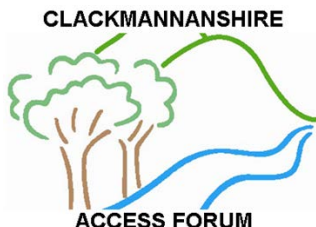




Clackmannanshire Council

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The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

Note of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 21st February 2017 at Dumyat Centre, Menstrie

	Action
Present	
Members of the public: Stuart Dean, David McCain, A McKenzie, D Ransk, M Scott, M Webbam, 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	
Council officers: Martin Dean	
1.0 Welcome Dick welcomed everybody to the Annual General Meeting of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum.	
1.1 Apologies Martin reported that he had received apologies from Brian Poett, Ian McFarlane and Sir Robert Stewart.	
1.2 Approval of draft note from 2016 AGM Linda proposed that the note from last years AGM was approved. This was seconded by Eric.	
1.3 Report on the work and achievements of the Forum Dick gave the following report: "2016 was another busy year for the Clackmannanshire Access Forum.	

The Forum met on 2 occasions after last years AGM - in May and November. It also visited the Black Devon Wetland in September.

At last years AGM, Linda Howson stood down from the Users Group and David Scott stood down from the Communities Group. Both were re-elected. The single vacancy in the Land Managers Group was unfilled. Ian McFarlane was subsequently recruited to fill this.

The Forum, in keeping with the functions detailed in section 25 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, continues to provide the local authority with advice on matters concerning access rights, the existence and delineation of rights of way, and on core paths plans; and assists with the resolution of disputes about access rights, the existence and delineation of rights of way, the core paths plan and the use of core paths.

In 2017 the Forum advised the Council on:

- Canyoning and how to promote responsible canyoning in the Hillfoots Glens.
- The wording on signs promoting responsible dog walking.

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

- Inner Forth Landscape Initiative – which has now delivered 2 access projects in Clackmannanshire – the Cambus Whisky and Wetland Wander and the Walk to The Wetland. 2 further projects, the Inner Forth Inches Trail and the Clackmannan and Alloa Park Access Improvements are due to be delivered are due to be delivered in 2017-18 – the fourth and final year of IFLI.
- Enabling Projects In Clackmannanshire has now been formed and will maintain the projects that were delivered by the Ochils Landscape Partnership.
- The Gartmorn Dam Country Park Development Trust has been formed and aims to conserve and enhance the Country Park. I recently attended one of their meetings and wish them well in their aspirations for the area.
- Cycling and the work of the Cycling in Clackmannanshire Forum.
- Improvements to the National Cycle Network and the Greening Greenways initiative which aims to improve the biodiversity of path verges between Alva and Tillicoultry and between Alloa and Dollar. Hedges have been planted, woodland thinned, invasive species removed and wildflower meadows created.

- The Wee Walk/Wee Cycle initiative which promotes walking and cycling on active travel routes in Clackmannanshire.
- The rock stabilisation and path remediation works that have been taking place in Tillicoultry Glen.
- Inclusive access and the work of the Clackmannanshire Disability Awareness Group.
- Measures to publicise responsible access and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. The Forum was informed of British Horse Society Scotland measures to promote responsible horse access and of their new leaflet entitled horse sense, and of signs that were produced to promote responsible access through a cemetery.
- 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. The Forum was advised that the landowner has decided not to pursue the diversion of core path 26 at Midtown.

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

- Central Scotland Green Network
- Greenspace Scotland
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society
- The National Access Forum

The site visit to the Black Devon Wetland took place on 13th September 2016. Forum members were shown newly constructed paths and advised of future proposals for the area. Lord Mar led the group around 1600m of new path on land he owns, described some of the issues the contractors faced undertaking the works and highlighted some of the challenges of managing access on the urban fringe, which included motorbikes. Yvonne Boles described the Royal Society for the Protection of

<p>Birds' aims for their site, which included new paths and an observation platform. It was agreed by those present that the visit was extremely useful in gaining insight into the development and management of access routes which are close to communities. I must make my apology for being unable to attend after having been party to arranging the visit.</p> <p>My report illustrates that the Clackmannanshire Access Forum continues to play a key role in outdoor access provision in Clackmannanshire and in the various new initiatives and developments in the county. As Chair, I've met with Martin Dean on a regular basis to discuss emerging issues. The Clackmannanshire partnership with Stirling City Deal is one such issue and I've corresponded directly with the respective Council Officers to ensure the Access Forum will be included in future consultations.</p> <p>Hence, with all these new opportunities there is an ongoing need for the Access Forum to provide advice on "Responsible Access and Right of Way" issues in 2017 and beyond.</p> <p>My personal thanks to all over this past year for their courtesy and dedication."</p>	
<p><u>1.4 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.</p>	
<p>1.5 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>1.6 Elections then took place and the following were elected/re-elected to the Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners/Land managers – John Wilson • Users group - Eric Davidson • Community groups – Dick Clark 	
<p>1.7 Current members of the Forum for 2017 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners/land managers - Sir Robert Stewart, Ian McFarlane, Brian Poett and John Wilson. • Users - Eric Davidson, John Hutcheson, Linda Howson 	

<p>and Barbara Maddox.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community groups - Dick Clark (Chair), Caroline Crawford, Alison Fox and David Scott. • Council - Martin Dean. 	
<p><u>1.8 Election of Chair</u></p> <p>Martin also informed the Forum that Dick had served 2 years as Chair and that, in keeping with the Partnership Agreement, the position is passed onto a representative from another stakeholder group. He reported that none of the Landowners/Land managers were able to take on the position and that this was also the case with the Users group, which meant it returned to the Community group.</p> <p>He further advised that Dick had been re-elected Chair.</p>	
<p>2.0 Presentation on rights of way by Bob Aitken of the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society</p>	
<p>2.1 Bob gave an informative presentation on the work the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society does, of the changes it has undergone since it was formed and of its ongoing relevance to access since the passing of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.</p>	
<p>2.2 Bob answered questions and was then thanked for his presentation by Dick.</p>	
<p>3.0 Presentation on Dollar Glen by Callum McNeill-Ritchie of the National Trust for Scotland</p>	
<p>3.1 Callum was unable to attend the meeting because of vehicle breakdown.</p>	
<p><u>4.0 Close</u></p>	
<p>4.1 Dick thanked people for attending the AGM and concluded the meeting.</p>	