Guidance on Membership of Local Access Forums in the Eryri National Park

Background:

In compliance with the *Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000*, two Local Access Forums have been established to cover the area of the Eryri National Park. One Forum covers the area of the National Park within Dwyfor and Arfon; a Joint Forum (with Gwynedd Council) covers the Meirionnydd Area, both inside and outside the National Park boundary. Membership is re-appointed every three years.

The Forum's function is to advise the Eryri National Park Authority, Gwynedd and Conwy Councils, Natural Resources Wales and others as to the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open-air recreation and enjoyment.

The Forums meet at least three times a year; with occasional sub group meetings when required. Meetings are held during the evening (where a light supper is provided).

Areas of Work

The Local Access Forums are consulted on matters relating to public access in the area, including Public Rights of Way, access to open country and registered common land, improvements to coastal access and access to rivers and lakes. The exact nature of the work is determined by the Forums themselves, in agreement with the Appointing Authority.

Forum membership is unpaid, but travelling allowances and carer's expenses are payable by the ENPA.

Criteria for Membership:

The following is a list of criteria against which applications for membership will be judged. Candidates will not, however, necessarily have to comply with all of the criteria in order to be successful.

A Local Access Forum Member will:

- Be committed to the function of the Forum. *The Forums exist in order to advise Local Authorities, Natural Resources Wales and others on the improvement of public access to land in the area for the purposes of open air recreation and enjoyment.*

- Be willing and able to play a full part in all aspects of a Local Access Forum's work. Applicants who are only able or willing to represent a narrow, specific interest are unlikely to be suitable members.

- Have a wide range of experience of access issues in the area. Ideally, this will be from both a user and land management perspective.

- Live in, be particularly familiar with, or have any other interests especially relevant to, the area covered by the Forum.

- Be able to network with a wide range of organisations and individuals in order to further the work of the Forum.

- Be able to attend all meetings of the Forum.

- Be able to take a balanced view on activities relating to Public access generally.

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