



# Clackmannanshire Council

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## The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

### Note of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 25th February 2014 at Dumyat Centre, Menstrie

	<u>Action</u>
<b>Present</b>	
<b>Members of the public:</b> Donald Forbes, Simon Karner, Sam Short, Dave Taylor	
<b>Landowners/Land Managers representatives:</b> James Cullens, 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, David Scott, Enid Trevett	
<b>Agency and advisory representatives:</b>	
<b>Council officers:</b> Martin Dean, Niall Urquhart	
<b><u>1.0 Welcome</u></b> Colin welcomed everybody to the Annual General Meeting of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum.	
<b><u>1.1 Apologies</u></b> Martin reported that he had received apologies from David Anderson, Francis McKay, Brian Poett and Sir Robert Stewart.	
<b><u>1.2 Approval of draft note from 2013 AGM</u></b> Dick proposed that the note from last years AGM was approved. This was seconded by Gordon.	
<b><u>1.3 Report on the work and achievements of the Foun</u></b> Colin reported that 2013 was another busy year for the Clackmannanshire Access Forum.	

The Forum met on 3 occasions after last years AGM - in May, September and November.

Eric Davidson (Users Group) and Neil Ramsay (Agency and Advisory Group) joined the Forum at our last AGM, whilst Sir Robert Stewart (Land Managers Group) and Enid Trevett (Community Groups) stood down, but were re-elected to the Forum. I, representing the Users Group, was elected as Chair.

The Forum has provided the Council with advice on a range of issues, including:

- Priorities for access in Clackmannanshire.
- Amendments to the Forum's Partnership Agreement.
- The use of an alternative access for dog owners when cows with calves are present on core path 157.

The Forum has been provided with information on a variety of access matters, including:

- Ochils Landscape Partnership - which is delivering 22 different projects in the Hillfoots area, some of which will benefit access.
- Inner Forth Landscape Initiative - which will, subject to funding being found, deliver 4 access projects in Clackmannanshire.
- Updates on safety works to core path 61 in Tillicoultry Glen.
- Rights of way issues.
- Inclusive access improvements.
- Planning applications that have relevance to outdoor access.
- Outdoor access events that take place in Clackmannanshire - these vary in nature and include running, cycling and equestrian events. For the first time, duathlon events took place in Clackmannanshire in 2013. Every effort is made to ensure that these events do not clash with land management operations, or with other events, and that participants comply with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.
- Health Walk initiatives - the Wee County Walkers deliver health walks thanks to volunteers.
- Longer Distance Routes and Scotland's Great Trails.
- Improvements to core paths.
- Improvements to the National Cycle Network.
- Cycling initiatives and, notably, the Give Me Cycle Space Initiative that 15 Clackmannanshire schools participated in between April and June. A cycling working group has also

<p>established to address cycling matters in a co-ordinated manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Community Environmental Improvement Fund, which provided Clackmannanshire Riders Access Group with some of the funding necessary for a new, and access inclusive, bridge to be constructed over The Lade at Gartmorn Dam Country Park.</li> <li>• Implementation of the Core Paths Plan. Signs, way markers and access friendly gates continue to be installed on core paths.</li> </ul> <p>Forum members have also been provided with updates from a variety of other organisations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Scotland Green Network</li> <li>• Greenspace Scotland</li> <li>• Paths For All</li> <li>• Scottish Natural Heritage</li> <li>• The National Access Forum</li> </ul> <p>The Access and Countryside Projects Officer and I, as Chair of the Forum, attended the joint National Access Forum and Local Access Forum annual meeting in Glasgow last November. Presentations were given on a range of topics, including on the new national walking strategy and on access management during forestry operations. The day also included workshops which covered a variety of topics, ranging from the "way ahead for local access forums" to "managing commercial access". The meeting provided valuable insight into what is happening nationally, as well as providing an opportunity to share experiences with members of other Local Access Forums.</p> <p>My report illustrates that the Clackmannanshire Access Forum continues to play a key role in outdoor access provision in Clackmannanshire and with various new initiatives and developments in the county, such as the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative and the delivery of the Ochils Landscape Partnership projects (of which you will hear more later!), there is an ongoing need for the Access Forum to provide the local authority with advice in 2014 and beyond.</p>	
<p><b><u>1.4 Approval of amendments to Partnership Agreement</u></b>  Dick proposed that the amendments to the partnership agreement were approved. This was seconded by James.</p>	
<p><b><u>1.5 Election of Forum members to stakeholder groups</u></b>  Martin then explained the election process, advising that the membership of the Access Forum was equally divided between 4 stakeholder groups (land managers, user groups, community</p>	

groups and agency and advisory representatives), and that a Partnership Agreement gave the Forum direction.	
<p><b>1.6</b> He identified the vacancies in each of the 4 stakeholder groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners/Land managers - 0 vacancies, 1 current member to stand down</li> <li>• Users group - 0 vacancies, 1 current member to stand down</li> <li>• Community groups - 0 vacancies, 1 current member to stand down</li> <li>• Agency and advisory groups - 1 vacancy</li> </ul>	
<p><b>1.7</b> Elections then took place and the following were elected/re-elected to the Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners/Land managers - Sir Robert Stewart (re-elected)</li> <li>• Users group - Gordon Durward (re-elected)</li> <li>• Community groups - Caroline Crawford (re-elected)</li> <li>• Agency and advisory - 1 vacancy</li> </ul>	
<p><b>1.8</b> Current members of the Forum for 2014 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners/land managers - Sir Robert Stewart, James Cullens, Brian Poett and John Wilson.</li> <li>• Users - Eric Davidson, Gordon Durward, Linda Howson and Colin Thomson (Chair).</li> <li>• Community groups - Dick Clark, Caroline Crawford, David Scott and Enid Trevett.</li> <li>• Agency and advisory - David Anderson, Dorothy Breckenridge and Neil Ramsay. 1 vacancy.</li> <li>• Council - Councillor Donald Balsillie, Councillor Derek Stewart, Martin Dean and Niall Urquhart.</li> </ul>	
<b><u>2.0 Presentation on the Ochils Landscape Partnership</u></b>	
<b>2.1</b> Donald Forbes gave an informative presentation on the Ochils Landscape Partnership and what it is delivering on the ground.	
<b>2.2</b> Donald invited questions and was then thanked for his presentation by Colin.	
<b><u>3.0 Presentation on the wildlife that access takers might encounter in Clackmannanshire</u></b>	
<b>3.1</b> Dave Taylor gave an interesting presentation on the habitats and wildlife that occur in Clackmannanshire.	
<b>3.2</b> Dave was thanked for his presentation by Colin.	
<b><u>4.0 Close</u></b>	
<b>4.1</b> Colin thanked people for attending and concluded the meeting.	