



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

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The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

**Minute of meeting held on Tuesday, 1st June 2010
at Kilncraigs**

	<u>Action</u>
<u>Present</u>	
Landowners/Land Managers: Johnny Stewart (substitute for Sir Robert Stewart)	
User group representatives: Gordon Durward, Linda Howson, Jane Preston Colin Thomson	
Community group representatives: Dick Clark, David Scott	
Agency and advisory representatives: Alistair Lawson, Jane McArdle, Colin Ward	
Council officers: Martin Dean	
<u>1.0 Welcome</u>	
1.1 Alistair welcomed Jane McArdle, Jane Preston, Johnny Stewart and, in his absence, Alan Hunt to the Forum.	
<u>2.0 Apologies</u>	
2.1 Apologies were received from: - Councillor Harry McLaren - Sir Robert Stewart - Caroline Crawford - Enid Trevett - Colin Ward - Euan Hills	

- Niall Urquhart	
<u>3.0 Approval of draft minute of meeting held on 24th November 2009</u>	
3.1 Linda proposed that the minutes of 24th November 2009 were approved. This was seconded by Colin T.	
<u>4.0 Matters arising from meeting on 24th November 2009</u>	
<p>4.1 Partnership Agreement/Promotion of Forum Martin advised that he had spoken with Niall about how the Forum can advertise what it does to the wider public. He said that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agendas and minutes of meetings were posted on Clacksweb • members of the public can attend Forum meetings as observers • the Annual General Meeting is an open meeting and provides information on what the Forum had achieved • articles on the Forum have appeared in the Alloa Advertiser and Wee County News, and the Chair has been featured on Central FM <p>There was discussion about whether the media could be utilised more to promote the Forum and it was agreed that a volunteer would write an article about what it was doing after each meeting. It was also agreed that Dick would write the first article and that he would liaise with Martin and the Council's Communications prior to submitting it.</p>	DC
<p>4.2 Pegasus crossing Martin reported that he had received communication from the Roads Department that the Pegasus crossing on the A908 at Devon Village has been commissioned and that it is fully operational.</p> <p>Linda advised that there had been some problems with the Pegasus crossing and that it had not always worked properly. Martin agreed to raise the matter with the Roads Department.</p>	MD
4.3 Signage advice Martin advised that this will be discussed in item 8.0.	
4.4 Attendance Martin spoke with the two members of the Forum who had failed to attend 3 consecutive meetings. One has since stood down from the Forum and the other said that they would attend the next meeting.	
4.5 Tillicoultry Glen bridge advice Martin reported that it is intended to do works in Tillicoultry Glen as part of the Ochils Landscape Partnership and, should funding be secured, to replace the uppermost bridge with another small, unobtrusive bridge along similar lines to the existing one.	
<u>5.0 AGM held on 22nd February 2010</u>	

<p>5.1 It was noted that a draft note of Annual General Meeting held on 22nd February 2010 in Alloa Town Hall has been produced and it was agreed that this should be approved at the next AGM in 2011.</p>	
<p>6.0 Election of Chair</p>	
<p>6.1 Alistair asked Martin to take charge of proceedings.</p>	
<p>6.2 Martin stated that the Partnership Agreement stated that "The Forum will be responsible for the election of a Chair Person and Vice Chair who will serve for a period of 2 years. Normally it would be expected that the position of Chair would rotate amongst the 4 key stakeholder groups in the order of land managers, users, agencies and community groups."</p>	
<p>6.3 He then pointed out that the current Chair Person (Alistair) and Vice Chair (Dick) were elected at the Forum meeting on 26th February 2008 and have now served for a period of 2 years and are due to be replaced.</p>	
<p>6.4 Martin reported that he had received one nomination for Chair - Dick who represents Community Groups. He then asked if there were any other nominations and, since there were weren't, Dick was appointed as Chair.</p>	
<p>6.5 Martin reported that he had received one nomination for Vice Chair - Caroline who represents Community Groups. He pointed out that there was nothing in the Partnership Agreement that said the Vice Chair should be from a different stakeholder group to the Chair and then asked if there any other nominations and, since there were wasn't, appointed Caroline as Vice Chair.</p>	
<p>6.6 Martin then thanked Alistair and Dick for their respective contributions to the Forum over the last 2 years.</p>	
<p>6.7 Dick thanked the Forum for electing him as Chair, said that he was looking forward to the future and asked Alistair if would Chair the rest of the meeting, which Alistair agreed to.</p>	
<p>7.0 Presentation by Jane McArdle on Health Walks in Clackmannanshire</p>	
<p>7.1 Jane said that she was the Walking Development Officer and was based at the Clackmannanshire Community Healthcare Centre.</p>	
<p>7.2 She said that her post is supported and funded by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clackmannanshire Healthier Lives • The Braveheart Association • NHS Forth Valley • Paths For All • Forestry Commission Scotland • Comic Relief • Healthy Futures Network 	

<p>7.3 The aim of the project is to increase walking for the most sedentary populations (only 44% of men and 33% of women meet the recommendations for physical activity) and to introduce weekly walks to areas of identified need according to the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. The desire is that people will be less isolated and have improved mental health. Jane also highlighted other health benefits from walking, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved sleep • Helps prevent diabetes • Helps manage weight • Improved functioning of the heart and lungs • Reduced blood pressure etc 	
<p>7.4 Jane commented that the health walks were short (from 10 minutes increasing to 1 hour), safe, social, local, low level, led walks at a pace that suits the individuals. They don't require special equipment and are free.</p>	
<p>7.5 Jane also said that there were volunteering opportunities with Walk Leader and first aid training being available, and insurance cover provided.</p>	
<p>7.6 Jane then answered questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How are customers identified? Many are referrals from doctors. - How will success be measured? By findings from surveys. - How do people get from their house to the start of a walk? Walks often pass through communities and pick people up as they progress. - Are there walks in Dollar and Menstrie? There are walks in Dollar. Menstrie residents can participate in the walks organised in Alva. 	
<p>8.0 Core Paths Plan - Implementation</p>	
<p>8.1 Martin reported that he had now purchased signs and gates for core paths, and showed members signs that will be used to publicise the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.</p>	
<p>8.2 The next task is for the signs and gates to be installed on the core paths.</p>	
<p>9.0 Ochils Landscape Partnership - Hillfoots Way and Devon Trail</p>	
<p>9.1 Martin reported that the Ochils Landscape Partnership (OLP) Stage 2 submission has been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund and that it can be viewed on the OLP website. The OLP will find out if it's bid has been successful in September.</p>	
<p>9.2 Martin also reported that a number of the projects included access works. Of note are the Hillfoots Way (a route which runs from Logie Kirk in the west, to Muckhart in the east, and which links all the Hillfoots communities) and the River Devon Trail (a</p>	

route which follows the River Devon from Glenfoot, near Tillicoultry, upstream to Rackmill, near Dollar).	
9.3 Martin reported that the OLP will have a Board of Directors and that they will be supported by 2 task groups (project delivery and learning and participation) and also by advising partners.	
10.0 Possible joint meeting with Falkirk Access Forum	
10.1 Martin reported that Falkirk Access Forum have been in touch asking if we would like to hold a joint event with them. They said that they think it will be useful and that it had worked well in the past when they had a joint forum walk/meeting with West Lothian.	
10.2 Some concern was expressed over the value of a joint meeting, especially if it related to an area outwith Clackmannanshire that members weren't familiar with.	
10.3 It was agreed that the invitation from Falkirk should be declined, but that Martin would look at the issues facing other Forums and, should others be facing similar issues to Clackmannanshire, revisit the possibility of a joint meeting.	MD
11.0 Any other business	
11.1 Burnfoot Hill Wind Farm Martin reported that signage warning of construction work had excluded access rights form a larger area than necessary, had not shown an alternative route, nor detailed how long the works will last. He and Perth and Kinross Council's Access Officer had met with the developer and the above points have now been addressed. The location of the signs has also been changed to better target access takers.	
11.2 Devon Way Martin reported that Sustrans had, together with the Council, funded improvements to the Devon Way between Fishcross and Tillicoultry. He advised that most of the route had been improved to a 3m wide path of type 1 and whin dust, but that 2 sections that are on slopes and vulnerable to erosion, have been tarred. Linda said that the tarred sections were slippy for horse riders and that 2 horses had slipped on the tar since the works had been completed. Martin said that he would raise the matter with Roads colleagues to see if anything can be done to make the tar less slippy for horses.	MD
11.3 Blackfaulds to Devon Village path Linda raised several concerns about the path including: - narrowness - steep cross-fall - lack of fencing between path and adjacent ditch	

<p>Martin said that the works were done, as the developer contribution, by the developer of nearby houses; and agreed to look at the path and report back.</p>	<p>MD</p>
<p>11.4 Gartunny path (core path 127) Linda reported that Clackmannanshire Riders Access Group (CRAG) had funded path improvements to core path 127 at Gartunny, that the work had recently been completed and now needed time to settle. Martin agreed to check with Paths For All about how long the path would need to settle and to produce signage asking access takers to use another route.</p>	
<p>11.5 Central Scotland Green Network Development Fund Martin reported that the Central Scotland Green Network had established a Development Fund and that he was working on applications to: - improve the Devon Way between Tillicoultry and Dollar - buy tools to establish an Adopt-a-Path scheme for volunteers to help maintain core paths.</p>	
<p><u>12.0 Time and date of next meeting</u></p>	
<p>12.1 The next meeting of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum will be at 2pm on Tuesday, 31st August 2010 in the Boardroom at Kilncraigs.</p>	
<p><u>13.0 Diversion of core path 59 at Tillicoultry Golf Course followed by site visit</u></p>	
<p>13.1 Martin presented a paper on the review and amendment of the core paths plan.</p>	
<p>13.2 The procedure for this is drawn from section 20 Review and amendment of core paths plan in the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. The Guidance to Local Authorities booklet (page 60) states that 'Diversions and removals do not need the full notification and consultation process set down in section 18, but they should be noted by the local authority as amendments to the plan.' To apply the procedures, Clackmannanshire Council proposes to consult with the landowner, Clackmannanshire Access Forum, Scottish Natural Heritage and local Community Council, and should they be supportive of the change, to publicise it with a public notice, update the core paths list and maps, and inform Scottish Ministers.</p>	
<p>13.3 Changes in a route may occur for a number of reasons whether it be because of new buildings, privacy, a change in land use, a route improvement or mapping adjustments.</p>	

<p>13.4 Proposed diversion criteria (identified by Highland Council) include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Is not substantially longer in length than the original ii. Provides a surface as good or better than the original iii. Has the same width or greater than the original iv. It is not more difficult to pass along the route in terms of barriers or gradients v. Public enjoyment of the whole route is not impaired vi. Access is not obstructed or deterred before, during or after construction of the diversion 	
<p>13.5 Proposed diversion of core path 59 at Tillicoultry Golf Course:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The proposed diversion route is 100m longer and connects with core path 57 instead of core path 60 ii. Surface is better than original iii. The new route will be a similar or greater width iv. There are no barriers on the route and there is no significant gradient v. This is a small section of the whole path and thus enjoyment should not be affected. The new route crosses 4 fairways whereas the old route passes close to a green and tee, and runs alongside a fairway vi. I am assured this condition will be met 	
<p>13.6 The views of Tillicoultry Community Council and Scottish Natural Heritage still require to be sought.</p>	MD
<p>13.7 The Forum is invited to discuss the proposed diversion.</p>	
<p>13.8 The Forum advised that their advice to the Council is to accept the proposed diversion to core path 59 at Tillicoultry Golf Course.</p>	