



Clackmannanshire Council

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The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

Note of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 23rd February 2016 at Dumyat Centre, Menstrie

	Action
Present	
Members of the public: Yvonne Boles, Stuart Dean, Roxanne Kerr, Ewart McAuslane, Chris Noble, Gabrielle Rice-Grunert, M Scott, Mike Wilson	
Landowners/Land Managers representatives: John Wilson	
User group representatives: Eric Davidson, John Hutcheson, Linda Howson, Barbara Maddox	
Community group representatives: Dick Clark (Chair), Caroline Crawford, Alison Fox, David Scott	
Agency and advisory representatives: David Anderson	
Council officers: Martin Dean	
<u>1.0 Welcome</u> Dick welcomed everybody to the Annual General Meeting of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum.	
<u>1.1 Apologies</u> Martin reported that he had received apologies from James Cullens, Brian Poett and Sir Robert Stewart.	
<u>1.2 Approval of draft note from 2015 AGM</u> David A proposed that the note from last years AGM was approved. This was seconded by Eric.	
<u>1.3 Report on the work and achievements of the Forum</u> Dick gave the following report:	

"2015 was another busy year for the Clackmannanshire Access Forum.

The Forum met on 3 occasions after last years AGM - in May, September and December. It also held site visits to Fishcross in September and attended a Public meeting on the subject of Access Rights within the area of Fishcross.

At last years AGM, Brian Poett stood down but was re-elected to the Land Managers Group. 3 new members were elected to the Forum - John Hutcheson and Barbara Maddox were elected to the Users Group, and Alison Fox was elected to the Communities Group. 3 vacancies exist in the Agency and advisory group. Dick Clark was elected as Chair.

The Forum has become very aware of the changing use of the countryside and how the Core Path Network is being accessed by ALL authorised users and contributing to the well being and connection to Communities within the County.

This has contributed to an increase of groups enjoying the diverseness of the area with advantages to a greater understanding of it being understood. We will continue to maintain as a Forum on the ever changing need by consensus in advising the Council on matters of Access with an emphasis of fairness to all users and respect of ownership of land.

The Forum advised the Council on signage relating to deer movements on core path 138 at Harviestoun and on addressing sign duplication in the Hillfoots. Advice has also been given on dealing with problems of unauthorised motorbike activity and on updating the **Forum's Partnership Agreement**.

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

- Ochils Landscape Partnership - which finished in November and delivered 22 different projects in the Hillfoots area, some of which will benefit access. EPIC (Enabling Projects in Clackmannanshire) has recently been created and will maintain the OLP projects for 10 years.
- Inner Forth Landscape Initiative - which will deliver 4 access projects in Clackmannanshire. Works are currently taking place on the Walk to the Wetland and the Cambus Whisky and Wetland Wander projects.
- Inner Forth Landscape Initiative trainees - who have undertaken improvement works to a number of paths bordering the Forth.

- Cycling and the work of the Cycling in Clackmannanshire Forum.
- Improvements to the National Cycle Network and the Greening Greenways initiative which has written Habitat Management Plans for the paths between Alva and Tillicoultry and between Alloa and Dollar. It will recruit and train volunteers to enhance the biodiversity of the verges bordering the network.
- Inclusive access and the work of the Clackmannanshire Disability Awareness Group.
- Outdoor access events that take place in Clackmannanshire - these vary in nature and include cross-country and hill running, cani-cross and equestrian events. 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.
- Planning applications that have relevance to outdoor access.
- Rights of way issues.
- Improvements to core paths.
- Implementation of the Core Paths Plan. Signs, way markers and access friendly gates continue to be installed on core paths.

Forum members have also been provided with updates from a variety of other organisations, including:

- Central Scotland Green Network
- Greenspace Scotland
- Paths For All
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- The National Access Forum

The Access and Countryside Projects Officer attended the joint National Access Forum and Local Access Forums annual meeting at Battleby last November. The theme of the meeting was Keeping your Local Access Forum vital - Important/Relevant/Healthy, and included presentations and discussions covering a range of topics, including:

- 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

The meeting provided valuable insight into the issues affecting

<p>other Local Access Forums, as well as providing an opportunity for sharing experiences.</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 new cycle path.</p> <p>There is an ongoing need for the Access Forum to provide the local authority with advice in and beyond 2016 and I would ask that that not only on Core Paths but also the Forum look towards the Assertion of the many Rights of Way within the County which are in danger of being lost."</p>	
<p><u>1.4 Approval of amendments to Partnership Agreement</u> Those present approved amendments to the Partnership Agreement</p>	
<p><u>1.5 Election of Forum members to stakeholder groups</u> Martin explained the election process, advising that the membership of the Access Forum was equally divided between 3 stakeholder groups (land managers, user groups and community groups), and that a Partnership Agreement gave the Forum direction. He reminded those present that the amended Partnership Agreement meant there would no longer be an Agency and Advisory Group.</p>	
<p>1.6 Martin then identified the vacancies in each of the 3 stakeholder groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners/Land managers - 0 vacancies, 1 current member is standing down • Users group - 0 vacancies, 1 current members to stand down • Community groups - 0 vacancies, 1 current member to stand down 	
<p>1.7 Martin also informed the Forum that Dick had served 1 year as Chair and that, in keeping with the Partnership Agreement, he had a further year to serve.</p>	
<p>1.8 Elections then took place and the following were elected/re-elected to the Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners/Land managers - 1 vacancy exists • Users group - Linda Howson • Community groups - David Scott 	
<p>1.9 Current members of the Forum for 2016 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners/land managers - Sir Robert Stewart, Brian Poett and John Wilson. • Users - Eric Davidson, John Hutcheson, Linda Howson and Barbara Maddox. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community groups - Dick Clark (Chair), Caroline Crawford, Alison Fox and David Scott. • Council - Martin Dean. 	
2.0 Presentation on the work of Paths For All by Roxanne Kerr.	
2.1 Roxanne gave an informative presentation on the work Paths For All does, of the changes it has undergone in recent years and of ways in which it can assist communities develop walking initiatives.	
2.2 Roxanne answered questions and was then thanked for her presentation by Dick.	
3.0 Presentation on the Black Devon Wetlands by Yvonne Boles of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.	
3.1 Yvonne gave an interesting presentation on the work that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds have done at the Black Devon Wetlands, and their plans for the future.	
3.2 Yvonne was thanked for her presentation by Dick and answered a number of questions relating to her work.	
4.0 Close	
4.1 Dick thanked people for attending the AGM and concluded the meeting.	