



Environment Department, Council Office, Pwllheli, LL53 5AA

Local Access Forum Arfon and Dwyfor

Meeting Minutes

Date and Time

17:30, Tuesday 24 March 2026

Location

Canolfan Congl Meinciau, Botwnnog, Pwllheli, LL53 8RA

Contact Point

Gwyn Lloyd Evans

Gwynlloyddevans@gwynedd.llyw.cymru / 07799431098

Agenda for Local Access Forum Arfon and Dwyfor: Tuesday 24 March 2026

1. Apologies
2. Declaration of Personal Interest
3. Urgent Matters / Chair's Announcements
4. Minutes of Previous Meeting
5. Presentation/update by Rhys Roberts (Wales Coastal Path Project Officer) regarding recent development regarding Wales Coastal Path
6. Presentation by Roger Greenalgh (member) regarding the Ordnance Survey App and the Snowdonia Slate Trail.
7. Presentation by Mr Dan Marsh (member) – improvements to public access to land for the purposes of open-air recreation, and the enjoyment of the area.
8. Information by Gwyn Evans relating to:
 - a. Damage associated with large-scale running events held on public rights of way
 - b. Gwynedd Access Budgets for 2026-27 Financial Year
 - c. Access Improvement Grant Projects – Welsh Government
 - d. Legislative developments regarding:
 - i. Creating an independent environmental watchdog for Wales
 - ii. New law to protect livestock from dog attacks
9. Any Other Business – To be kept brief at the discretion of the Chairman

Arfon and Dwyfor Local Access Forum

Meeting Minutes

Time/Date: 17:30 - Tuesday, 2 December 2025 Location: — Galeri, Caernarfon

1. Attendance

Present – Dorothy Howarth, Denise Meldrum, John Gladston, Noel Davey, David Medcalf, Vincent Mears, Eurwyn Edwards, Roger Greenalgh, Dan Marsh, Cllr. Gruffydd Williams, Peter Rutherford, Coryn Bye.

Officers – Catrin Davies, Gwyn Evans (all Cyngor Gwynedd)

Apologies - John Hughes, Edward Griffith, Ann Cooper, Morgan Jones Parry, Nia Edwards-Clarke Davina Carey Evans, Ifan Parry, Iona Griffith, Simon Glyn

2. Declarations of Personal Interest

None

3. Urgent Matters / Chair's Announcements

Format of the Minutes

The Chair (VM) explained that minutes are currently brief due to limited council resources and invited members' views on whether comments should be attributed.

JG suggested the use of voice-to-text software to improve efficiency.

Members noted that Local Access Forum guidance requires meetings to be face-to-face and public; COVID legislation had temporarily allowed online meetings.

DM supported concise minutes but felt key comments should still be recorded.

GE welcomed feedback and encouraged members to share views.

Action: Members to consider and provide feedback on the preferred format of future minutes.

4. Forum Visibility

Concern was raised that the Forum currently has a low public profile.

Members noted that the National Park website already provides more detailed information, including minutes and meeting dates.

GE advised that additional online information would be made available shortly.

5. Future Meetings

Proposal agreed in principle to hold **four meetings next year**, including one in June with a proposed external/site visit.

It was suggested that draft minutes should be shared promptly with the Chair/Vice Chair and published online without delay.

Members were advised that the **Glyndŵr National Park consultation** closes on **8 December 2025**. While not directly relevant to the Forum, members were encouraged to respond via the Welsh Government website.

6. Previous Minutes – Matters Arising

DM noted difficulty identifying locations under discussion without maps.

Suggested displaying maps during discussions and including grid references or What3Words.

Members highlighted the usefulness of CAMS and FFOS and requested examples of their use and any shareable data.

JG reminded members of the **Public Sector Equality Duty**, which should apply to all access routes, new and existing.

GE briefly outlined tools available to members, including Map Gwynedd, CAMS and the 'Report a Problem' facility on the Council website.

RG raised concerns about a new OS Live feature for reporting issues and uncertainty about how submitted information is processed.

7. Presentation: Development of a Statutory Public Rights of Way Map (Welsh Government)

Presenter: Catrin Davies

Background

Development of data commenced by Welsh Government in mid-2024, local authorities were requested to provide Public Rights of Way (PRoW) shapefiles to support the creation of a national dataset for Wales.

Data Map Wales

A Welsh Government geospatial platform providing access to a digital PRoW dataset, combining data from local authorities and national parks.

Includes footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways, byways open to all traffic and other route types.

The digital map is **not legally definitive**; the official record remains the paper Definitive Map and Statement held by the Local Highway Authorities.

Current Status and Issues

All routes are displayed online with limited attribute information.

Path numbers are not yet included, and most routes appear in black.

Outstanding questions remain regarding responsibility for updates and how changes will be recorded.

Next Steps

Further stakeholder engagement is expected early next year.

Members suggested including information on path condition to support accessibility and usability decisions.

8. Presentation: Illegal Off-road Motorcycling on Yr Eifl

Presenter: Rhys Evans, Rural Crime Officer, North Wales Police

Ongoing issues with illegal off-road motorcycling on Yr Eifl for approximately 12 months.

Incidents included misuse of vehicles without owners' consent.

Discussion covered approaches to enforcement, ranging from education and warnings to formal police and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) action.

Section 59 Notices were highlighted as a legal tool for tackling repeat anti-social vehicle use.

Members emphasised the need for clearer signage and maps, while recognising the risk of displacement to other areas.

Actions:

VM to write to Natural Resources Wales.

PR suggested exploring support through the Ffermio Bro Scheme.

9. Updates from Gwyn Evans

- Shared Prosperity Fund projects in the Ogwen Valley.
- Members' Training Module.
- Amendments to Cyngor Gwynedd's Public Rights of Way Policy.
- Sustainable Farming Scheme.

Bont Sarnau Bridge Update

New bridge installed and funded through the Levelling Up Fund.

Span of approximately 26–27 metres; part of the Slate Trail.

Removal of the old bridge delayed until spring due to fish spawning restrictions.

No legal Order required for the minor path re-route.

Additional Levelling Up Fund works include underpass and Porth Penrhyn improvements.

Next Steps:

Site visit proposed for June to view completed works.

Recognition:

Members discussed writing to the Chief Executive to recognise and commend the project; it was agreed to wait until the project is fully complete and consider a press release.

Members' Training Module (Attachment 3)

Drafted by David Coleman, former Access Team Leader.

Covers key topics including the Definitive Map and Modification Orders.

Members were encouraged to digest the module.

Amendments to Cyngor Gwynedd's Public Rights of Way Policy.

Policy review driven by age and constraints: Gwynedd Council is reviewing its Public Rights of Way Policy because it is over 15 years old and some commitments are no longer deliverable due to reduced resources and budgets.

Maintenance responsibilities revised to allow more flexible and sustainable maintenance.

New inspection approach: A new proposal commits to systematic annual inspections with focus on safety, accessibility, and quality.

Policy updates and modernisation: Amendments update guidance on electric fencing safety, biodiversity and climate duties, farming schemes (referencing the new Sustainable Farming Scheme from 2026), and permissive paths.

Sustainable Farming Scheme.

The Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS) in Wales is the Welsh Government's proposed replacement for the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, designed to support farmers who deliver sustainable food production alongside environmental and social benefits. Payments are intended to be linked to a set of universal and optional actions that reflect sustainable land management, helping farming remain resilient while contributing to Wales's climate, nature recovery, and rural community goals.

Pervious term of Forum responded to consultations by Welsh Government on the content of the Scheme.

Scheme is now in force, GE explained that meetings have been held with Welsh Government as to the involvement of Local Authorities in the access element of the Scheme.

Presentation circulated.

10. Any Other Business

Members may suggest agenda items by contacting the Chair (VM) or Secretary (GE), or by raising items under Any Other Business at meetings.

PR advised that updated guidance for organised competitive, recreational and charitable events in Eryri National Park is now available.

VM proposed the following **provisional meeting dates for 2026**, requesting that they also be published on the Council website:

- 24 March
- 2 June
- 22 September
- December (date to be confirmed)