



Clackmannanshire Council

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The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

Minute of meeting held on Tuesday, 8th December 2015 at Kilncraigs, Alloa

	Action
<u>Present</u>	
Landowners/Land Managers: John Wilson	
User group representatives: Eric Davidson, Linda Howson, John Hutcheson, Peter Munnoch (as substitute for Barbara Maddox)	
Community group representatives: Dick Clark (Chair), Alison Fox, David Scott	
Agency and advisory representatives: David Anderson	
Council: Martin Dean	
<u>1.0 Apologies</u>	
1.1 Apologies were received from: - Caroline Crawford - James Cullens - Barbara Maddox - Brian Poett - Sir Robert Stewart	
<u>2.0 Approval of draft minute of meeting held on 8th September 2015</u>	
2.1 Peter proposed that the minutes were approved. This was seconded by John H.	
<u>3.0 Matters arising from meeting held on 8th September 2015</u>	
3.1 Forum membership This is covered in item 7.0.	

<p>3.2 Events Martin reported that he would endeavour to let the British Horse Society and Clackmannanshire Riders Access Group representatives know of future cani cross events. He also commented that event organisers are encouraged to post pre-event signage and that this should also inform horse riders in advance of such events.</p>	
<p>3.3 Horse access (Coalpots Way) This is covered in items 4.0, 5.0 and 6.0.</p>	
<p><u>4.0 Approval of draft minute of site meeting held on 23rd September 2015</u></p>	
<p>4.1 John H proposed that the minutes were approved. This was seconded by John W.</p>	
<p><u>5.0 Matters arising from site meeting held on 23rd September 2015</u></p>	
<p>5.1 Update Martin reported that he sent an e mail to Forum members advising them on how the meeting with residents of Coalpots Way had gone. He commented that the residents had raised concerns about horse fouling, muddying and privacy; and that Councillor Stewart had asked that alternative routes be investigated and for a further meeting to be arranged.</p>	
<p><u>6.0 Coalpots Way</u></p>	
<p>6.1 Martin reported that the meeting with Councillors, residents, community representatives, horse riders representatives and Access Forum representative took place on 23rd September.</p>	
<p>6.2 He also reported that a padlocked chain was placed across the gap next to the gate soon after the above meeting and that this now prevented horse riders from using the route.</p>	
<p>6.3 Martin advised that the Council had met with Alloa Golf Club on 5th November to discuss ownership/title etc.</p>	
<p>6.4 Martin also advised that a meeting had taken place on 11th November to consider alternative routes. Four routes were considered - B9140, A908, Blackfaulds Road and Brandyhill Wood:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The B9140 was considered unsuitable because of an embankment, traffic and other horses. • The A908 is very busy and would only be suitable if a pegasus crossing could be installed. This is likely to be prohibitively expensive and might not be feasible for (lack of) space reasons. • The Council's Traffic and Transportation Department are looking at closing Blackfaulds Road this financial year and this would be a suitable alternative route. • Brandyhill Wood is the subject of a planning application and the proposed path around the site would, if approved and if it links with paths either side, also be a suitable alternative route. 	
<p>6.5 The next steps are for the Head of Development and Environmental Services to brief Councillors on ownership/titles and for further communication to take place with both residents and horse riders.</p>	

7.0 Partnership agreement - Public agencies stakeholder group	
7.1 Dick reported that he had written to Scottish Natural Heritage about their participation in the Forum and that they had responded saying they are willing to be a corresponding member, but will not attend meetings.	
7.2 Martin presented an amended partnership agreement and stated that the key changes were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • modified aims to reflect the legal basis for Local Access Forums - as detailed in section 25 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 • removal of the agencies and advisory stakeholder group - so that there are 3 and not 4 stakeholder groups • representatives of all 3 stakeholder groups need to be present for a meeting to be quorate 	
7.3 Forum representatives said they were accepting of the amendments and that they should be endorsed at the forthcoming AGM before being adopted.	MD
8.0 Sign duplication	
8.1 Martin reported that the Council have installed metal signs with white lettering on a green background at the road ends of core paths and that brown plastic waymarker posts with white directional arrows have been installed at decision points between roads.	
8.2 Martin also reported that on some paths there was sign duplication because the Ochils Landscape Partnership had installed signs (white lettering on a brown background) advertising the Diamond Jubilee Hillfoots Way and River Devon Trail.	
8.3 Martin reported that the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative (IFLI) also plan to sign their access projects, so the issue of duplication may become more widespread across the county. IFLI plan to install metal signs with white lettering on a green background at the road ends and brown plastic waymarker posts with white directional arrows in between.	
8.4 Martin then sought advice from the Forum on how to address the duplication. The Forum advised that the Access and Countryside Projects Officer should determine how to address the duplication in the OLP area on a case by case basis. In the IFLI area, they advised that existing signs should be removed and be replaced with new signs which replicate the information given on the old ones.	MD
9.0 Update (including Ochils Landscape Partnership, Inner Forth Landscape Initiative, Motorbikes etc) - Access and Countryside Projects Officer	
9.1 Ochils Landscape Partnership Martin reported that the Ochils Landscape Partnership project finished on 30th November, that the works are due to be maintained for 10 years and that consideration is being given to creating a charity entitled Enabling Projects In Clackmannanshire (EPIC) to undertake this maintenance; as well as to undertake other works elsewhere in Clackmannanshire.	
9.2 Inner Forth Landscape Initiative Martin reported that the Cambus Whisky	

<p>and Wetland Wander and A Walk To The Wetland projects are due to be delivered in early 2016. He also reported that a proposal to build a sustainable urban drainage system (SUDS) pond had complicated A Walk To The Wetland project, but that this difficulty had been overcome by relocating the pond to the side of the path.</p>	
<p>9.3 NCN/Greening Greenways Martin reported that the Greening Greenways initiative is being delivered by Sustrans and that it aims to improve the biodiversity adjacent to the National Cycle Network. He reported that Habitat Management Plans had been produced for the Alloa-Dollar and Alva-Tillicoultry routes, that training courses had been delivered on both routes and that volunteers were now undertaking works to make a difference on the ground.</p>	
<p>9.4 NAF-LAF Annual meeting Martin attended the annual National Access Forum and Local Access Forums meeting which took place at Battleby, near Perth on 20th November. This years theme was Keeping your Local Access Forum vital - Important/Relevant/Healthy. Martin reported that there were presentations and discussions covering a range of topics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scotland's Town Week and Town Centre Toolkits • East Lothian Active Travel consultations • Refreshing Local Access Forums - Loch Lomond and North Lanarkshire • Volunteering • Dog fouling 	
<p>9.5 Motorbikes Martin reported that motorbikes had been taking unauthorised access in the Ochils and that this had resulted in sheep needing to be rounded back up (at considerable expense to the farmer!) and damage to fencing. The Council has posted signs advertising that motorbike access is not permissible. Police Scotland have also assisted in the matter and have visited suspected culprits and posted warnings on their social media pages.</p>	
<p>9.6 Harviestoun - deer movements Martin reported that he had met with Harviestoun Estate to discuss how to minimise impacts on access takers using a core path when deer are being moved across it. This happens approximately 15 times a year and takes approximately 15 minutes each time. Temporary deer fencing across the path is necessary to prevent deer from escaping and this means that access takers are stopped. Martin reported that he had recommended that signage is displayed at the start of the path when the deer are being moved. John H suggested that warning signage was also placed at the other (Harviestoun Castle) end of the path, at a point where access takers could easily divert onto another route. Martin agreed to suggest this to the Estate.</p>	MD
<p>9.7 Events Martin reported that there had been a number of events since the last meeting, including cani cross, hill running races, cross country and sponsored walks. He also reported that he had assisted the organisers in liaising with land managers and with pre-event signage which lets other access takers know what is happening.</p>	
<p>9.8 Contractors/planning Martin reported that he made comments in respect of</p>	

<p>outdoor access on a number of planning applications, reports and strategies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SUDS pond in Alloa • Right of way at Broomrigg • Dollar Forest - Forest Plan Scoping Report • Clackmannanshire Local Transport Strategy • Brandyhill Wood 	
<u>10.0 Tillicoultry Glen</u>	
10.1 Martin reported that the Council intend to undertake rock stabilisation works in early 2016, but that funding for the path remediation works still needs to be sourced.	
<u>11.0 Feedback Forum members</u>	
11.1 Linda reported that Clackmannanshire Riders Access Group were recently presented with a national award by the British Horse Society for the fund raising and path improvement works they have undertaken in Clackmannanshire. She advised that CRAG have contributed almost £100,000 of improvements to the path network in and around Gartmorn Dam Country Park since their formation in 1997, and that the replacement of the bridge over The Lade was funded by monies sourced by CRAG.	
<u>12.0 Any other business</u>	
12.1 Copies of the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Action Plan for 2012-2017 were distributed to Forum members.	
<u>13.0 Time and date of next meeting</u>	
13.1 The next meeting of the Access Forum is the AGM which will take place from 7.00pm-8.30pm on Tuesday, 23rd February 2016 at the Dumyat Centre in Menstrie.	All