



CLACKMANNANSHIRE

COUNCIL



The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

Minute of meeting held on 26th August 2008
in the Boardroom, Kilncraigs, Alloa

	<u>Action</u>
Present	
Landowners/Land Managers: Brian Poett, James Cullens	
Agency representatives: Councillor Harry McLaren, Alistair Lawson	
Advisors: Colin Ward, Mike Shepherd	
Community group representatives:	
User group representatives: Linda Howson, Drew Michie, Robin Kelsall	
Council officers: Martin Dean, Euan Hills, Jane Begg (until end of item 2.0)	
1.0 Apologies	
Landowners/Land Managers: Sir Robert Stewart	
Agency representatives: Councillor Walter McAdam	
Advisors:	
Community group representatives: Dick Clark, Caroline	

Crawford, Jane Coull	
User group representatives:	
Council officers: Niall Urquhart	
<u>2.0 Presentation by Jane Begg on Woodlands In and Around Town</u>	
2.1 Jane explained that the Woodlands In and Around Town (WIAT) initiative aims to make small woods that are within or close to urban areas more accessible and more attractive to the public.	
2.2 Jane divides her time between Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils.	
2.3 A number of woods were considered for WIAT funding in Clackmannanshire, with funding been given to the Woodland Park, Cowpark Wood, Woodlea Park and Headwall Wood.	
2.4 Woodland Park is located between Alva and Tillicoultry. The proposals for the wood include some timber extraction and path improvements.	
2.5 Cowpark Wood is to the east of Sauchie. The intention is to surface some of the paths and to provide links with paths in Sauchie and to other paths in the adjacent Forestry Commission woodland.	
2.6 Woodlea Park lies to the north west of Alloa. Sections of the proposed core path that passes through the woodland will be surfaced and links created from/to adjacent housing areas.	
2.7 Headwall Wood is at Gartmorn Dam, near Sauchie. Consideration is being given to the need for any formal access through the woodland.	
2.8 Jane advised that the above works will take place throughout the winter of 2008-2009.	
2.9 She also advised that the Scottish Rural Development Programme may provide financial support to private landowners wishing to do similar works to their woods.	
<u>3.0 Approval of minutes of 27th May 2008</u>	
3.1 The minutes of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum meeting held on 27th May 2008 were approved as an accurate record by Councillor Harry McLaren and seconded by James Cullens.	
<u>4.0 Matters arising</u>	
4.1.1 Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust There was some discussion surrounding whether the Forum should concern itself with projects (similar to those that some other Fora do) that the Trust might be able to help finance. Opinion was divided over this and it was agreed that the idea should be borne in mind in the future.	

4.2.1 Motorbikes Councillor McLaren reported that Legal Services have advised him that the Council does not have powers to insist that motorbikes are registered.	
4.2.2 It was noted that the Police and Community Wardens are continuing to deal with the problem, but that this was proving difficult because there were few established patterns (with regard to time and place) of use.	
4.2.3 There was discussion on the pros and cons of advertising motorbike facilities in other locations, such as North Lanarkshire, to people using motorbikes in Clackmannanshire. It was agreed that leaflets on the North Lanarkshire facility would be sourced for distribution.	AL
4.2.4 A consensus was reached that the Council should be asked to look at the problems caused by motorbikes again and that a letter to this effect should be written to the Provost.	AL
4.3.1 Horse access Martin reported that the gate adjacent to the entrance to Alva Academy had been improved for equestrian users with the addition of an extended handle and one way opening - away from the road.	
4.3.2 There was some discussion on whether measures to facilitate equestrian access were in response to regulations, guidance or personal views.	
4.3.3 Equestrian access factsheets can be found on the Paths For All website at http://www.pathsforall.org.uk/outdooraccess/article.asp?id=146	
4.4.1 Role of The Clackmannanshire Access Forum See item 6.0.	
4.5.1 Core Paths Plan See item 8.0.	
4.6.1 SEA See item 8.0.	
4.7.1 National Cycle Route See item 10.0.	
4.8.1 Kissing gates Martin reported that he and Councillor McLaren had visited the site and that the kissing gates were not cycle friendly. He further advised that the gates are on a proposed core path and that if it was adopted as a core path, the kissing gates would be replaced by self closing gates.	
4.9.1 PFAP LAF training course See item 5.0.	
5.0 Paths For All Local Access Forum networking event - report by Alistair Lawson	
5.1 The networking event took place in Stirling on Thursday, 19th June and attracted representatives from 10 Local Access Fora including Alistair, Dick and Martin from Clackmannanshire.	
5.2 The relationship between the Fora and Councils seems to vary from area to area.	
5.3 The importance of Fora communicating with the public was recognised, with Annual General Meetings a common means of	

achieving this.	
5.4 The value of Local Access Fora having links with the National Access Forum was also highlighted and it was agreed that Clackmannanshire would be represented at the next National and Local Access Forums joint meeting in Ayr in September.	AL MD
5.5 It was noted that some Fora undertake projects.	
5.6 Membership of Fora was also discussed at the networking event with some Fora having representation from the Police and Health Boards. It was agreed that the Police and Health Board should be invited to the next AGM.	MD
<u>6.0 Amendments to Partnership Agreement and communications plan</u>	
6.1 A working group of Alistair, Drew and Martin met to review the Partnership Agreement.	
6.2 An amended Partnership Agreement was sent out to Forum members in advance of the meeting.	
6.3 Concern was expressed over the "Disclosure of a personal interest" section on the grounds that members will always have a direct or indirect personal interest. It was noted that some other Fora ask their members to sit out agenda items in which they have a personal interest. Suggestions on how to improve the wording of this section should be forwarded to Martin.	All
6.4 There was also discussion over whether, in the event of a vote being necessary because consensus cannot be reached, members should have equal status. After some deliberation it was agreed that members votes should have equal status.	
6.5 The need for a Communications Plan was also debated, with some concerns being expressed over the amount of documentation produced by groups like the Forum. It was however, considered to be necessary and in need of review and a working group was formed to do this.	AL DM MD
<u>7.0 AGM</u>	
7.1 Given that the Core Paths Plan will continue to occupy much of the Access and Countryside Projects Officers time until mid January, it was agreed that the AGM should be delayed until mid February 2009.	
7.2 It was agreed that the AGM will be an opportunity to inform the public what the Access Forum does.	
7.3 It was also agreed that a working group should be formed to decide on a date and to agree on the format of the AGM.	AL LH MD Sir RS
<u>8.0 Core Paths Plan - advice on formal objections</u>	

8.1 It was reported that the Core Paths Plan and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report (for the CPP) are being consulted upon simultaneously.	
8.2 Notice of the consultations was given in the Council Noticeboard, to Local Access Forum members, to elected members, to Community Councils, to land managers (where known), to local clubs and to earlier consultees.	
8.3 Copies of the CPP and the SEA Environmental Report can be seen on Clacksweb, at Kilncraigs reception and at drop-in sessions organised in Alloa, Alva and Dollar. Copies of the CPP can also be seen in libraries throughout Clackmannanshire.	
8.4 The consultation period is for 12 weeks from 21st July to 13th October.	
8.5 A flow chart was distributed to show the various steps that need to be undertaken for the core paths to be adopted. The Access Forum will have a role in assessing the scope for compromise in the event of any formal objections.	
8.6 There was some discussion about how many formal objections might be received and it was noted that Stirling received 18.	
8.7 Brian raised concerns over the dangers that livestock pose to users of core paths and he expressed the view that people will assume core paths will be safe to follow and commented that he thought the Council should assume some liability in the event an accident involving livestock.	
8.8 It was noted that the Land Reform Act gives a right of responsible access, that access can be taken where there is not a core path and that Scottish Outdoor Access Code provides information on responsible behaviour for both the public and land managers in respect of farm animals.	
8.9 Evidence of problems involving access takers and livestock was discussed and it was acknowledged that experiences following the passing of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act were generally good. It was also reported that rights of way have been asserted in Clackmannanshire since the early 1990's, that these are signposted and promoted with many passing through fields with livestock, and that there are not known to be any instances of injury on them.	
9.0 National Cycle Route	
9.1 Martin reported that discussions over the route between Cambus and the old A907 at Tullibody are ongoing.	
9.2 He advised that at a recent meeting between the Council, Sustrans and Netherfield Associates, it was agreed that Netherfield Associates would pursue negotiations with Diageo over securing a route across their land.	

9.3 The former railway line between Cambus and Menstrie was also discussed with Sustrans going to clarify the status of the line and the Council providing a breakdown of works for the southern section.	
10.0 Multi-use paths - report on meeting with PFAP Technical Officer and possible visit to trial site	
10.1 Martin reported that Linda and he had met Kevin Fairclough, the Technical Officer for the Paths For All Partnership, to seek advice over a "sealed" surface that is suitable for use by all users, including equestrian users.	
10.2 It was noted that tar is not an ideal surface for equestrian users, especially on slopes.	
10.3 Some concern was expressed over the needs of equestrian users, whilst others commented that the path surface should be appropriate for the range of users on a path. It was also noted that hard surfaces are more durable.	
10.4 Martin advised that Kevin had passed on information on the use of recycled rubber on paths, some of which were "sealed", in Nottinghamshire. One path type had a sub-base of type 1 and a "sealed" surface layer of stone chips mixed with recycled rubber. Whilst this seemed an ideal compromise, uncertainties remain with respect to its durability, especially if carrying service vehicles. If this is to be used, then it was considered that it should be trialled to begin with.	
10.5 Kevin had also offered to show the Forum around the Paths For All Partnership path trial site at Oatridge College in West Lothian. It was agreed that this offer should be accepted and that Martin should contact Kevin to agree a suitable date and then circulate this by e mail around Forum members.	MD
11.0 Update on other groups	
11.1 Alistair provided an update on the work of Scotways which was circulated in advance of the meeting.	
11.2 Linda forward an update on behalf of the British Horse Society (BHS) and Clackmannanshire Riders Access Group (CRAG) immediately after the meeting and this will be forwarded with the minutes.	MD
12.0 Any other business	
12.1 SNH camping posters These were circulated around the Forum.	
12.2 Clackmannanshire Walking Festival Leaflets for the Festival were circulated amongst Forum members.	
12.3 Woodland Trust Glen Devon Leaflets on recreation in Glen Devon were circulated around Forum members.	

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, 28 th October 2008 in the Boardroom, Kilncraigs, Greenside Street, Alloa, FK10 1EB. Note that this meeting will only consider any formal objections in respect of the Clackmannanshire Council Final Draft Core Paths Plan.	