

BMC Mid Wales Outreach Group Meeting
Druids Inn – Goginan – Aberystwyth. 5/6/13

MINUTES

Welcome and apologies for absence

Meeting commenced 20.30

Thanks to all attending – (10 persons) Tim Sparrow, Huw Gilbert, Elfyn Jones (EJ), Tom Hutton TH), Matt Potter, Pete Trickey, ANO (Huw's mate!), Sy Finch-Thomas, Don Sergeant, Doug Kerr (DK).

Apologies were received from (5 persons) Dan Harris, Michael Brooks, Charly Potter, Piers Nesbitt, Toby Everard, Dave Williams.

Minutes from last meeting (30th January 2013) circulated and agreed.

Quiz – Thanks to Tom.

Wind Farm update

TH informed that the Nant y Moch development is currently on hold. Due to negotiations between the development company and the Welsh Assembly Government. The issue remains but any stalling of the project could impact the final outcome as Plynlimon area may be designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

HEP schemes

EJ briefed all on HEP developments in Snowdonia, including Cwm Llafar above Bethesda (which may yield a parking solution in Gerlan in future!), 2 developments in the Ogwen valley and one in Llanberis Pass. No known developments in Mid Wales but EJ would welcome news of any.

Fixed Gear Policy

TH briefed that there was no changes to the BMC policy. EJ added that despite that, there has been some "secretive" bolting across the UK, taking place without consultation of the appropriateness of bolting in those areas.

In addition, there has been some unserviceable, potentially dangerous bolting taking place. The BMC has detailed advice available as well as an accessible bolt fund.

EJ also advised that landowners could be held responsible for accidents occurring due to unsafe bolting on their land, with consequent access issues in the aftermath.

Snowdon Marker Stones

EJ briefed that marker stones are being installed at major path junctions on Snowdon. It appears that more than the agreed markers may be installed. Snowdonia National Park have stated they have no intention of marking other areas of the Park in such a way.

Mid Wales Guidebook update

DK briefed on the Meirionydd Supplement. Significant progress made in collating the new route information. This has been sent to the crag volunteers to assist with their checking work.

The Climbers Club are producing (have produced by the time the minutes were typed!) a downloadable guide to Ynys Lochdyn at Llangrannog on the Ceredigion coast as a taster for the new guide.

EJ added that access agreements may be needed for a number of crags in the guidebook area, but that an access agreement is not a requirement for routes / crags to be included in a guidebook.

Access agreements

EJ briefed on access to Maesglasau Falls, an important ice climbing venue at Dinas Mawddwy. The landowner of the preferred access route to the falls is supportive despite no official access through his land and is concerned about accidents there (there have been incidents). EJ is to produce and publish access notes to the venue.

Mid Wales Climbing and Mountaineering Club Update

Recent meet at Llangrannog organised by DK, SF-T, DW and PT. Beautiful day, attended by just 5 people. Brief discussion of organising future events.

BMC Landscape Charter

TH briefed that the BMC had established a "Landscape Working Group" from the guidance notes, to detail exactly what the BMC wishes to protect. This will be published shortly and will include how BMC members can highlight locations under threat and the process by which developments can be challenged and reviewed.

Going Forward with BMC Cymru

TH briefed that in the support of the Mountaineering Council of Scotland's policy on upland development, the various groups within BMC Cymru had voted differently (North and Mid voting differently to South). BMC Cymru has only one vote on BMC National Council. To avoid these disparities between number of areas and number of members (the North group being substantially larger) it was proposed that where a vote was requested on an issue, individual votes would be counted and totalled from all three areas to give a more representative single BMC Cymru response. Members present agreed that this was a sensible way forward, without any opposition.

AOB

EJ briefed that the BMC have supported the Elenydd Landscape Partnership. This is largely a tourism based initiative to assist access improvements in the area.

£39.78 collected for the N Wales bolt fund.

Thanks to Huw Gilbert for taking the minutes.

Date of next meeting Thursday 5th September, White Lion Machynlleth.