

VALE OF GLAMORGAN LOCAL ACCESS FORUM: 13th FEBRUARY 2019

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

INTRODUCTION BY MEMBERS

Members of the Forum will recall that I have previously written requesting they forwarded brief synopses of their background and involvement with / potential contribution to issues connected with the work of the Forum. All details received are set out in Appendix A.

RECOMMENDED - T H A T each Member be invited to address the Forum in respect of their potential contribution to issues connected with the work of the Forum.

Kay Lucas – a brief pen picture

This will be my 3rd stint on the Local Access Forum.

I initially volunteered because I spend as much time as possible outdoors (running, cycling, walking etc.) and wanted to give something back. I am a founder member of MDC fell running club and even at my advanced age, still run on the hills.

Although my home is in the Vale, I spend considerable amounts of time in Cornwall. This gives me another view of how access to the countryside is managed.

The part of LAF that I most enjoy is surveying footpaths – although sometimes I think I am a rain goddess!

Geraint Thomas:

I live in Michaelston Le Pit and help out at village events. I walk the local paths and the Woodland Trust site regularly. I have been a walk leader for Penarth & District Ramblers for 25 years and I am the Footpath Officer for the group. I have written walk directions published on the Ramblers Routes website. I also organise and lead the Dinas Powys Summer Evening Walks every June for Dinas Powys Community Council. Last summer there were 5 evening walks and 157 walkers. I have been a member of the Woodland Trust for over 20 years and am a committee member of Dinas Powys Wild About Nature. I am also interested in local history, and lose to my wife at scrabble most weekends.

Sean Gaffney.

I have been resident in the Vale of Glamorgan since 1999, prior to that I spent 9 years in the Royal Navy serving aboard both ships and submarines. I was born and raised in Swansea and the Gower. I am happily married, with a grown-up son who still lives at home while he tries to figure out what he wants to do in life. Our little family unit is also complimented by Daisy, who is supposedly a labradoodle that we adopted from the Dogs Trust a few years ago.

Since leaving the Royal Navy I have worked in the technology industry, managing the IT for companies across a range of sectors that include: transport, logistics, manufacturing, financial services and the public sector. I currently work for Qualifications Wales, who are the independent regulator for all qualifications below degree level in Wales.

I have a great love of being outdoors in all weathers enjoying many pastimes such as dog walking, hiking, surfing, kite-surfing, cycling, camping and swimming. In my time off I like to tour and explore the UK and Europe in my camper van.

I see my membership of the LAF as an opportunity to put something back into the community, I have an analytical and pragmatic approach to problem solving and always try to empathise with and consider the viewpoints of all stakeholders when forming an opinion. I value the opinions of others, even and especially when they differ from my own, as this often leads to greater understanding or learning when compared to being in an echo chamber of your own views.