

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF BRIDGEND LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Yvonne Walton-Davies LAF 6 Application

Please complete the following questions as fully as possible. The selection of Local Access Forum members is normally determined on your application alone, without personal interview. It is, therefore, important that you provide as much information as you can to assist the selection process.

Continue on a plain sheet of paper if necessary

1. Why do you want to be a member of the Bridgend Local Access Forum?

Please include anything that you feel is relevant to your application for membership. We would particularly like to know why you want to join the Forum, what you can contribute and what you want to achieve.

Having witnessed many changes in Bridgend County Borough during my lifetime (54 years) in terms of roads & infrastructure, population, social needs, climate (to name a few), I am motivated to ensure that historical local rights of way and access are retained and maintained, as well as establishing a network of more and better multi-user paths for the future as a means of improving well-being, enjoyment and many elements of road safety.

I am a keen advocate of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and fully recognise the role our urban & countryside networks can play in the physical & mental health of us all.

I am also keen to play a part in developing both rural and urban multi-user paths and rights of way as a part of the move towards net-zero to counter climate change, as well as deal with the effects we are already witnessing, whilst protecting biodiversity and wildlife habitats. This is something that I am passionate about both on a community and national level, as well as on a personal level myself being the grandmother of 5 young children.

2. If appointed, how would you fulfil this role?

It is important that all members agree to work within the context of the functions of Local Access Forums as defined in the CROW Act (s.94(4)), see the attached 'Guidance for Prospective Members'.

Having briefed myself on the functions of LAFs and the CROW Act S94(4), I am fully committed to playing an active role within the Forum. I will commit to attending all meetings, whether they are held in person (with suitable social distancing, etc) or held online.

I will bring ideas and experience to the table from a multitude of viewpoints...

- *as a local citizen*

- as a community councillor without any party political bias
- as a school governor
- as a conservator of the local commons
- as a mother & grandmother
- as a local horse-rider
- as a disabled rambler
- as a national sportswoman
- as a local landowner and countrywoman.

I will listen to and absorb all viewpoints and ideas put forward by other forum members and consultees. I will speak through the Chair of the forum to state my own ideas and preferences, but will take a balanced and unbiased view of all aspects on any votes or decisions to be made within the LAF, for the benefit of all citizens.

3. What particular skills and experience could you bring to the Forum?

Please include relevant interests or pastimes, your knowledge of access/rights of way, areas where you feel you would be able to provide specific advice, and any involvement or membership of organisations whose work is relevant to the LAF.

I have an adequate level of computer skills to enable me to play an active and relevant role within the LAF. Whilst my skills would be regarded as out-of-date and too slow in a workplace setting, and though definitely rusty and left behind by evolving technology, I am confident in my remaining technical and communication abilities.

During the last 2 years I have undertaken Access training to an intermediate level provided by the BHS (British Horse Society) which, even though its ultimate aim is to improve Bridleways in the UK, it still provides a broad base of knowledge on all access matters, legislation, maps, DMs, DMMOs, access to archives, etc. This has given me a sound insight, but I am still keen to continue with my learning.

I am a community councillor on 2 neighbouring community councils... St Brides Minor and Coity Higher. Within the boundaries of these community councils there is a substantial land mass of Open Access Common Land, including part of Coety Walia CL20 & CL21 and Coety Anglia common.

I am a member of the Board of Conservators for Coety Walia Common as representative for St Brides Minor Community Council. I am also a Commons Grazier having commoners rights attached to land which forms part of my farm.

4. What experience of access in Bridgend do you have?

Please provide details of what knowledge and experience you have of countryside issues and public access to the countryside in general and the Bridgend County Borough Council area in particular.

As a lifelong resident of Bridgend County Borough for 54 years I have been lucky to have enjoyed accessing and travelling along many of the rights of way in our locality. This has taken a variety of forms...

- on foot in my younger and more able years,

- *on bicycle both as an individual and escorting my children when they were younger,*
- *on horseback previously as an able rider and now as a disabled rider,*
- *by battery operated mobility scooter or buggy in recent years*
- *I have gained much enjoyment from tramping the paths and rights of way in Bridgend County Borough*
- *I have also witnessed the unfortunate abuse of our rights of way by some members of society, which is something I would be keen to establish and support ways of deterring antisocial activities.*

Outside of the County Borough I have previously been an active member of off-road driving groups, as well as supporting my son when he used to compete in organised motocross events during his teenage years. I would be keen to work in conjunction with outside organisations and user groups as a means of deterring antisocial or illegal use of RoWs, and improving facilities and safe enjoyment for all.

5. What opportunities do you have to disseminate information and network with relevant organisations?

It is essential that all members are able to pro-actively pursue opportunities to publicise the work of the Forum within their own area of interest and also amongst others with similar interests within the area covered by the Forum. How would you disseminate information regarding the work of the Forum?

I would cascade information and also hope to establish and enable 2-way dialogue via my many roles...

- *Community councillor (2 Councils),*
- *Member of the Board of Conservators for Coety Walia Common,*
- *Member of the Board of Governors of Litchard School (and would hope to develop a network with other schools within the County Borough (explored via Litchard's "Forest School" networking with other schools)),*
- *Member of the Disabled Ramblers Organisation,*
- *Member of Disability Wales (and participant of discussion forums on their behalf),*
- *National member, assistant local Bridleways officer and SE Wales Committee member of the British Horse Society,*
- *Member of the CLA (Country Land & Business Association)*
- *Regular attendee at local Livestock & Agricultural Markets, providing an opportunity for 2-way discussions with local farmers and landowners,*
- *Scout (on horseback) and feedback participant of the ongoing "Great Glamorgan Way" project,*
- *Member of GB Para-sports, enabling a nationwide information cascade & discussion network for sportspeople with disabilities.*