



**Clackmannanshire  
Council**

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**The Clackmannanshire Access Forum**

**Minute of meeting held on Tuesday, 26th November 2013  
at Lime Tree House, Alloa**

	<b><u>Action</u></b>
<b><u>Present</u></b>	
<b><u>Landowners/Land Managers:</u></b>	
<b><u>User group representatives:</u></b> Eric Davidson, Linda Howson, Colin Thomson (Chair)	
<b><u>Community group representatives:</u></b> Dick Clark, Caroline Crawford, David Scott	
<b><u>Agency and advisory representatives:</u></b> David Anderson	
<b><u>Council:</u></b> Councillor Balsillie, Martin Dean	
<b><u>1.0 Apologies</u></b>	
<b><u>1.1 Apologies were received from:</u></b> - James Cullens - Gordon Durward - Sir Robert Stewart - Enid Trevett - Niall Urquhart - John Wilson	
<b><u>2.0 Approval of draft minute of meeting held on 3rd September 2013</u></b>	
<b><u>2.1</u></b> Eric proposed that the minutes were approved. This was seconded by Linda.	
<b><u>3.0 Matters arising from meeting held on 3rd September 2013</u></b>	
<b><u>3.1 Use of stiles adjacent to core path 157</u></b> Martin reported that he had spoken	

<p>to Sir Robert and that the Arndean Forest Plan showed that the woodland adjacent to the core path is due to be felled in 2014 and that, in light of this, there is no point in creating an alternative route (for dog walkers when young animals are present in the field the core path passes through), or installing stiles, through the woodland.</p>	
<p><b>3.2 Marestail growing through the tar on the new path at Menstrie</b> Martin reported that the Council's Land Contacts will treat the marestail on the path.</p>	
<p><b>3.3 Signage between Coalsnaughton and Gartmorn Dam</b> Martin reported that he had still not had time to look at the adequacy of signage pointing from Gartmorn Dam to Coalsnaughton and undertook to try and look at this.</p>	<b>MD</b>
<p><b>3.4 Partnership agreement</b> This is covered in item 4.0 below.</p>	
<p><b>3.5 Hardy's Link</b> Martin reported that he had not had time to progress an official opening of the bridge.</p>	
<p><b>3.6 3 key things that the Forum would like to see the Council do for access</b> This is covered in item 5.0 below.</p>	
<p><b><u>4.0 Partnership agreement</u></b></p>	
<p><b>4.1</b> Martin reported that the Partnership Agreement determined how the Forum operated and that Colin had suggested a number of changes to the Agreement. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amend date</li> <li>• Remove reference to Open Space Strategy</li> <li>• Add "unless otherwise agreed by a majority of Forum members" after reference to quarterly meetings</li> <li>• Delete reference to Vice Chair</li> <li>• Delete reference to a Communications Plan</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.2</b> Additional changes to the Agreement were suggested by Forum members including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A representative having stood down will be appointed for not less than 1 year and not more than 4 years</li> <li>• For a meeting to be quorate, there should also be a minimum of 5 members present</li> <li>• If a Chair is unable to attend a meeting, those present will nominate a substitute to replace them for that meeting only</li> <li>• Rescinding of membership should take account of any mitigating circumstances</li> <li>• Rescinded membership will impact on eligibility to stand at the next AGM</li> <li>• Where there is a hung vote, the Chair will have the casting vote</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.3</b> It was agreed that Martin would amend the Partnership Agreement with the above changes using Track Changes and circulate the amended document to Forum members. It was also agreed that these changes would be put to next February's AGM for approval.</p>	<b>MD</b>
<p><b><u>5.0 Three priorities for access in Clackmannanshire</u></b></p>	
<p><b>5.1</b> Forum members identified the following priorities for access:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspecting access/path bridges</li> <li>• Maintaining core paths</li> <li>• Filling gaps (missing links) in the path network eg Alva to Fishcross</li> <li>• Ensuring the continuity of paths that link with neighbouring authorities</li> <li>• Maximising funding opportunities</li> <li>• Making links between access and biodiversity</li> <li>• Improving access at the Black Devon Wetland</li> <li>• Making cemeteries accessible</li> </ul>	
<b>6.0 National Access Forum and Local Access Forum annual joint meeting</b>	
6.1 Lack of time prevented this item from being covered.	
<b><u>7.0 Update (including Tillicoultry Glen, Hardy's Link, Ochils Landscape Partnership, Inner Forth Landscape Initiative, Cycling, Disability Awareness Group, Events, Contractors/planning) - Access and Countryside Projects Officer</u></b>	
7.1 <b>Tillicoultry Glen</b> Martin reported that the designs for the safety works to the path were nearing completion and that the contract documents were also being prepared.	
7.2 <b>Hardy's Link</b> Martin reported that the bridge was now completed and that the plaque from the old bridge had been attached to the new bridge. He reminded Forum members that the bridge replacement had only been possible because of successful funding applications by Clackmannanshire Riders Access Group.	
7.3 <b>Ochils Landscape Partnership</b> Martin reported on 3 projects in which access works had taken, or is due to take, place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hillfoots Way - where path improvements had recently been undertaken at the west end. He also reported that new path works to the east of Tillicoultry (adjacent to the Kirk Burn and linking the A91 with the Devon Way) were imminent.</li> <li>• Alva Glen - where retaining walls have recently been constructed to stabilise slopes adjacent to paths.</li> <li>• the east side of Tillicoultry Glen - where new steps have already been installed and where further steps are due to be installed.</li> </ul>	
7.4 <b>Inner Forth Landscape Initiative</b> Martin reported that there had been doubts over whether there would be sufficient funding to improve the path at the west end of the Inner Forth Inches Trail, but that this had now been included in the project. He also reported that the Landscape Conservation Action Plan is due to be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund in the near future.	
7.5 <b>Cycling</b> Martin reported that 2 cycling groups are currently operating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycling in Clackmannanshire</li> <li>• Cycling Education Working Group</li> </ul> He also reported that cycling continued to be a high priority for Clackmannanshire Council, with the following being planned for 2014:	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycling Festival</li> <li>• Give Me Cycle Space campaign</li> <li>• Improvements to the National Cycle Network between Alva and Tillicoultry</li> <li>• Cycling events eg Cycalthon, Duathlons etc</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7.6 Disability Awareness Group</b> Martin reported that the DAG continued to meet on a regular basis and to highlight issues regarding access on paths and elsewhere. He also reported that their AGM is due to take place on 9th December in the E Centre.</p>	
<p><b>7.7 Events</b> Martin reported that events continue to use the path network and other locations in Clackmannanshire, and that he liaised with organisers of many of these events on matters such as landownership, responsible access etc. Recent/forthcoming events include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycle event utilising the National Cycle Network</li> <li>• Various events to celebrate the tercentenary of Gartmorn Dam</li> <li>• Cross country race at Lornshill</li> <li>• Hill race on The Nebit</li> <li>• Cani-cross event at Gartmorn Dam</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7.8 Contractors/planning</b> Martin reported that the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed woodland planting at Jerah was still out for consultation and that the closing date for comments is 28th November. Martin also reported that he had recently met with Scottish Woodlands over clearance work on the National Cycle Network and other Council owned countryside sites in Clackmannanshire. The purpose of these meetings was to ensure that users weren't endangered by the works and to ensure that the path isn't adversely affected from machine movements, thorns etc.</p>	
<p><b>7.9 Shelterhall Bridge</b> Martin reported that the Council had received an e mail highlighting that core path 155 to the east of Dollar is popular with local horse riders. It also said that a bridge on the path, to the south of Shelterhall, was not suitable for horse use and asked if it could be either modified or replaced so that horses could use it.</p> <p>Martin showed photographs of the bridge and sought comments from Forum members.</p> <p>Linda advised that the noise from the metal decking could alarm horses and suggested that ideally, the bridge would have railings on both sides and also kicking boards to prevent hooves from slipping off the bridge. Linda also asked whether fording the burn was a possibility.</p> <p>It was agreed that Martin and Linda would arrange to meet with the person who had written to see their concerns and to consider what could be done.</p>	<b>MD/LH</b>
<p><b>8.0 Feedback - Forum members</b></p>	
<p><b>8.1</b> Martin reported that he had been informed that a trotting rig was using the path on the former railway line at Menstrie. He advised the Forum that access rights did extend to trotting rigs, but only if they took responsible access. There followed some discussion about where the trotting rig came from and how they were accessing the path. It was agreed that Martin would endeavour to find out where the trotting rig came from and to contact the driver to encourage them to</p>	

take responsible access.	<b>MD</b>
<b>9.0 Any other business</b>	
<b>9.1</b> There was no other business.	
<b>10.0 Time and date of next meeting (AGM)</b>	
<b>10.1</b> The next meeting of the Access Forum will be it's AGM which will be held from 7.00pm to 8.30pm on Tuesday, 25th February 2014 at the Dumyat Centre in Menstrie. <b>Please note venue.</b>	<b>All</b>