.

The Forum noted that there are five main themes which are about providing improved green and blue infrastructure and the ability to access them. Mr Griffiths advised Members there is a strategic development green corridors access plan which is particularly relevant to Caerphilly.

The Members noted that Lepus Consultancy have been employed to prepare a Regional Access Strategy.

Members noted that as a LAF there will be a significant role to be involved with the revised Rights of Way Improvement Plan process.

Members were advised that the Active Travel Plan is currently out for consultation. Which contains around 400 proposals. Mr Griffiths encouraged the Members to view the document. The Members were advised that this Active Travel Plan is aimed toward daily life travel rather than recreational travel.

The Local Access Forum welcomed Richard Garner the Regional Access Officer.

Mr Garner updated the LAF Members on the Regional Access Strategy which covers the whole of Gwent.

Members noted the initial piece of work carried out by the Consultants (Lepus) has been an assessment of Gwent and the strengths and weaknesses within access provision and how each Authority compares.

Members were made aware that the next stage will be looking at Gwent as a whole and looking at the primary green corridors and their locations that meet several different criteria.

The Officer advised the Members that the Consultants findings would be forwarded on to all LAF's which will identify the Key Green Corridors. The Officer then requested that Members provide feedback on any of these key locations that have missing links or links that may require improvement. The Consultants will then use this information to select a number of improvements throughout Gwent, in order to use these routes in the future to obtain grant funding in order to carry out any work.

The Officer provided the Members with information on an additional piece of work being undertaken by the Regional Group. The 'Regional Design Guide' that looks at all the furniture that the Authorities install such as styles, bridges, gates and putting into place a minimum standard that will be acceptable throughout the Gwent region.

The Forum thanked the Mr Garner for his update.

Following consideration and discussion the report and updates were noted.

7. RIGHTS OF WAY UPDATE

Mr Stefan Denbury (Countryside and Rights of Way Assistant) provided the LAF with an update on recent developments within Countryside and Rights of Way.

The Forum noted that a number of requests were received in relation to the installation of structures to prevent unlawful use of the RoWs. As a result, there was a public consultation which received a number of responses. There was enough to gauge the general opinion by lawful RoW users. Who were of the opinion that the barriers that have historically been used were more of a hinderance, specifically for users with large wheelchairs or mobility vehicles. Subsequently, the RoW Department spoke with the Chair for the Disabled Ramblers, who fed back that if there is a necessity for any structure to be in place, then the preferred option would be a disabled access kissing gate with a RADAR lock. Members noted, any person registered disabled or holding a blue badge are entitled to a key free of charge to enable them to gain access.

The Officer informed the Members that following the responses, there is a policy being drafted which will include changing a vast number of existing structures to allow less restrictive access to lawful users in the future.

The Officer also updated the Local Access Forum on the project with Caerphilly RoW Department and NRW with regards to sign posting. NRW have installed 110 timber way markers post within their estate, largely within Cwmcarn Forest Drive. The new signs will include the footpath number along with grid reference. The LAF were pleased to note that 66 have currently been installed.

The Forum thanked the Officer for his update and discussion ensued.

Following a concern raised by a Member regarding CRSK/FP177/1 (formerly Footpath 177 Risca) – Path from the rear of Carlton Terrace to the Canal towpath. The LAF were advised that the Engineering Team have been asked to design new hand railings for this particular area once the designs have been approved, they will go to the fabricators to be constructed.

A Member sought clarification on what structure type will be used on bridal ways and restricted byways once the new policy is implemented. The Officer explained to the LAF that this policy was only in respect of footpaths and a separate policy would need to be drafted in relation to bridal ways. In relation to restricted byways, the Members were advised the legislation does not permit the Council to authorise a new structure which are currently in place, therefore these structures would remain the same.

8. NATURAL RESOURCES WALES – FORESTRY OPERATIONS AND ACCESS

The Local Access Forum also welcomed Mr Robert Campbell (Natural Resources Wales) who provided the Forum with an update on current projects being undertaken by the NRW.

The Forum was advised that the Integrated Engineering team is carrying out ongoing forestry repairs, this is something that is on going every year.

The Forum was advised there is a new Land and Assist Manager Iwan Williams. There is also a new post which is a Biodiversity Officer called Eleanor Yoxall who will be responsible for managing a wide range of jobs. However, initially the officer will be primarily responsible for

Managing Invasive Species. Mr Campbell will forward all contact details on for the new members of staff following today's meeting.

The Local Access Forum thanked Mr Campbell for the update. The update was noted.

9. RIGHTS OF WAY MAINTENANCE PRESENTATION

The Local Access Forum welcomed Mr Mark Gibbings the Rights of Way Warden who presented the Members with an overview of the Right of Way team and the problems, solutions and maintenance they have been dealing with since November 2022.

The Members noted the problems that the RoW team are currently tackling are due to wear and tear of infrastructure, obstructions, these are natural obstructions from fallen down trees, there are also issues due to inclement weather such as flooding. Vandalism is also a problem the team are facing.

In tackling these problems, the team are carrying out proactive work, such as inspections and surveys. The team also monitor well used RoWs such as routes to schools to ensure that they remain safe. The RoW team are always looking at initiatives for fundraising and any grants that maybe available to them. Another solution is collaboration with landowners, other departments and other organisations.

The presentation also gave Members examples of the type of maintenance the team carry out, such as fixing bridges, and styles. Cutting back trees. There are also volunteers that walk the footpaths to identify any issues as they present themselves and feeding them back to the team. The team also carry out any improvements as required which are prioritised in order of urgency.

The Local Access Forum Members thanks Mr Gibbings for the presentation and discussion ensued.

Following queries raised by Members, Mr Gibbings advised the Members that any issues they have should be reported to the Andy Fleming or Stefan Denbury in the Rights of Way Office where a service request can be logged, and the RoW team will be allocated the work. Mr Gibbings also advised that if there were any individuals that may wish to volunteer, please contact the RoW department and they can be pointed in the right direction.

Alison Palmer from GAVO advised the Members that they would be delighted to put any volunteering opportunities onto the Volunteering Wales website.

Councillor Chris Morgan advised Mr Gibbings that as the Cabinet Member for this area he would be very interested in going out for the day with the team.

Following discussion, the presentation was noted.

10. GRANT PROGRAMMES AND IMPLEMENTATION

The Caerphilly Local Access Forum Secretary provided the Local Access Forum with a brief update on Grant developments.

The Forum noted that the access improvement work is still being carried out at the Mynydd Maen as part of the Triangle Project is near completion.

The Forum were pleased to note that Caerphilly has received support from WG funding for a Covid Memorial Woodland which will be situated at Ynys Hywel Farm, Cwmfelinfach. The Forum noted that the first phase of tree planting took place last year and the next phase is creation of paths which will take place this year.

The Members noted that the route for the annual Caerphilly Challenge Event has been determined with the event focus being in the Caerphilly Basin area this year.

The Chair requested that the Members be made aware of a Sustrans Initiative to supply and install wooden benches along cycle ways. The benches are free, but they will be in limited supply. The Members should relay any interest to the Secretary.

The Forum thanked the Secretary and noted the update.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Lorraine Howells requested the forum help to promote responsible behaviour from dog walkers keeping their dogs under control preferably on leads especially around lambing season. The Chair and Secretary agreed they would support the farming community as much as possible. Alison Palmer requested that Mr Griffiths pass on any messages that he intends to put through the CCBC Communication team to her team to add to all the social network platforms.

The Secretary for the Local Access Forum nominate Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure & Green Spaces, Councillor Chris Morgan to be appointed as Vice-Chair to this Forum. The Secretary suggested that the appointment be made at this meeting due to the high number in attendance. All Members present agreed.

It was moved and seconded that Councillor C. Morgan be appointed as Vice Chair of Caerphilly Local Access Forum and by show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

Mr Griffiths also sought clarity on which Members on whether June Morgan still wished to remain as the Regional Representative for Caerphilly and attending the Greater Gwent Partnership.

The Chair thanked all parties present for their attendance and contributions and the meeting closed at 12.18 p.m.

Approved as a correct record and subject to any amendments or corrections agreed and recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 28th July 2023.

CHAIR



CAERPHILLY LOCAL ACCESS FORUM 28TH JULY 2023

SUBJECT: PROCESS OF ALTERING THE DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT

REPORT BY: REPORT BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide information to the Local Access Forum in relation to the processes involved in altering the Definitive Map and Statement from start to finish.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 There are several methods used to alter the content of the Definitive Map, and these depend on the legislation used which is dictated by the outcome being pursued. The process followed varies between the legislation, but follows a similar pattern from start to finish, and many of the steps are the same despite the legislation being used.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The LAF is asked to note the updates provided.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To advise the LAF on rights of way related matters.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 Alteration of the Public Rights of Way network is an inevitable process, and can be instigated through a number of mechanisms including (but not limited to) Highways Act 1980, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. These are the main pieces of legislation capable of altering the Definitive Map and Statement.
- 5.2 The general process has been documented in the Guidance for Local Authorities on Public Rights of Way – October 2016 – by way of a flowchart (Appendix 1).
- 5.3 This flowchart follows the process from start to completion for Modification Orders, i.e. applications to add (usually) unrecorded paths to the Definitive Map (page 1), and continues this on page 2 and 3, as well as picking up the process for public path orders

(creations, diversions and extinguishments) on these pages as well.

- 5.4 In the case of a Modification Order (for example to *add* an unrecorded path) the following 'milestones' in bold would be applicable assuming the case is made and unopposed throughout for simplicity in this explanation – however the process before, and during may vary depending on specific circumstances etc.
- An **APPLICATION** is submitted to the surveying authority seeking the recording of an unregistered path.
 - The applicant **SERVES NOTICE** upon the landowner (etc.), and subsequently **CERTIFIES** such to the authority.
 - The authority **INVESTIGATES** the case and subsequently makes a **DECISION** to make an order.
 - The authority **MAKES AN ORDER**.
 - The order is advertised by way of **NOTICES** in the press, onsite at appropriate locations (for a period of 42 days for modification orders) to relevant persons (consultees and landowners for example).
 - The authority **CONFIRMS THE ORDER**.
 - The confirmation is advertised by way of **NOTICES** in the press, onsite at appropriate locations, and to relevant persons as before.
 - The Order **TAKES EFFECT** on the date it is confirmed or a specified number of days thereafter.
 - The Definitive Map and Statement are legally **MODIFIED** from the date of Confirmation.
- 5.5 This is the point many Orders appear to reach, however there are a number of further steps to take, to complete the process as far as practically possible and these are not shown in the flowchart.
- 5.5.1 **ORDNANCE SURVEY** are notified generally when an Order is Confirmed, however, a subsequent stage exists for some legislative processes – Certification (that works carried out are correct, to standard and acceptable to the LA), however some Orders may be jointly Confirmed and Certified at the same time.
- 5.5.2 A **LEGAL EVENT MODIFICATION ORDER** (LEMO) is made. Regardless of the legislation used to add or modify the public way, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (s53(2)(b)) requires the authority to *“as from that date, keep the map and statement under continuous review and as soon as reasonably practicable after the occurrence, on or after that date, of any of those events, by order make such modifications to the map and statement as appear to them to be requisite in consequence of the occurrence of that event.”*
- 5.5.3 The LEMO is made, may be combined with other such Orders into an **OMNIBUS ORDER**, sealed and advertised – the Definitive Map is then amended.
- 5.6 At regular periods, Local Authorities are encouraged to update their Definitive Maps to include all confirmed changes and make other administrative changes such as updating the Ordnance Survey base mapping for example – this process is known as **CONSOLIDATING** the Definitive Map. A new sheet would be produced for a select area, which would have a relevant date from a defined time – replacing the existing Definitive Map and its associated relevant date.
- 5.7 The changes should also be reflected in the Definitive Statements accordingly and these records updated.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 There are no assumptions associated with this report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Costs for making Definitive Map Modification Orders vary depending on the content of the Order – the press charge for the size of adverts. The newspaper used also affects the cost and we use the cheapest for a given area which comply with the requirements. Costs therefore vary from approximately £600 to £1500 per advert, and there are always at least two adverts per completed Order. These costs are for information only and do not relate to a specific case within this report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Personnel implications relate only to actual cases – none of which are relevant to this report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 Consultation with the Chair of Caerphilly Local Access Forum.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Highways Act 1980, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Author:

Stefan Denbury, Countryside and Rights of Way Assistant, denbus@caerphilly.gov.uk

Consultees:

M. Benjamin, LAF Chair

Phil Griffiths, Secretary to Caerphilly LAF and Manager of Green Space Strategy and Cemeteries CCBC, griffpm@caerphilly.gov.uk

Cllr Chris Morgan, Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces and Vice Chair
Christina Harrhy, Chief Executive

Mark S Williams, Corporate Director – Economy and Environment

Rob Tranter, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Stephen Harris, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer

R. Hartshorn, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services

L.Donovan, Head of People Services

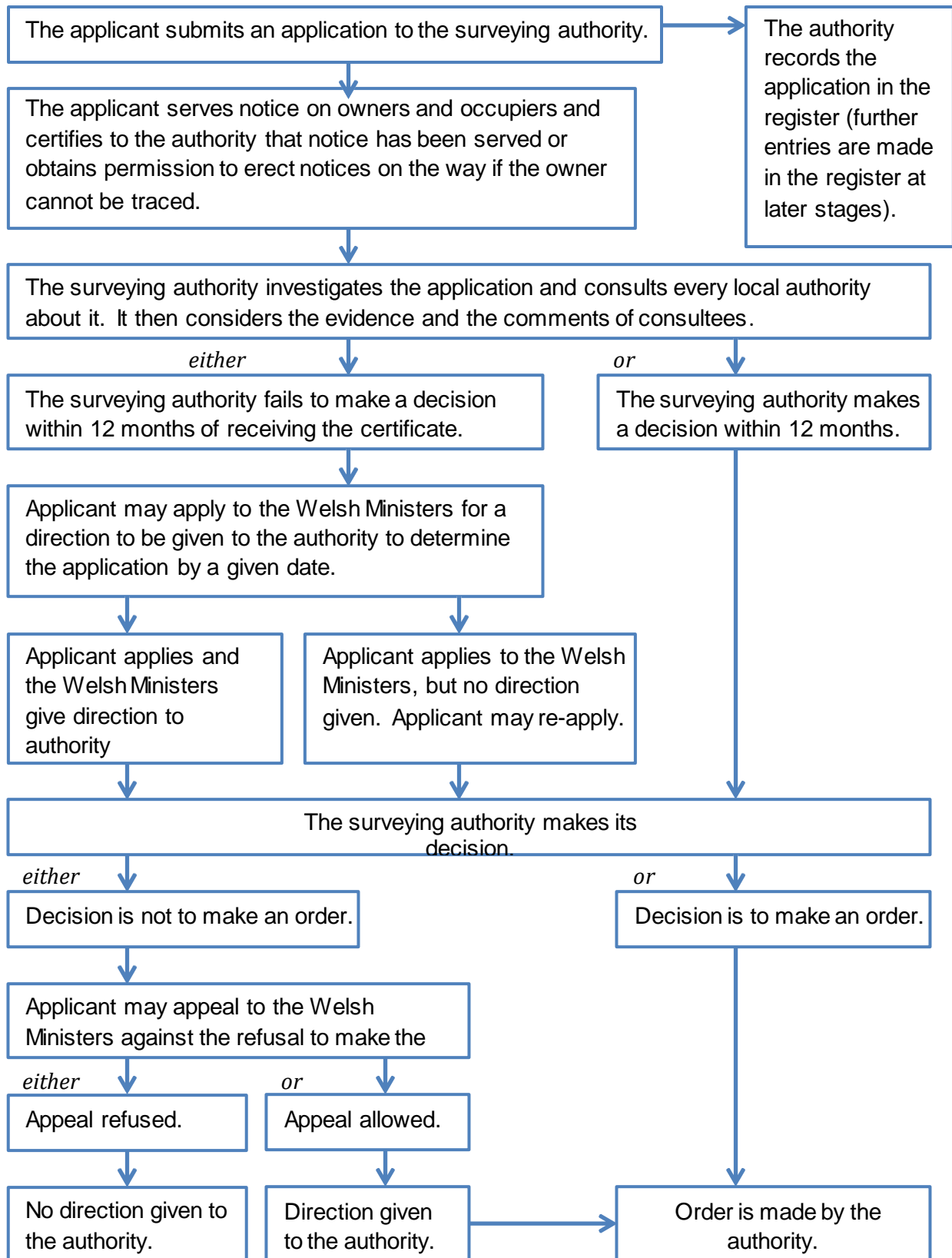
Appendices:

Appendix 1 PPO & DMMO Flowchart from 'Guidance for Local Authorities on Public Rights of Way' August 2016

Appendix 2 Welsh Government guidance – When to send copies of Orders to Ordnance Survey: 'Guidance for Local Authorities on Public Rights of Way' August 2016

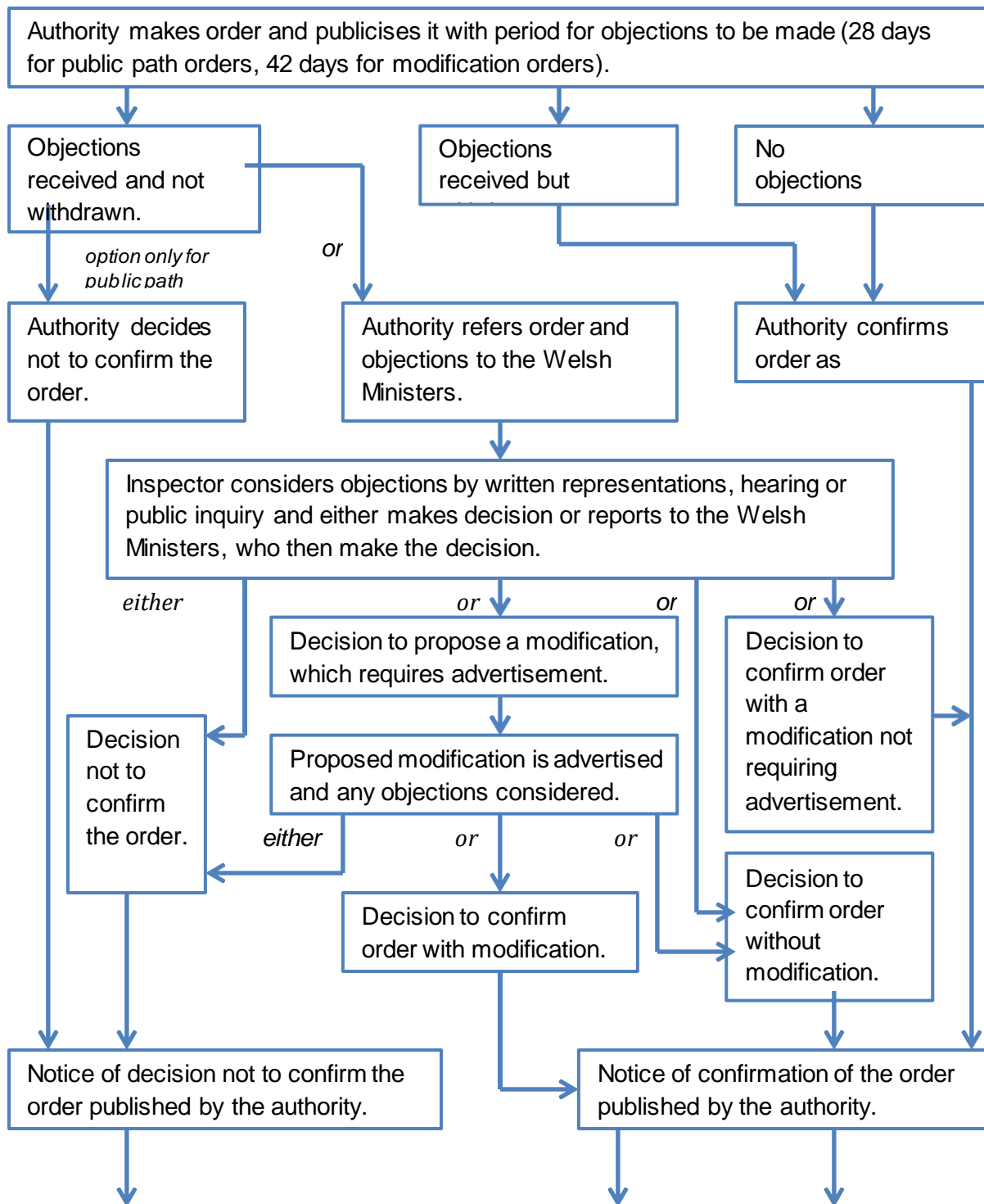
Annex 4

Flowchart: Applications for Modification Orders



ANNEX 5

Flowchart: Procedure for Modification and Public Path Orders



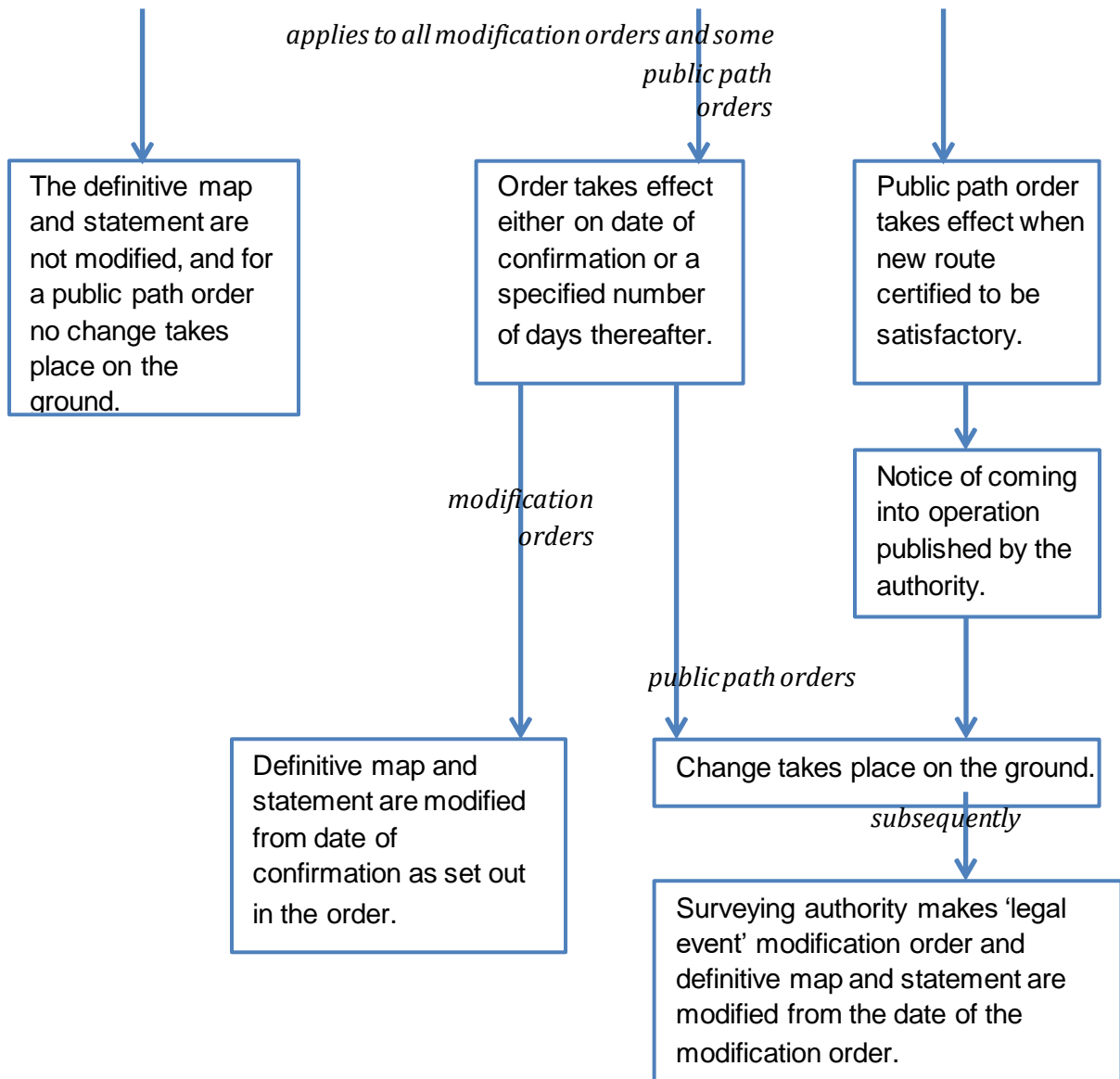


Table 1: When authorities should send copies of orders to Ordnance Survey

<i>Provision</i>	<i>Ordnance Survey</i>
<i>Highways Act 1980</i>	
s26 Compulsory powers for creation of footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways	Order on confirmation
s116 Power of Magistrates' Court to authorise stopping up or diversion of highway	On decision of the Magistrate
s118 Stopping up of footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways	Order on confirmation
s118A Stopping up of footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways crossing railways	Order on confirmation
s119 Diversion of footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways	Order on certification
s119A Diversion of footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways crossing railways	Order on certification
<i>Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</i>	
s53(2) definitive map modification order	Order on confirmation
<i>Town and Country Planning Act 1990</i>	
s257 Footpaths, bridleways and restricted byways affected by development : orders by other [than Secretary of State]	Order on certification
s258 Extinguishment of public rights of way over land held for planning purposes	Order on confirmation
<i>Acquisition of Land Act 1981</i>	
s32 Power to extinguish certain public rights of way	Order on confirmation

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CAERPHILLY LOCAL ACCESS FORUM 28TH JULY 2023

SUBJECT: GWENT GREEN GRID PARTNERSHIP – GWENT GREEN CORRIDORS STRATEGIC ACCESS PLAN UPDATE

REPORT BY: REPORT BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Local Access Forum of developments under the access theme of the Gwent Green Grid.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Gwent Green Corridors Strategic Access Plan, often abbreviated to the Strategic Access Plan (SAP) is progressing through Lepus Consulting and the report provides an insight into its progress and contents.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The LAF is asked to note the contents of this report.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To update the LAF on the development of the Gwent Green Corridors Strategic Access Plan.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 As outlined at previous meetings of this LAF access forms one of the five main components of the Gwent Green Grid Partnership (GGGP). Richard Garner, the Access Officer for the GGGP presented to this Forum at the February meeting where he gave an update on the commission to develop a Regional Access Strategy. Members may recall that the purpose of the Strategy was to provide some consistency in shared priorities within Gwent by identifying priority long distance routes and advising on infrastructure and furniture eg signage. Other benefits included a consistency in terms of the development of each authorities' Rights of Way Improvement Plan (RoWIP).

- 5.2 Lepus Consulting have been appointed to prepare the strategic access plan and this report provides an update as to progress. It is anticipated that the Plan can be reported to this LAF at the autumn meeting and thanks are given to those who have inputted to its development. The Strategy itself is split into two parts and is presented as two separate documents. The first being a completed desk top study providing background to legislation and policy, demographics, access and outdoor recreation provision which includes elements addressing availability, needs and promotion and then moves on to analyse key health intelligence data concluding with an analysis of strategic aims, priorities and objectives. This forms the backbone from which opportunities and limitations proposals are identified and includes useful information that could be used in a number of capacities. Included within this document is a section which analyses the content of existing RoWIPs for the Gwent LAs identifying possible additional considerations for the revised RoWIPs.
- 5.3 The broad 'template' put forward is wide ranging and expands on the current Caerphilly RoWIP. The main topics include Definitive Map and Statement, maintenance, objectives relating to specific user/non user groups, various non pedestrian users, disabled users, open access land, under represented groups, safe and responsible use, health and well being, promotion, environmental effects, education and training, economic benefits and partnerships with the opportunity to supplement locally with specific projects. The role of the LAF will be recognised in the RoWIP.
- 5.4 The second document, which is in draft form, identifies the Strategic Green Corridors and will be supplemented by investigations and identification of key links to these routes. Discussion over the identified routes are ongoing with 15 having initially been identified, 5 of which are either wholly or partly within CCBC. Some LAF members and officers have commented that some strategic links, notably to the west of the County borough are not identified in the draft and it is the intention to include 3 additional routes to address this. Other comments made include further emphasis being placed on bridleways with the possible inclusion of a regional route as part of the network. Both documents include a wide range of graphics.
- 5.5 It is the intention to present the SAP to the autumn meeting of this LAF however those members who are involved in the 'regional LAF' are likely to be invited to a meeting prior to this where the document will be discussed. It is anticipated that the Plan will be completed prior to the end of August and will be presented to each LAF within Gwent, where they are operational.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no assumptions associated with this report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required for this report

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no personnel implications directly associated with this report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 This report was circulated to the consultees listed below. All comments received have been reflected in the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Author:

Phil Griffiths, Secretary to Caerphilly LAF and Manager of Green Space Strategy and Cemeteries CCBC.

Consultees:

M. Benjamin, LAF Chair

R. Tranter, CCBC, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

S. Harris, CCBC, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer

Cllr. C. Morgan, CCBC, Cabinet Member.

for Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces and LAF Vice Chair

M. Williams, CCBC, Director for Economy and Environment

R. Hartshorn, CCBC, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services

C. Harry, CCBC, Chief Executive

L. Donovan, CCBC, Head of People Services.

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Caerphilly LAF meeting Land Management update 28/07/23

NRW Attendees:

Sarah Tindal (ST) Senior Officer SE People & Places
Robert Campbell (RC) Senior Officer SE Land Management

NRW Apologies:

Nil

Standard NRW update:

1. NRW Actions from the previous meeting (see below):

2. Updates from NRW:

a. SE Land Management:

- RC: We have been dealing with a lot of wildfires across South Wales and in our patch over the past couple of months which is a huge drain on staff resources and time, close cooperation with South Wales Fire & Rescue Service continues to support their operations.
- Woodland creation project: Land has been purchased at Bovil Farm in Machan, we are developing our plans for the site and we will be looking to work with the local community potentially on some projects including tree planning and other opportunities on the site in the future. We will also be asking the LAF for assistance in the near future.
- Normal work program under way, Ash die back clearance is still a key priority and continues. We are also trying to keep PROW's clear as best we can across the patch, please keep reporting issues, please use out SE Team e mail:

coedwigoeddannaturdeddwyrain@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

forestsandnaturesoutheast@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk

For non 999 (Emergency) urgent or out of hrs incidents / reports use the ICC:

0300 065 3000 (24/7) To enable us to deal with your report as quickly as possible, please provide the following details:

Where is/was the incident taking place? Please provide a grid reference, if possible, for example, NT 252 735. Otherwise, you should provide accurate directions / descriptions of the location

What is/was happening?

Who is/was responsible for the incident?

When did the incident take place?

[Natural Resources Wales / Report an incident](#)

- Reporting off-road vehicles: contact@gwent.pnn.police.uk Call 101 @gwentpolice
- RC: Geminie Drinkwaters project in regard PROW's has finished and she is currently handing that work over to the team.

b. Forest Operations update:

- RC: Coupes have been sold in The Darren, West End & Llanbradach and are due to start after the bird nesting season so late July / Aug 23.
- RC: Wylie on pause currently, No recommencement date currently.
- Sustrans route 47, work will commence next week to remove the identified trees that are close to the route that have been causing issues over recent weeks.
- RC: You can keep up to date with all our operations & maps on the website here:

[Caerphilly larch felling operations - Natural Resources Wales Citizen Space - Citizen Space \(cyfoethnaturiol.cymru\)](http://Caerphilly.larch.felling.operations - Natural Resources Wales Citizen Space - Citizen Space (cyfoethnaturiol.cymru))

- If you have any issues on any of our sites, contact the Forest Operations Team direct on:

SEForest.operations@naturalresources.wales

c. Integrated Engineering: Forest Road repairs ongoing across the area.

d. Other requests for information:

- Request for an update on pollution / water quality in our rivers?
RC: This topic is out of my direct area of responsibility (WGWE Land Management) however there is general information on the NRW website here:

Natural Resources Wales / Search / river water quality

If there is a specific question with more detail, please let me know and I will pass it on internally for a response of you can do it now by contacting NRW directly here:

Natural Resources Wales / General enquiries

3. Reported public Accidents & near misses:

- a. RC: Non to date.

4. Issues:

RC: wildfire risk still prevalent across the area with many areas of Wales currently still in a 'High' risk status on the Met Office Fire Severity index, link [HERE](#).

5. Major Events/ permissions affecting Access:

- b. RC: Discuss with the LAF relevance of this information.

Action points from meetings:

Serial & Type -Action -Decision -Note -Point	Owner	Subject:	Completed (if required)
Action	RC	Forward Off-road leaflet to LAF group	Done via e-mail

Bob Campbell
 Uwch Swyddog Rheoli Tir / Senior Officer Land Management
 Gweithrediadau De Ddwyrain Cymru / South East Wales Operations
 Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru / Natural Resources Wales



CAERPHILLY LOCAL ACCESS FORUM 28TH JULY 2023

SUBJECT: GRANT PROGRAMMES, PROJECTS AND IMPLEMENTATION

REPORT BY: REPORT BY CORPORATE DIRECTOR ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the Local Access Forum (LAF) of the ongoing programme of grant assisted projects and opportunities for funding associated with access improvements.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 Provides an update on secured and possible income streams available to improve and promote access within the County borough. Further to this an update is given on some of the more significant access improvements being undertaken by Countryside and Landscape Services.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 The LAF is asked to note the contents of the report.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 To update the LAF on grant programmes and their implementation.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 The Welsh Government reinstated the Access Improvement Grant three years ago, having withdrawn it a number of years previous to that. The latest round of funding has been allocated on a three year programme, up to March 2025. Having completed the first year officers are in discussion with Welsh Government and finalising proposals for the coming years.

5.2 As part of the Gwent Green Grid Partnership, which has been previously reported, the Partnership has submitted an Expression of Interest (EOI) to the Heritage Lottery Fund under their National Nature Fund programme. This is primarily aimed at biodiversity enhancement at key sites although the promotion of access to and

understanding of is a major component. It is pleasing to report that this application has been successful and the partners are awaiting permission to commence. Whilst largely focussed on key bio diversity sites, notably Sites of Special Scientific Interest, improvements within 2km of these are eligible for funding and as such access routes eg The Rhymney Riverside Walk could benefit. A county ecologist will be invited to a future LAF meeting to outline some potential projects but the membership may wish to identify projects themselves for consideration.

- 5.3 The access improvement works on Mynydd Maen being undertaken as part of the Adventure Triangle project have been completed. These works have improved access across this upland area and created better links to nearby facilities and features including the Cwmcarn Facility and Twmbarlwm. These are of benefit to both residents and visitors, widening the appeal of the area. The works straddle both CCBC and TCBC and have, in part been designed and undertaken with local contractors and interest groups. The land owners of the area have been supportive. The Twmbarlwm Society remain keen to attract new members to assist with their on going research and management of the site, including trials to repair 'deep' fire damage.
- 5.4 A covid memorial woodland is being established at Ynys Hywel Farm, Cwmfelinfach with the support of Welsh Government funding. Two phases of tree planting have now been undertaken, strongly supported by community group and volunteer planting. This year the supporting hard works of path creation have been undertaken which has resulted in a comprehensive network throughout the project area, linking with both the National Cycle network and wider country park. JS Lee have undertaken the contractual element of the works and further phases of planting should be taken in coming years. Should the membership wish to have their 'annual site visit' this year, the Ynys Hywel Covid Memorial Woodland could be an appropriate site for consideration.
- 5.5 At Penallta Country Park the boardwalk accessing one of the wetland areas has been completed. This is a popular facility for educational visits as it allows access into the reeds and over water allowing visitors to see species and ecosystems which are normally hidden from view. The second project at Penallta aiming to widen appeal is the erection of four climbing rocks. These are not open for public use yet as final checks have not been undertaken at the time of writing. These projects were largely grant funded and involved in excess of £200,000 expenditure.
- 5.6 The annual Caerphilly Challenge event was held in the Caerphilly Basin on 29th April and proved to be one of the better attended events held over recent years. Nearly 500 participants took part in the longer distance walks which were supplemented by a shorter 5 mile walk. Luckily the weather was kind, the views outstanding from both the Caerphilly and Mynydd Machen ridges and feedback from participants very positive. The event attracts walkers from well beyond south Wales and an added benefit was the proximity of the Caerphilly Food Festival. Next year the event is likely to revert to early May and be held in the upper Rhymney Valley. The Aneurin Bevan Health Board, along with a range of volunteers helped support this event.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

6.1 There are no assumptions associated with this report.

7. SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is not required for this report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no personnel implications directly associated with this report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

10.1 This report was circulated to the consultees listed below. All comments received have been reflected in the report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000

Author:

Phil Griffiths, Secretary to Caerphilly LAF and Manager of Green Space Strategy and Cemeteries CCBC.

Consultees:

M. Benjamin, LAF Chair

R. Tranter, CCBC, Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

S. Harris, CCBC, Head of Financial Services and S151 Officer

Cllr. C.Morgan, Cabinet Member for Waste, Leisure and Green Spaces and LAF Vice

ChairM. Williams, CCBC, Director for Economy and Environment

R. Hartshorn, CCBC, Head of Public Protection, Community and Leisure Services

C. Harry, CCBC, Chief Executive

L. Donovan, CCBC, Head of People Services

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