



FLAF09



FLINTSHIRE LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Minutes - 8th July 2025

Rhydymwyn Valley Nature Reserve

Members – Alan Neale, John Holiday, Jeff Shone, Shirley Fermor.

Observers – Ian Hughes.

Officers in Attendance - Tom Woodall, Derrick Charlton, Adrian Hibbert, Suzanne Williams, Jon Hill, Stuart Jones.

Apologies – Jonathan Hulson, Councillor Dave Evans, Julian Pellett, Marjorie Thomson, Hannah Arndt.

1/ Welcome -

In absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, members agreed that the Secretary -TW, would chair the meeting.

TW welcomed everyone to the 9th meeting of the LAF. Introductions were given by all present and apologies received.

TW welcomed guest speaker Richard Sumner, Natural Resources Wales

TW reported that Jonathan Hulson has decided to resign from the forum. As the current forums 3 year term is due to conclude in January 2026, Flintshire, as appointing body, will not seek new members at this stage, but undertake a full recruitment in the new year for the new 3 year term.

2/ Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting 7th April were agreed as written.

a. Matters Arising

JH would like to know what is happening with the obstructions at Greenfield dock. TW had emailed a response to confirm that the A frame access barriers were in the process of being removed and the concrete blocks were not obstructing the right of way, but used to separate the commercial cockling operations from the public.

Annual Report - TW highlighted the Annual Report (as emailed) and asked members to approve.



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JS asked would the Annual Report be made public.

TW confirmed that once approved it would be sent to NRW, translated, then loaded up on Flintshire website.

Members welcomed the report and gave thanks to the team.

Hynet update - SJ gave members an update on this project, and specifically the work at point of Ayr.

JH asked if they were still a long way off.

SJ said it's looking like 2026/early 2027.

National Forum – TW highlighted the National Access forum and its recent meeting. Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Secretaries of LAF's are invited as observers and JP had attended in the past.

Digital Map Project – SJ showed members a map from Data Map Wales it has 2000 layers. All public sectors in Wales have access to it and it may possibly be available to all members of the public in the future.

JS asked who is responsible for it - Welsh Government.

TW asked if there are any potential benefits for us. SJ said he thinks the public will have an interest in it. Welsh Government have always wanted it but it just needs everyone to have access to it.

SF said it seems like a lot of work to keep it up to date. SJ said it should be updated easily.

IH asked if they have actually asked to update any changes. SJ said no as it is still very new and there is lots of work to do.

RS says NRW use data map and it works better when you have a project in mind.

3/ Proposal for a new National Park.

RS gave an update presentation to the forum.

JH asked if quarries could be brought back into use within a new national park.

RS said that he could not comment on specific cases but the National Park is for quiet outdoor recreation use.



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SF said youths need to be educated. JH said that there is a lack of respect for outside space. DC said that there have been noticeable litter problems since covid with youths participating in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

RS said the board will make a decision in the next week. We will share publicly what the area will look like.

JH highlighted that FCC did not support the National Park.

TW clarified that FCC did not have enough information in regards to governance, planning and funding to be able to confirm its support at the stage of the last consultation. TW added that NRW had undertaken more work around these points.

RS said there should be no loss to existing funding.

TW said the next stage will be for NRW Board to consider all the evidence and recommend a way forward, this meeting is due in the next week. RS added that there are a number of options.

AH asked if Flintshire will be affected by the proposal extension.

TW said Flintshire is affected because the boundary comes into Flintshire, the previous proposed boundary which was consulted on focused on the exiting National Landscape boundary. It is yet to be seen what the final boundary going forward looks like.

4/ Update on previous LAF agenda items

Definitive map consolidation - TW said there is no requirement to formally consult but we are going to have a day on the 10th September in Wepre Park and a separate bespoke day with the Ramblers.

Action – Officers to engage with members throughout the process.

5/ Access Service Update

SJ gave a short presentation which will be sent out with the minutes which shows an overview of the service.

IH stated that it's good to see that general work is still on going with big project taking place at the moment such as the Hynet project.



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6/ AOB

TW said future agenda items would be helpful moving forward. The team were following up the request for someone from Streetscene to attend meeting to do a presentation on cycling and Active Travel

There being no other business the meeting closed at 11:30am and members had a walk around Rhydymwyn Valley.

The next meetings due - 13th October 2025
19th January 2026