

Wales Coastal Access Improvement Programme (WCAIP) Conwy Steering
Group

Wednesday 4th March 2009, 6pm
The Great Orme Country Park Visitor Centre

Present

Members:

Paul Bucknall (Chair)
Jennie Frost
Chris Copeman
David Tindall
Peter Sellers
Paul Bucknall
Richard Hatton (sp)

Officers:

Helen Jowett (CCBC)
John Mitchell (CCBC)
Jennie Richardson (CCBC)
Alun Price (CCW)
Peter Rutherford (SNPA)

1 Apologies:

Colin Antwiss
David Firth

2 Minutes of last meeting

Comments:

2.1 **CC** commented that in a previous meeting he had spoken to John about the kerbs around Marine Drive, mentioning some in particular that were problematic and he is pleased to see that since then work has been done in this area.

2.2 **PR** referred to the last page of the previous minutes where he told the group about the area from Aber to Ogwen where the National Park was considering replacing stiles with gates. He was able to report that this work is now in progress.

2.3 The previous minutes were agreed.

3 Progress Update

JM gave the group an update on the progress of works since the last meeting.

3.1 It was noted that some works scheduled have actually been completed by other departments and in a couple of areas works had to be postponed due to seasons and consents.

3.2 Path works near the Gyrach (Penmaenmawr) have been postponed on the advice of the Environment Agency who will only grant consent for the works outside the fish spawning season.

3.3 On the Sychnant Pass path where it is steep and sometimes difficult, the addition of steps was considered but there is also a lot of ground vegetation here. It was decided to opt for the more sympathetic option of clearing a wider path, permitting a zig-zag descent, and avoiding the erosion problems associated with step installation.

3.4. Waymarking of the Summit Trails on the Great Orme has now been completed with the help of the wardens.

3.5 Marine Drive, with advice from members of the group, work on the dropped kerbs, some moving of drains and benches and a little resurfacing has now been completed. MG intends to go out with his wife and test drive the new works to check them and a little money has been set aside for next year to account for any additional works that come up as a result.

3.6 Some work had also been done in partnership with Gwynedd Council at Madryn Reserve. A number of factors need to be considered here as it is a protected site, important for lapwings and other birds, so lots of preparation needs to be done prior to works. As such it has not been possible to complete the work here this season due to the need to complete the report for the likely significant effect on the protected species. Works planned are minimal but could be deemed as coastal protection so the Environmental Services department of the council have requested plans of everything we are considering. Hopefully the works here should be completed by September 2009.

PR asked if there had originally been talk about going round the back of the reserve. JR replied that it was originally discussed in the very early days of the project. This was discounted, and the route will follow the existing PROW. If it were to follow the back of the reserve this would not physically be much of a problem for Conwy but would be very difficult on the Gwynedd side of the border and continuity and joint working are obviously very important.

3.7 General access furniture has been purchased to be installed later in 2009 / 2010

3.8 PB enquired if officers were satisfied with the work achieved so far. Officers replied that they were. HJ explained there were various works which had to be moved largely for environmental reasons. There is likely to be some under-spend to be handed back on staff expenses dues to the staffing changes that had occurred over the course of the year.

4 Works planned for this year

Update on draft programme by JR

4.1 A list of potential works for the next year had been drawn up and a draft sent to CCW. CCW officers are to meet internally on 12th March 09 to discuss all Wales 09/10 programmes. Meetings will then be arranged with Local Authorities to discuss the draft bids.

4.2 **JR** requested that as we went through the list of potential projects that group members listen out for any where they might have a particular interest, advice or like to be more closely involved.

4.3 Projects which may be potentially included (not confirmed) include:

Project Ref	Location (Include Location Name, Map & Grid Refs)	Brief Details of potential Project – Include Length of New and/or Improved PROW to WCP Quality Standards (see Appendix)
CO12	Llanfairfechan / Madryn	Work on eroded path in Front of Madryn Reserve. (663 741)
CO13	Llanfairfechan / Madryn	Gate replacement on Prom to allow wheelchair use (674 750)
CO14	Llanfairfechan / Madryn	resurfacing work to eliminate rough stony area and enable less abled access to grass area 674 750) - to improve access and rest area
CO16	Llanfairfechan / Penmaen Park	Waymarking and some strimming at Penmaen Park (687 753)
CO17	Llanfairfechan / Penmaen Park	Waymarking at Tyddyn Drycin (690 753)
CO18	Llanfairfechan / Penmaen Park	Line of path investigation, possible diversion (690 753)
CO19	Llanfairfechan / Penmaen Park	Yearly strimming (687 753)
CO20	Llanfairfechan to Penmaenmawr	Possible Diversion or creation of path to use the practical and desired line (692 750)
CO21	Conwy	Marine Walk resurface the bridleway (778 782)
CO23	Llandudno Marine Drive	Possible additional works
CO41	Llandudno / Little Orme	Little Orme, path from Craigside Hotel through Wildlife Trust land. Path surfacing works where there is currently exposed limestone.(281370 382186)
CO42	Llandudno / Little Orme	Little Orme - Steep slope up the incline towards the summit. Requires surfacing and/or construction of steps.(281705 382523 to 281840 382529)
CO44	Llandudno little Orme	Steps from estate, adjusted / slope added to make easier access (819 822)
CO9	Penmaenmawr link route (273927 377141)	Repair to surface and stabilisation of river bank to prevent further subsidence. Including replacement or repair of fence.
CO52	Little Orme, Conwy to Llanfairfechan upland link	gate/stile/way marker installation and associated works (of gates previously purchased)
CO53	Grand opening Rhos to Kinmel	Waymarking / signage / on site notice boards etc.

Also not in this years proposals financially but we would like to be planning the promotion and provision of information for the route.

4.4 **PB** in his capacity as Chair of the Llanfairfechan Walkers are Welcome group – would like to meet with **JR** at another time to discuss the route from Llanfairfechan to Penmaenmawr.

4.5 **PR** asked if there were any legal path challenges we may face.

There are three areas for investigation

- Denbighshire border, possible path creation at Horton's nose
- Llanfairfechan, some checking of lines of path needed.
- Deganwy, longstanding issue of a very small gap in the footpath.

JF emphasised that this has been an issue for a while and needs to be looked into. Also the point made that in places on this section the cycle track and PROW are not in the same place so this will need to be accounted for when planning any work or publishing information.

PR commented that the Assembly are likely to help iron out any legal issues in the end.

4.5 Funding – Convergence funds - this would make a big difference to the funds available but is not likely to happen very quickly.

4.6 There was some discussion about the legal status of cycle tracks in general and their definition. **PB** informed the group that this is something that the Chairs of Local Access Forums are also concerned about and they are working on the issue.

4.7 Query about the progress of the new cycle track bridge at Foryd Harbour, the Denbighshire border. We don't know yet when this may go in.

NB It was also noted that progress is being monitored on the cycle track development after the current installation of bridges at Llanfairfechan / Penmaenmawr with the hope that advantage can be taken of this in the information and promotion of coastal routes.

5 Branding

5.1 The branding manual from Visit Wales is pretty much finished and will be available soon.

5.2 The symbol of the dragon shell had been designed and agreed; with guidance of how it could be used.

5.3 The final report will be circulated to all members when the final adjustments are made and the translated version is available.

6. Possibility of opening a section of Conwy coastal path early

Officers from Conwy, Denbighshire, Visit Wales and CCW recently met to discuss the possibility of the Denbighshire and Conwy coastal path as far as Rhos on Sea, possibly being the first section of the path to be opened. This would, if it happened, involve a good deal of publicity and raising the profile of the area. This would involve a big push on sorting promotion, waymarking and signage on this stretch.

The Group were in support of this idea.

7. AOB

7.1 MG commented on the good works on Marine Drive. **HJ** thought this highlighted how we need to promote the works we have done with publicity

CC mentioned the problem of overhanging vegetation on Marine Drive, on the West Shore side, especially an issue if visually impaired.

7.2 PB referred to the LAF chairs meeting and informed the group about the discussion they had regarding the funding of the programme, especially staff, and that many authorities will not be able to contribute the expected amount. The LAF chairs do not believe that it is possible to finish the path by 2012 if authorities have to contribute as they may not be able to find the money and are going to push this issue.

8. Time and date of next meeting

The summer was suggested, after the hectic time around walking weeks and biodiversity week and also avoiding events such as the various shows and other access forum meetings.

The actual date will be decided closer to the time

Members will be encouraged to advise and participate on particular projects relevant to their areas of knowledge in the mean time.