



**Clackmannanshire  
Council**

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**The Clackmannanshire Access Forum**

**Minute of meeting held on Monday, 28th May 2013  
at Lime Tree House**

	<b>Action</b>
<b>Present</b>	
<b>Landowners/Land Managers:</b> Brian Poett, John Wilson	
<b>User group representatives:</b> Eric Davidson, Gordon Durward, Linda Howson, Colin Thomson (Chair)	
<b>Community group representatives:</b> Dick Clark, Caroline Crawford,	
<b>Agency and advisory representatives:</b> David Anderson,	
<b>Council:</b> Martin Dean, Euan Hills	
<b>1.0 Apologies</b>	
<b>1.1</b> Apologies were received from: - James Cullens - Sarah Eaton - David Scott - Sir Robert Stewart - Enid Trevett - Niall Urquhart	
<b>2.0 Approval of draft minute of meeting held on 27th November 2012</b>	
<b>2.1</b> Linda proposed that the minutes were approved. This was seconded by Caroline.	
<b>3.0 Matters arising from meeting held on 27th November 2012</b>	

<p><b>3.1 Use of stiles adjacent to core path 157</b> Martin reported that he had stopped progressing the installation of stiles on an alternative route (for use by dog walkers when young animals are present in fields on the route), because the Arndean Forest Plan showed the woodland that the route passes through is due to be felled. Linda commented that stiles do not facilitate easy access for dogs. David pointed out that the woodland might not be felled for 5 years. In light of this, it was agreed that Martin should check when the trees are due to be felled and if this is not in the immediate future, progress installing stiles on the alternative route.</p>	<p><b>MD</b></p>
<p><b>3.2 Access to Clackmannan Tower along core path 99</b> Martin reported that the Tower is a part of the Tower Trail and that the Clackmannanshire Disability Awareness Group had highlighted that the kissing gates on the route were an obstruction for some access takers, including people in wheelchairs. In light of this, access friendly gates had now been installed in place of the kissing gates. Dick raised some concerns over the work, stating that some of those who lived locally were not happy with the changes and questioning how much the work had cost. Martin commented that he had written to and held site meetings with those concerned, that wooden gates had been installed instead of metal gates near the houses and that he was under the impression that the concerns of local residents and the farmer had been addressed. He reported that the main costs for the Council was in providing 3 gates and materials for their installation, and undertook to inform Dick on what this cost. He also reported that the labour was provided, at no cost to the Council, by Historic Scotland.</p>	<p><b>MD</b></p>
<p><b>3.3 Diversion of core path 26</b> Martin reported that he had received confirmation from Diageo that they own the land the diversion will pass over and that he was seeking clarity on who owns the verge leading to an adopted road. He also reported that he still needs to obtain the views of Scottish Natural Heritage and Tullibody, Cambus and Glenochil Community Council.</p>	
<p><b>3.4 Inner Forth Landscape Initiative projects</b> Colin asked Dick if he had been able to compile project ideas for the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative. Dick advised that he had not been able to do this, pointing out that the deadline was on 30th November - just 3 days after the last meeting. He explained that he had envisaged a joint access and biodiversity project covering the area between the River Black Devon and Cambus Pools, and suggested that the Access Forum and the Biodiversity Partnership could meet jointly to progress this. Colin suggested that it would only be appropriate to have a joint meeting if there is still scope for submitting a project. Martin reported that his understanding was that the deadline for project submissions was past, but agreed to investigate whether there is any scope for further project submissions.</p>	<p><b>MD</b></p>
<p><b>4.0 AGM - Forum membership</b></p>	
<p><b>4.1</b> Martin reported that, in keeping with the Forum's Partnership Agreement, one member of each stakeholder had stood down at the AGM held on 26th February. He also reported that the Chair had served their 2 years.</p>	
<p><b>4.2</b> Martin reported that the following representatives stood down:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners/Land Managers group - Sir Robert Stewart</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users group - Nan Preston</li> <li>• Community groups - Enid Trevett</li> <li>• Agency and advisory groups - Jane McArdle</li> <li>• Chair - James Cullens (Landowners/Land Managers group)</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.3</b> Martin reported that the following representatives had been elected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners/Land Managers group - Sir Robert Stewart (re-elected)</li> <li>• Users group - Eric Davidson</li> <li>• Community groups - Enid Trevett (re-elected)</li> <li>• Agency and advisory groups - Neil Ramsay</li> <li>• Chair - Colin Thomson (Users group)</li> </ul>	
<p><b><u>5.0 Update (including Tillicoultry Glen, Hardy's Link, Ochils Landscape Partnership, Inner Forth Landscape Initiative, Disabled access, Give Me Cycle Space and Events) - Access and Countryside Projects Officer</u></b></p>	
<p><b>5.1 Ochils Landscape Partnership</b> Martin reported that the path tenders are due to be posted on the Public Contracts Scotland portal, with work detailed for the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A1 Hillfoots Diamond Jubilee Way</li> <li>• A5 Alva Glen</li> <li>• A6 Ochills Woodland Park</li> <li>• A7 Tillicoultry Glen</li> <li>• B1 Devon Trail</li> <li>• C4 Mining and minerals</li> </ul> <p>He also reported that path works had been completed as part of A10 Dollar Burn Interpretation and Education. Brian commented that the works were next to the Kelly Burn and that they would facilitate environmental education work with local school children.</p> <p>Martin also reported that the Ochils Festival is taking place from 1-30 June 2013 and circulated leaflets advertising the (40) events.</p>	
<p><b>5.2 Inner Forth Landscape initiative</b> Martin reported that the Council had submitted 4 access projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Black Devon Wetland Trail</li> <li>• Cambus Whisky and Wetland Wander</li> <li>• Clackmannan and Alloa Park Access Improvements</li> <li>• Inner Forth Inches Trail</li> </ul> <p>Each project will include some path surface improvements, signage and interpretation.</p> <p>Martin commented that it is unlikely that there'll be enough funding for all access projects submitted to go ahead and that selection will take place in June.</p>	
<p><b>5.3 Tillicoultry Glen</b> Martin reported that the rock scaling and mapping had been completed. He advised that ca 25 tons of scaled rock had been stockpiled. He also reported that the mapping had identified that many of the remaining rocks continued to be at risk of falling onto the path below. He advised that the next stage is for the designers to visit the glen and produce designs for the unsafe bridge and other works. The cost of the outstanding works is likely to be</p>	

significant and require formal approval.	
<p><b>5.4 Community Environmental Improvement Fund - Hardy's Link</b> Martin reported that Clackmannanshire Riders Access Group had received a grant of £10,000 from the Clackmannanshire Environmental Improvement Fund to replace Hardy's Link with a bridge that is fit for purpose and caters for pedestrians, horse riders, cyclists and is inclusive. A further £332 had been obtained from the Community Chest. CRAG are donating £420 towards the cost of the works.</p> <p>Martin showed the drawing for the bridge, reported that a Bridges Engineer had approved the drawing and that it was hoped that installation would take place in September.</p> <p>Caroline commented that CEIF funding had to be spent by November and Dick suggested that the existing plaque should be transferred to the new bridge.</p>	<b>MD</b>
<p><b>5.5 Minor works - signs, gates, bollards etc</b> Martin reported on works on 3 paths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Road, Muckhart/core path 157 - liaison had taken place with the land manager and the Golf Club to address flooding of the path, caused by run-off from the Golf Course.</li> <li>• Back Wood, Clackmannan/core path 97 - the path through the wood has been upgraded. The work was managed by Central Scotland Forest Trust, with funding from Biffa, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust, Scottish Rural Development Programme and Clackmannanshire Council.</li> <li>• Gartmorn Dam/core path 121 - the path has been resurfaced as a result of successful funding applications made by Clackmannanshire Disability Awareness Group to the Heritage Lottery Fund and Forestry Commission Scotland. The work was undertaken by the Conservation Trust Volunteers.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.6 Path agreement</b> Martin reported that he had recently dealt with a number of access issues in urban areas. At one location, in Tillicoultry, a route used by access takers had been obstructed by a trailer. The obstruction has been removed, but the local Community Council has requested that the route is formalised in some way. A path agreement has been produced and sent to the landowners for consideration.</p>	
<p><b>5.7 Open Space Strategy</b> Martin reported that the Open Space Strategy (which includes core paths) is, together with the Local Development Plan, being circulated to Council committees; after which members of the public will be able to comment on it.</p>	
<p><b>5.8 Health Walks</b> Martin reported that funding for Health Walks had ended, but that the Wee County Walkers continued to exist (and deliver health walks across Clackmannanshire) and was now run by volunteers.</p>	
<p><b>5.9 Disability Awareness Group</b> Martin reported that the Disability Awareness Group had made him aware of obstructions on some paths. He reminded Forum members of the works to remove obstruction on the path leading to Clackmannan Tower (see 3.2 above) and reported on the removal (by Community Payback personnel) of a barrier on core path 71 to the west of Sterling Mills.</p>	

<p><b>5.10 Cycling - Give Me Cycle Space / E bikes</b> Martin reported that 15 of Clackmannanshire's primary schools were participating in the Give Me Cycle Space campaign which runs from April to June. Bikeability training is taking place in the primary schools and a display team is visiting some of the schools. Martin also reported that electric bikes are using some of paths. He reported that riders of electric bikes do have a legal right of access, providing they are over the age of 14 and the bike has pedals, a motor which is not able to propel the bike at more than 15mph, does not weigh more than 40kg, the motor doesn't have a power output of more than 200 watts and that the bike has a plate showing the manufacturer, battery voltage and power output.</p>	
<p><b>5.11 SOAC</b> Martin reported on how he had attempted to address access issues and encourage responsible access in keeping with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, by posting signs. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horse dung on the Devon Way - signs displayed were produced by British Horse Society Scotland</li> <li>• Concerns over the speed of some cyclists on the Devon Way - signs stating that the path is multi-use and promoting respect for other users were displayed</li> <li>• Dogs on a golf course - Scottish Natural Heritage signs were displayed</li> <li>• Gates being left open between Alva and Tillicoultry - signs requesting that gates are left as found were posted</li> <li>• Access being taken across crops between Alloa and Clackmannan - signs informing people that the field has a crop and asking access takers to avoid damaging it by following existing paths (shown on a map) were displayed</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.12 Events</b> Martin reported that access rights extend to events and that past/future events included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gartmorn 6 running event on 10th March</li> <li>• Cyclathon on Devon Way on 21st April</li> <li>• Duathlon (running and mountain biking) between Alva and Tillicoultry on 22nd May</li> <li>• Scottish Endurance (horse) Riding Club event from Tillicoultry on 14th July</li> </ul> <p>Martin reported that he often met with event organisers and encouraged them to liaise with land managers and to post signs in advance.</p>	
<p><b>5.13 Leaflets</b> Martin reported that Ramblers Scotland had produced a new leaflet on Walking in Scotland.</p>	
<p><b>5.14 Contractors/planning</b> Martin reported that he had liaised with contractors over works on paths and that he had also commented on forest plans. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works by Skanska on core path 44 near Glenochil</li> <li>• Works by Scottish Water on Devon Way/core path 134 at Dollar</li> <li>• Plans for a new woodland at Menstrie Glen</li> <li>• Forest Plans for Harviestoun Estate, Arndean Estate and Brucefields</li> </ul>	

Estate	
<b>6.0 Feedback - Forum members</b>	
<b>6.1 Linda Howson</b> Linda reported an incident between a motorcyclist and horse rider on a path near Alva which resulted in the horse rider being thrown from their horse. She also reported that a motorist had verbally abused a horse rider on the Fishcross to Alva road and that seven horses had been deliberately released from Bankhead Farm.	
<b>6.2 Caroline Crawford</b> Caroline reported marestail growing through the tar on the new path at Menstrie. Martin said he would investigate if any treatment could be given to control it.	<b>MD</b>
<b>6.3 John Wilson</b> John reported that he had encountered some access takers who had got lost when walking between Coalsnaughton and Gartmorn Dam. Martin reported that he was aware that some access takers were having difficulty finding their way from Gartmorn Dam to Coalsnaughton, but not vice versa; and that he would install additional signs to try and reduce the chances of people getting lost.	<b>MD</b>
<b>7.0 Any other business</b>	
<b>7.1 East Lodge, Inglewood</b> Dick enquired about the current position at East Lodge. Martin advised that the Lodge had been developed and that the development had closed off the adjacent access. He reported that a Council solicitor had found a title, belonging to Ceteris, which gave a right of access past the Lodge. He also reported that it was up to Ceteris to enforce the title and undertook to find out if they were doing this.	<b>MD</b>
<b>7.2 Access Forum Partnership Agreement</b> Dick suggested that the Partnership Agreement should be reviewed. Martin identified specific sections that might be reviewed, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quorum - a meeting is quorate if just 3 people attended - is this acceptable?</li> <li>• Failure to attend meetings - does this need changed?</li> <li>• Communications plan - this hasn't been developed - should it be?</li> </ul> It was agreed that Martin would circulate the Partnership Agreement with the minute of the meeting, so that Forum members can discuss any changes that should be made to it at the next meeting of the Forum.	<b>MD All</b>
<b>8.0 Time, date and format of AGM</b>	
<b>9.1</b> The next meeting of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum will be from 2.00pm - 4.00pm on Tuesday, 3rd September 2013 in Lime Tree House.	<b>All</b>