



Dear Councillors,

Back in (August 2023) Carmarthenshire's Public Rights of Way Team were successful in a grant bid which has been used to fund a part time Ramblers project officer. The Authority received £45000 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

The appointed officer has been tasked with leading a new project Developing Volunteer Resource that can initially assist in surveying the whole public rights of way (PROW) network.

Longer term we hope to see the appointed volunteers taking on light maintenance duties in their own areas to help keep the network accessible for all.

The county has over 2500km Public Rights of Way (PROW), but details of the paths, bridges, stiles, gates and signage on the more rural path network and bridleways is only partially known. Working in partnership with Ramblers Cymru the new project will recruit, train, equip and organise volunteers to assist the County Council in surveying and taking on minor maintenance of the PROW in Carmarthenshire.

The PROW network as an asset is managed on a digital mapping platform known as CAMS (Countryside Access Management System). This system has been expanded to enable the assignment of tasks to volunteers to report and record issues to support this project.

Training will be a key part of supporting volunteers to use CAMS, set expectations and ensure we're gathering accurate and up-to-date information of our PROW network. Moving into late-February and March we'll be looking to run in-person and online training sessions across the county for those who express an interest in the project. We'll assess the need for further training as this project concludes and more maintenance-based tasks are taken on.

As we progress forward and engage communities and volunteers, we'd appreciate your support in promoting the project, and have attached the role description and volunteer expression of the interest form for sharing. Everyone has rights and responsibilities in the countryside and this project is open to anyone who wants to be involved.

The newly appointed Ramblers Project Officer has taken on the project logistics and role of supporting volunteers, a project page has also been created on the Ramblers website to help share information, see <https://www.ramblers.org.uk/news/pathways-partnership-carmarthenshire>.

If there are any questions going forward, please contact Amy Goodwin, Ramblers Project Officer (Amy.Goodwin@Ramblers.org.uk).

Kind Regards

Caroline Ferguson

Rheolwr Mynediad i Gefn Gwlad | Countryside Access Manager
Ysrifennydd Fforwm Mynediad Lleol | Local Access Forum Secretariat
Lle & Seilwaith | Place & Infrastructure

Dydw I ddim yn gweithio ar dydd Gwener fel arfer | I do not normally work on a Friday

