



CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL



The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

Minute of meeting held on 27th May 2008
in the Boardroom, Kilncraigs, Alloa

	Action
Present	
Landowners/Land Managers: Sir Robert Stewart, Brian Poett, James Cullens	
Agency representatives: Councillor Harry McLaren, Alistair Lawson	
Advisors: Colin Ward, Mike Shepherd	
Community group representatives: Caroline Crawford, Dick Clark	
User group representatives: Linda Howson, Drew Michie	
Council officers: Martin Dean	
1.0 Apologies	
Landowners/Land Managers:	
Agency representatives: Councillor Walter McAdam	
Advisors:	
Community group representatives: Jane Coull	

User group representatives: Robin Kelsall	
Council officers: Niall Urquhart, Euan Hills	
Note: Alistair Scott has resigned as a Community group representative on the Forum.	
<u>2.0 Presentation by Audrey Morrison on the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust</u>	
2.1 Audrey gave an informative presentation on the Trust. She advised that it is an independent organisation managed by a board of Trustees.	
2.2 She explained that the Trust was established to distribute funds raised (through the disposal of municipal waste by Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils) under the Landfill Communities Fund and cited the sand martin bank at Gartmorn Dam Country Park as an example of a project which has been funded in the past.	
2.3 For a project to be eligible for funding from the Trust it must: - be for the benefit of the public - be located within the Clackmannanshire and/or Stirling Council areas - enhance sustainability, and - be compliant with the landfill communities fund scheme	
2.4 Priorities for funding include projects which: - restore or improve community resources - restore or enhance the built/natural environment for the benefit of the public, and - enhance or protect local biodiversity	
2.5 Projects can receive up to £4,000, but larger projects will also be considered. 100% funding will be considered, but match funding is preferred.	
2.6 Audrey advised that the total Trust budget for projects is ca £200,000, that they meet three times a year to consider applications and that they are oversubscribed. She also said that the Forum could apply to the Trust for funding.	
2.7 Alistair thanked Audrey for her presentation.	
<u>3.0 Approval of minutes of 26th February 2008</u>	
3.1 The minutes were approved by Councillor McLaren and seconded by Dick.	
<u>4.0 Matters arising</u>	
4.1.1 Motorbikes Drew asked if there had been a clear remit for the Working Group that had looked at the motorbike issue.	
4.1.2 Alistair informed the Forum that its role is to advise and assist the Council. Councillor McLaren stated that he was	

satisfied with the findings of the Working Group, that he hadn't been aware that the matter was already being dealt with by the Council and that he thought the Council was dealing with the matter reasonably well. He added that one-off use of an area would be difficult to deal with.	
4.1.3 Drew asked who the presence of motorbikes should be reported to and was advised by Councillor McLaren that it should be to the Community Wardens. Drew suggested that this should be more widely publicised. He also asked if motorbike purchases need to be registered and if not, whether there is scope to make it a requirement. Alistair asked Councillor McLaren if he could get comment from Legal Services on this.	Cllr HM
4.1.4 Brian reminded the Forum that the Land Reform Act did not give a right of access for motorbikes.	
4.1.5 Drew asked if the issue could be raised at the National Access Forum. Alistair suggested that there would be an opportunity to raise the matter at the Local Access Forum Networking Event in Stirling on 19 th June.	AL
4.2.1 Hardy's Link Martin reported that he still had to meet Audrey Morrison (of the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust) to discuss the possibility of landfill tax monies funding a new bridge at Hardy's Link.	MD
4.3.1 Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust Audrey Morrison gave a presentation on the Trust earlier in the meeting.	
4.4.1 Alva Horse Access Linda reported that a gap had been created in the barrier adjacent to the road bridge near the new Alva Academy, and that a new gate had been installed in it. She commented that the installation had a number of drawbacks including the gate opening two ways – one of which was onto the road, the latch being so low as to require riders to dismount when using it and that there was not an off-road standing area. It was agreed that Martin would investigate the matter.	MD
4.5.1 Election of Chair/Vice Chair Alistair sought clarification on how long his election as Chair was for. It was noted that the Partnership Agreement states that the Chair will serve for a period of one year and that the Agreement is due to be reviewed in the near future.	
4.6.1 Core Paths Plan – final draft Brian reiterated the safety concerns he has over creating core paths where there are livestock.	
4.6.2 Martin commented that access takers should act responsibly (in keeping with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code), but that land managers also had an obligation to undertake their operations in a manner which paid regard to the safety of their staff and others, including access takers. Brian stated that land	

managers do have a duty of care, but that he felt that the Council did too, and that core paths should not be created where there are movements of livestock.	
4.6.3 Alistair made analogies with forestry operations when signage and personnel are deployed to address safety issues.	
4.6.4 Colin suggested that core paths can help ease land management operations because the majority of access takers will tend to use them, rather than follow alternative routes.	
4.6.5 Councillor McLaren commented that every core path will have some issues in respect of safety.	
4.6.6 Alistair stated that the formal consultation will give those with concerns over safety an opportunity to raise them.	
<u>5.0 Amendments to Partnership Agreement and re-election of members</u>	
5.1 Alistair proposed that items 5.0, 6.0 and 11.0 were dealt with together. This was accepted by the Forum. Minutes for items 5.0 and 6.0 are reported under 6.0.	
<u>6.0 Role of The Clackmannanshire Access Forum</u>	
6.1 Alistair sought views on what members felt about the Access Forum.	
6.2 Drew said that he felt that it had given him an opportunity to hear the views of others, but that it would be useful to measure the Forum's effectiveness. Brian said that he had found the Forum useful and that it had allowed him to put forward his views and to hear those of others. Caroline commented that the Forum had started with "gusto" and had "jogged" along since. Councillor McLaren stated that he felt the Forum had served a useful purpose in that it had brought different people together.	
6.3 Alistair then asked whose fault it was if the Forum wasn't working well.	
6.4 Councillor McLaren said there had been some apathy with regard to core paths.	
6.5 Alistair then raised the question of whether the Forum should receive more support from the Council and if so, who should ask for it.	
6.6 Councillor McLaren responded that it should probably be him. Drew referred to the guide to good practice for Local Access Forums produced by the Paths For All Partnership and Scottish Natural Heritage. He made reference to involving others, to projects and to dealing with problems; and cited examples of how the Clackmannanshire Access Forum had contributed to these. He also highlighted the need to measure itself against key functions and for members to communicate with those they represent.	

<p>6.7 Alistair suggested that there had been a failure to communicate with the constituency being represented.</p>	
<p>6.8 Brian commented that there seemed to be a desire to raise the profile of access and of the Forum, but added that access was not a “banner headline” in Clackmannanshire.</p>	
<p>6.9 Alistair stated that he felt the Forum is “honour bound” to go back to all the people that attended the original meeting.</p>	
<p>6.10 Sir Robert questioned whether the Forum is “honour bound” to do so, adding that he felt the Forum should stick together.</p>	
<p>6.11 Alistair commented that members representation on the Forum was as a result of their being elected and that he felt there was a need to revisit the Partnership Agreement and the Communication Plan, and to have an Annual General Meeting. He asked whether the Forum agenda and minutes could appear on Clacksweb and whether the number of “hits” to these pages could be recorded. He also mentioned that Drew had raised the question of engagement and commented how working groups had helped “brainstorm” issues and engage members - citing Hardy’s Link and motorbikes as examples. He added that he felt the Forum involving itself in projects could make an important contribution and asked whether the Clackmannanshire Access Forum couldn’t become a national leader like North Lanarkshire had become in the way in which they dealt with motorbikes.</p>	
<p>6.12 Mike commented that the Forum shouldn’t be too hard on itself, adding that it was an advisory body and should not be concerned with delivering projects. Colin stated that it was good for organisations like forums to take stock of where they are and that communication is also an issue in other forums. He also highlighted the need for all groups to be represented, suggested an AGM as a good way of achieving this and promoted the Local Access Forum Networking Day as a way of learning about good practice elsewhere.</p>	
<p>6.13 Alistair highlighted the fact that there had been few access issues for the Forum to consider and commented that people might not know of the Forums existence. He also questioned how the profile of the Forum could be raised with members of the public.</p>	
<p>6.14 Caroline said that she felt that there isn’t enough engagement with youth. Drew referred to page 39 of the guide to good practice for Local Access Forums which highlighted that Fife Access Forum have a permanent Communications Working Group. Dick suggested that a monthly column in the papers could be a means of promoting the Forum to the public. Brian felt that there will be more issues for the Forum to address once the core paths have been adopted, something which Drew questioned in light of the Foot and Mouth Disease experience. Drew also asked</p>	

whether Martin could make contact with the Fife Access Forum to find out how their Communication Working Group operates.	MD
6.15 Alistair suggested that the Forum look again at communication at the next Forum meeting. He also suggested that a working group be established to review the Forum's Partnership Agreement and Communication Plan. This was agreed and a meeting set for 24 th June.	AL DC DM MD
<u>7.0 Core Paths Plan</u>	
7.1 Martin advised that Council approval of the Draft Core Paths Plan is being sought at the meeting on 5 th June 2008. If given, the Plan is to be progressed towards adoption by being subjected to a formal 12 week consultation period.	MD
7.2 Should any formal objections be received as a result of the consultation, the Council has 3 months to try and resolve these and, should this not be possible; a public inquiry is to be held.	
7.3 Linda asked whether the members had any detailed knowledge of the Core Path Planning process. Councillor McLaren advised that Martin had given a presentation to the Labour members which had raised awareness of the process.	
<u>8.0 SEA</u>	
8.1 Martin advised that the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 requires that plans (such as Core Paths Plans) are subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment in order to assess its effects on the environment.	
8.2 Martin reported that the Environmental Report (of the SEA) concluded that the Core Paths Plan has both positive and neutral impacts, and that it does not predict any significant cumulative environmental impacts. He also said that it does propose some signage to raise awareness of sensitive areas and highlights the need for ongoing monitoring.	
8.3 Martin further reported that the Environmental Report also requires to be subject to public consultation and advised that this would take place concurrently with the Core Paths Plan consultation.	MD
<u>9.0 National Cycle Route</u>	
9.1 Martin reported that the National Cycle Route had recently been upgraded at Cambus with a £75,000 grant from Sustrans. This had allowed an 800m section to be upgraded to the east of the village and 400m section upgraded to the west.	
9.2 Martin also reported that a £35,000 grant from Sustrans had enabled an 800m section of the Devon Way at Sauchie to be upgraded.	
9.3 Martin advised that further grant aid had been secured from	

Sustrans for 2008-2009 subject to the Council making a financial contribution of a minimum of 50%. Further works are planned for the National Cycle Route at Cambus/Tullibody, for the Devon Way (in Alloa and Sauchie) and to progress the Menstrie Branch (former railway) line becoming a path.	
9.4 There followed some discussion about the surfacing of the Devon Way to the north of Sauchie, amidst concerns that tarring isn't a good surface for horse riding. It was agreed that Martin and Linda would meet to investigate alternatives.	MD LH
10.0 Update on other groups	
10.1 British Horse Society Linda reported that she had been liaising with Martin over horse access adjacent to the new Alva Academy.	
10.2 Paths For All Partnership Colin reminded people of the Local Access Forum Network Event being organised on 19 th June.	
10.3 Councillor McLaren reported that he had received correspondence from a cyclist who had had difficulty passing kissing gates on a right of way. It was agreed he and Martin would investigate the matter.	MD Cllr HM
10.4 Cycling Scotland/Scottish Canoe Association Drew reported that he had had discussion with a dog owner regarding fouling. Mike advised that Scottish Natural Heritage had produced a new leaflet and posters targeting dog owners.	
10.5 Sir Robert reported that different user groups were exercising their access rights on his land and that they were doing so responsibly.	
10.6 Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society Dick reported that the Ochils Landscape Partnership is due to meet on 11 th June.	
10.7 Menstrie Community Council Caroline reported that she fed information back to the Community Council.	
10.8 Scottish Rural Property and Business Association Brian reported that the Association was due to meet to discuss access and that he would report back to the Forum.	
10.9 Scottish Natural Heritage Mike reported that SNH were producing guidance on monitoring access.	
10.10 Scotways Alistair reported that Scotways had initiated a Heritage Paths Project. Dick advised that he has provided Scotways with some information in respect of the project.	
10.11 National Farmers Union of Scotland James reported that many farmers still had access concerns.	
11.0 PFAP LAF training course 19th June 2008	
11.1 It was agreed that Councillor McLaren, Alistair, Dick and	Cllr HM

Martin would attend the Local Access Forum Networking Event to be held in Stirling on Thursday, 19 th June 2008.	AL DC MD
12.0 Any other business	
12.1 Scottish Outdoor Access Code DVD Martin reported that he had been sent a DVD from Scottish Natural Heritage publicising the SOAC. He advised that he had forwarded it to Lime Tree House where it will be shown in the reception area.	
12.2 Dog owners leaflet and posters Mike distributed new leaflets and posters produced by Scottish Natural Heritage that target dog owners.	
12.3 Clackmannanshire Walking Festival Martin reported that the Clackmannanshire Tourism Association are organising a Walking Festival in Clackmannanshire from Thursday, 18 th September 2008 to Monday, 22 nd September 2008 inclusive. Three or four walks are planned each day.	
12.4 Local Access Forum Workshop Martin advised that a free workshop is being organised for Local Access Forum Recreational User Representatives on Saturday, 22 nd November in Stirling. It is being organised by Ramblers Scotland, Mountaineering Council of Scotland, British Horse Society, Scottish Canoe Association, Scotways, Cyclists Touring Club and Sustrans, and is supported by the Paths For All Partnership. To book onto the workshop contact Helen Todd at Ramblers Scotland tel 01577 861222 or e mail Helen.Todd@ramblers.org.uk	
13.0 Time and date of next meeting	
13.1 The next meeting of The Clackmannanshire Access Forum will be at 2.00pm on Tuesday, 26 th August 2008 in the Boardroom, Kilncraigs, Greenside Street, Alloa, FK10 1EB.	