

Appendix A

Evaluation of actions from previous Countryside Action Plan

THE NEEDS OF USERS

Ref	Action	Situation in 2007	Situation in 2016	Proposal for CAP 2017-27
AL1	The Authority will discuss with individuals and organisations representing those with limited mobility regarding the best means of providing information to enable them to access those parts of the network that are available to them.	The Authority has a duty to make as much of the path network as accessible to as many people as possible. Much of the network is already open to those with limited mobility but there is a lack of information re location and condition of routes.	No progress made.	Retain action.
AH1	The Authority will open all bridleways (obstructions removed, legally defined, signposted) by 2012.	Proportionately more bridleways are open than footpaths.	Only two bridleways remain obstructed, one of which is the process of being opened, and negotiations to open the other will begin shortly.	Remove action. This action has served its purpose with the final two bridleway issues in the process of being resolved.
AN1	The Authority will encourage the participation of people from all backgrounds to take part in countryside access.	The current emphasis is to encourage people to access the countryside by bus.	The Authority has made progress with this via the Walking Development Officer.	Retain action.
AN2	The Countryside Access Service will develop links with other agencies to improve the opportunities for people living in Communities First areas to take part in countryside access.	There are currently few links between the Countryside Access Service and other agencies.	Little progress has been made by the Service, but the Authority as a whole is making progress via the Walking Development Officer.	Remove action. This is already being progressed by the Authority. The CAT will continue to provide support for this action.

DEFINITIVE MAP

Objective To develop a process of work for dealing with definitive map issues in the most effective and efficient way

Ref	Action	Situation in 2007	Present situation	Proposal for CAP 2017-27
AD1	Means of publishing the definitive map on the website will be explored.	There is presently no map on the Council's website.	The working copy of the definitive map was available on the Council website from 2008 to 2013, and has recently been reinstated in improved form.	Remove. This has been achieved.
AD2	A formal Service Level Agreement for PROW between Legal Services and Planning Services will be established.	An agreement is currently being drawn up (July 2007).	The present agreement was signed off on 8 December 2007.	Replace with new action.
AD3	A survey of the definitive map and statement will be carried out to assess the number of corrections that will need to be made to the existing legal record. Once the scale of the problem is known each correction will be considered in an order agreed between Legal Services and the Countryside Access Team.	The Authority is aware of over 65 errors and anomalies on the definitive map and 17 dead end routes.	The assessment of corrections was carried out and a list of 159 errors compiled. 112 errors remain to be resolved.	Revise. Deal with list in order of priority.
AD4	LEMOS will be made immediately after each new PPO is confirmed.	LEMOS are currently made after each new PPO is confirmed.	LEMOS are currently not being made after each new PPO is confirmed and a small backlog has developed	Retain action.
AD5	LEMOS for the backlog of PPOs will be produced as a matter of urgency and a new	55 LEMOs have been produced so far with the	The original backlog of LEMOs was removed. However, the	Revise action. This has been partially achieved, but there is still much work to be

Commented [MP1]: How many now?

	definitive map produced by 2008 and then every 5 years.	remainder expected to be produced by 2008.	new definitive map? has not been produced.	undertaken to check the 'working copy' before a new definitive map is produced.
Additional actions needed				
			The legal records of public rights of way still require much work before they can be described as an accurate record.	New Action: ensure that the definitive map and statement provide an accurate record
			<p>Rights of way services in nearly all authorities are delivered by one team dealing with both legal and network management issues from one common point. Such a structure has been shown to be more efficient and flexible in terms of service delivery and to provide a better environment for staff development and training.</p> <p>The Planning and City Regeneration Commissioning Review identified the need for a dedicated part-time legal officer to support the CA team and clear a 4yr+ backlog of legal casework</p>	New Action: create one Authority Team to deal with public rights of way at one location.

PUBLIC PATH ORDERS

Objective To protect the network and ensure that changes do not reduce the enjoyment of users

Ref	Action	Situation in 2007	Present situation	Proposal for CAP 2017-27
AP1	The Authority will lead by example and create paths on its own land where it can be shown that there is a need for improved public access.	The Authority has already created a number of kilometres of new paths on its own land.	This has been ongoing and is now accepted good practice.	Remove action.
AP2	To create new paths in the formerly excluded area where it can be clearly demonstrated that there is a public need and demand for new paths or where a previous order has left a path as a dead end or unconnected to another highway.	The Authority has already added a number of paths in the formerly excluded area.	This has been ongoing.	Remove action. This action is duplicated by action AP3.
AP3	To create new paths where it can be clearly demonstrated that there is a public need and demand for new paths.	The network, especially of bridleways, is sporadic	This has been ongoing.	Retain action.
AP4	Where there are missing links in the Gower Coast Path the Authority will seek to create public paths.	The route of the Gower Coast Path already exists but some sections need to be registered as public paths.	This has mostly been achieved, but new paths are still needed at Oxwich and Pennard. As the coast continues to erode, further additions to the route will be required.	Retain action.

Additional actions needed				
			Since the original CAP was published a number of diversions have taken place that have resulted in an improved network.	New action: Divert paths where this will enhance the network and improve the performance indicator

MANAGEMENT OF THE PATH NETWORK

Objective **The Authority will aim to have 75% of the network signposted and easy to use by 2012**

As of 2016 just over 70% of the network is easy to use.

Ref	Action	Situation in 2007	Present situation	Proposal for CAP 2017-27
AM1	The Authority will continue to expand its annual path vegetation clearance programme in order to ensure that as much of the network is open and available as possible.	In 2007 The Authority spent £24,000 on path clearance and over 200 paths were cleared between 1 and 3 times.	Path clearance continued to expand until 2016. However, the amount of path clearance has had to be reduced in 2017 due to lack of funds.	Revise action.
AM2	Where it is likely that improved signs where paths meet roads will encourage increased use, signs will be improved by including destinations and distances.	This action is presently being implemented.	A number of destination signs have need installed, especially in the Coastal Zone.	Retain action.

AM3	The Authority will take every opportunity to remove structures altogether or replace stiles with gaps or gates on the most used and promoted paths.	The Authority attempts to replace as many stiles with gates as possible and to remove both stiles and gates where no longer necessary.	Over 200 stiles have been replaced with gates during the last 10 years.	Retain action.
AM4	The booklet 'Public Rights of Way - A Guide' will be updated and re-published, to advise users of their rights and responsibilities.	The booklet is out of print.	This was completed.	Remove. This has been achieved.
AM5	The Community Path Improvement Programme will be expanded to improve the network Community by Community and prioritised on a first come first served basis.	Four schemes already started and two nearly complete.	This was completed	Remove action. This scheme has served its purpose in helping to work towards the 75% target.
AM6	All paths in the Coastal Access Zone will be improved to the 'easy to use' standard by ensuring that they are all signposted where they meet a road and easy to find and follow.	About 1/3 of the total network is in the Coastal Access Zone and work has begun to improve it via the Coastal Access Improvement Programme.	This was mostly completed, although 30 problems still remain to be resolved, only 15 of which result in the path being unusable.	Retain.
AM7	The Gower Coast Path will be improved through enhanced signage, waymarking, surface works and increased accessibility, with the ultimate aim of removing all stiles from the route (in keeping with the landscape and environment and, as far as possible, kept in its natural state).	The Coastal Access Improvement Programme has started to improve the Coast Path already.	The programmed improvements on the Coast Path have been completed. Only two stiles remain on the Coast Path on the least used sections.	Revise.

AM8	In partnership with the Gower Society the Authority will maintain the Gower Way and improve it where necessary.	Waymarking along the Gower Way has recently been enhanced by the Gower Society with assistance from the Authority.	A number of improvements have taken place with further planned.	Revise.
AM9	Where walkers or riders need to walk along or across busy roads consideration will be given to improving safety by maintaining or improving existing verges and/or to traffic management.	Some sections of busy roads, have no verges and this can, in effect, sever the network by making walking or riding between paths too hazardous.	Opportunities to implement this have not arisen.	Revise or remove. This is an action that is beyond the remit of the CA team and should be picked up by other plans or strategies.
Additional actions needed				
			Overall, our path network is well used and a large amount of effort has been applied to improve it over the last 10 years; however, a significant proportion of it still does not meet even minimum standards	New Action: 75% of the network to be signposted and easy to use
			Most new paths that have been created to address the needs of the public require some work to bring them up to at least the minimum standards.	New Action: New paths to be of a standard that is at least easy to use.
			Over the last 12 years the surface of a number of paths has been improved, resulting in increased use of the paths. Whilst it would not be practical or financially viable to improve the surface of all paths, carefully selected surface	New Action: Path surfaces will be improved where it is likely that improved surfaces will encourage increased use and works can be carried out in keeping with the landscape.

			improvements on some paths will result in an increase in use.	
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TOURISM AND PROMOTION

Ref	Action	Situation in 2007	Present situation	Proposal for CAP 2017-27
AT1	The Authority will continue to expand the present network of promoted walking routes by producing further 'walking by bus' leaflets.	Six routes are already promoted.	No further 'walking by bus leaflets' have been produced, as other opportunities have been pursued.	Replace both AT1 and AT3 with a new action promoting walking and health and well being
AT2	The Authority will promote the Gower Coast Path from Crofty to Mumbles and associated linear and circular walks.	There is no promotion of the Gower Coast Path as a singular walk.	A leaflet showing the Coast Path has been re-printed a number of times. A series of 6 Gower Coast walks was published.	Revise.
AT3	The Authority will create and promote a network of walks located close to villages and the urban fringe to provide increased tourism and health benefits.	All of the current series of walking by bus walks are based on the either villages or the urban fringe.	Leaflets based on Llanrhidian Higher and Rhossili were published in partnership with the local communities. Four walks were published in the Mawr, Clydach and Pontarddulais areas.	Replace both AT1 and AT3 with a new action promoting walking and health and well being
AT4	The Authority will consider, in consultation with all users, the promotion of off-road cycling routes and horse riding routes.	There are presently no promoted routes for horseriders and few for cyclists.	To date this has not been undertaken. However, a route around Gower has been proposed.	Retain
AT5	The Authority will continue to improve its web-site by providing more specific information on the condition	The Authority's website already provides information on some walks, applications for modification orders and	Funding for this was not found.	Revise.

	of the path network to enable potential users to plan their walks and rides prior to visiting the area.	general rights of way information.		
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