



# Clackmannanshire Council

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## The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

### Minute of meeting held on Tuesday, 18th January 2011 at Kilncraigs

|  | <u>Action</u> |
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| <b>Present</b>   |               |
| <b>Landowners/Land Managers:</b> James Cullens, Sir Robert Stewart   |               |
| <b>User group representatives:</b> Gordon Durward, Linda Howson, Jane Preston, Colin Thomson                                 |               |
| <b>Community group representatives:</b> Caroline Crawford (Chair), David Scott, Alistair Scott (substitute for Enid Trevett) |               |
| <b>Agency and advisory representatives:</b> Alistair Lawson, Jane McArdle  |               |
| <b>Council:</b> Ronnie Beveridge, Helen Blenkarn, Martin Dean, Euan Hills, David Thomson                                     |               |
| <b>Visitors:</b> Peter Leslie  |               |
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| <b><u>1.0 Apologies</u></b>  |               |
| <b>1.1</b> Apologies were received from:<br>- Brian Poett<br>- Enid Tevett<br>- Niall Urquhart<br>- Colin Ward               |               |
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| <b><u>2.0 Approval of draft minute of meeting held on 13th September 2010</u></b>  |               |
| <b>2.1</b> David S proposed that the minutes of 13th September 2010  |               |

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| <p>were approved. This was seconded by Sir Robert.</p>  |                 |
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| <p><b>3.0 Matters arising from meeting on 13th September 2010</b></p>   |                 |
| <p><b>3.1 Clackmannanshire Alliance</b> Martin reported that diagrammatic information about the Clackmannanshire Alliance had been forwarded to Forum members.</p>  |                 |
| <p><b>3.2 Devon Way</b> Martin reported that Brian had e mailed him to say "I was a little concerned about the horses slipping and asked a contact in the Household Cavalry how they coped with slippery roads in London. The answer was that they use perfectly normal shoes on the ordinary tarmac roads."<br/>Some concerns were raised about the resources that were being diverted towards horse riders who, it was argued, represented a small number of path users.<br/>Martin stated that the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gave horse riders a right of access.<br/>Linda mentioned that in some areas, notably near the Devon Way, there were a significant number of equestrian users and that Clackmannanshire Riders Access Group (CRAG) had undertaken a number of path improvements in Clackmannanshire that benefitted all users.<br/>Martin agreed to walk the Devon Way with representatives of the horse riders to see what measures could be made to address the issue of slipping that some horses shoes have had on tarmac.</p> | <p>MD/LH/JP</p> |
| <p><b>3.3 Signs and gates</b> Martin reported that he had met with James and that several self closing gates had been installed on his land. He also said that he had still to meet with Brian.<br/>Martin also reported that Brian had e mailed him to say " I was told that a gate was left open towards the end of last year on the B 9140, and that a number of horses/ponies escaped resulting in the death of one and injury to at least one other. We have discussed the problem of locked gates in the past. I think that this highlights an anomaly in the Access legislation. As land managers, we have a duty of care to the general public, and in this instance the motoring public to keep our livestock off the roads where possible. Without locking gates, it is not easy to try to ensure this. Does any one have a better way?"</p>  |                 |
| <p><b>3.4 Diversion of core path 59 at Tillicoultry Golf Course</b> Martin reported that Scottish Ministers have now been informed of the diversion.</p>  |                 |
| <p><b>3.5 Ochils Landscape Partnership update</b> Martin advised that there should be scope for Gordon to assist with implementation of the projects and that the opportunities for him would become clearer once the Co-ordinator had been appointed.</p>  |                 |
| <p><b>3.6 Scottish Outdoor Access Code - Enjoy Scotland's Outdoors</b> Martin reported that Mirren Begbie had commented that</p>  |                 |

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| <p>9.3 of the minutes should read "There then followed some discussion about fouling of paths by dogs and horses. Mirren asked what the Forum could do to encourage dog and horse owners to be more responsible with regard to dog and horse fouling, and also pointed out that the horse fouling is a considerable problem for walkers on paths in the Fishcross area. The Forum then went on to discuss irresponsible dog owners. Mirren highlighted the fact that some dog owners bag their dog's waste, but don't dispose of it responsibly."<br/> The Forum agreed that the above was an accurate representation of what was said.<br/> There then followed some discussion about dog and horse fouling when it was pointed out that there is legislation which requires owners of dogs to clean up after they have fouled, but there was no legislation requiring the same of horse owners. It was also pointed out that dog faeces is more harmful to humans than horse dung.</p> |                     |
| <p><b>3.7 Gartmorn Dam Green Hub</b> Gordon advised that he hadn't heard anything about the Gartmorn Dam Green Hub. Martin agreed to investigate further.</p>  | <p><b>MD</b></p>    |
| <p><b>3.8 Environment Partnership Team</b> Jane said that she is interested in participating in meetings and would like more information about the Environment Partnership Team.</p>   | <p><b>MD</b></p>    |
| <p><b>3.9 SRPBA and NFU Scotland Joint Briefing Note on Outdoor Access in Fields with Cattle; Guidance for Land Managers</b><br/> Martin reported that he had circulated the Joint Briefing Note to Forum members.</p>   |                     |
| <p><b>3.10 Jane Coull</b> Martin reported that he has written to Jane to thank her for her contributions to the Forum.<br/> A replacement for Jane (on the Landowners/Land Managers group) still needs found and Sir Robert and James have agreed to pursue this.</p>  | <p><b>RS/JC</b></p> |
| <p><b>3.11 Dick Clark</b> Martin circulated a letter from Dick Clark in which Dick explained his reasons for retiring from the Forum and thanked members of the Forum with whom he had worked.</p>   |                     |
| <p><b><u>4.0 Report - the joint National and Local Access Forums meeting (Caroline Crawford)</u></b></p>   |                     |
| <p><b>4.1</b> Caroline reported that she and Martin attended the National Access Forum and Local Access Forums annual joint meeting held in Falkirk on 13th October.</p>   |                     |
| <p><b>4.2</b> She reported that in the morning there were a number of presentations which dealt with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting access through the Central Scotland Green Network</li> <li>• What's going on at the National Access Forum</li> </ul>  |                     |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What's going on in Falkirk</li> <li>• Providing for access in Callander Estate in Falkirk</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p><b>4.3</b> The afternoon was given over to workshops, which considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access with dogs - managing to reduce conflict</li> <li>• Shared use of inland water</li> <li>• Life after core paths - the future role and priorities of local access forums</li> <li>• Making it happen - future funding for access provision and management</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p><b>4.4</b> Caroline concluded by saying that the joint meeting had been worthwhile and that topics for future discussion might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access and cattle</li> <li>• Commercial dog walking</li> </ul>   |  |
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| <p><b>5.0 Update - Access and Countryside Projects Officer</b></p>   |  |
| <p><b>5.1 Path improvements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>NCN at Mary Wood</b> Martin reported that this section had now been tarred.</li> <li>- <b>NCN at Cambus</b> Martin circulated plans showing what is proposed and reported that these were acceptable to the landowner and the tenant farmer.</li> <li>- <b>Menstrie Branch Line</b> Martin reported that the sleepers and track had recently been lifted from the line south of the River Devon and that work was currently underway to lift the sleepers and track to the north of the river.</li> <li>- <b>WIAT - Arnsbrae and Gean Wood</b> Martin reported that the Council had been awarded WIAT funding to undertake works at Arnsbrae and at Gean Wood and that path improvements were due to take place on both sites.</li> <li>- <b>Devon Way - Marchglen to Tillicoultry</b> Martin reported that this section is due to be tarred - see 3.2 above.</li> <li>- <b>Devon Way - Tillicoultry to Dollar</b> Martin advised that this path is to be widened and dressed with type 1/whin dust and that overhanging vegetation is to be cut back.</li> </ul> |  |
| <p><b>5.2 SNH initiatives:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Long Distance Routes</b> Martin reported that Scottish Natural Heritage had identified criteria for Long Distance Routes and that one of these was that routes should be at least 25 miles long. This means that routes that are solely within Clackmannanshire are likely to be too short to qualify. Routes that pass through Clackmannanshire however, like the Round The Forth route, are likely to meet that particular criterion.</li> <li>- <b>Coast to Coast route/John Muir Way</b> Martin circulated SNH's proposals for the Coast to Coast route - a route from Iona to St Andrews. The preferred route passes to the north of Clackmannanshire, but some of the alternative options do pass</li> </ul>  |  |

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| <p>through the county.</p> <p>Martin also mentioned the John Muir Way, a Central Scotland Green Network project, which would also link the east and west coasts. Initial proposals are that the route would go from the Forth (Dunbar) to the Clyde.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>5.3 Inclusive networks + phototrails</b> Martin reported that the Inclusive Networks project with Fife, Stirling and Falkirk Councils, had led to 2 more phototrails:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cambus - Alloa</li> <li>• Alloa - Clackmannan</li> </ul> <p>Phototrails is a website which allows disabled users, and others, to assess whether a path is suitable for their needs.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>5.4 Health Walks</b> Martin reported that he represents the Council on the strategic (health walks) group and that Euan represents the Council on the operational group, and that the health walks are proving very popular.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>5.5 Events</b> Martin reported that he had communicated with the organisers of some events (in this case the Run of the Mill and The Law Breaker hill races) in the Ochils, advising them of land owners, the risk of rockfall in Tillicoultry Glen etc.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>5.6 Planning responses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Glenochil</b> Martin reported that the prison's perimeter fence had recently been improved and that he had been liaising with the developers to ensure that core path 44 is re-instated to an acceptable standard.</li> <li>- <b>Burnfoot Hill Wind Farm</b> Martin reported that self closing gates were due to be installed adjacent to the farm gates on the track from Rhodders Farm to Alva Moss.</li> </ul> |  |
| <p><b>5.7 Tourism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Visitor information 2011</b> Martin reported that Carolyn McGill, Policy Officer for Clackmannanshire Council is producing 2 copies of an Outdoor Guide in 2011 and that the first of these is due to be published in March. He mentioned that outdoor access would be promoted in the guide and that it would also publicise the Scottish Outdoor Access code.</li> </ul>   |  |
| <p><b>5.8 Awareness raising</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>OEWG presentation</b> Martin reported that he had recently publicised the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and the Core Paths Plan to Clackmannanshire Council's Outdoor Education Working Group.</li> </ul>  |  |
| <p><b>5.9 Strategy and SEA</b> Martin reported that he had made little progress with the Outdoor Access strategy and it's Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p>  |  |
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| <p><b>6.0 Update - Core Paths Plan implementation</b></p>  |  |
| <p><b>6.1</b> Martin reported that circa 60 signs had now been installed and</p>   |  |

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| that labels which detail destination and distance were being ordered. He said that 2 way marking signs (which help direct those following a core path) had also been installed and that 7 self closing gates had been installed.                             |  |
| <b>7.0 Update - Devon Way projects (Peter Leslie)</b>  |  |
| <b>7.1</b> Peter informed the Forum that he works for Cycling Scotland. He said that the Scottish Government had a target that by 2020 10% of all journeys will be by bike. He also said that shared path use often caused conflict.                         |  |
| <b>7.2</b> Peter reported that Cycling Scotland, Clackmannanshire Council, Paths For All and Sustrans had formed a partnership to develop a Demonstration Project which aims to address the conflict and to demonstrate good practice.                       |  |
| <b>7.3</b> A section of the Devon Way between Fishcross and Marchglen has been chosen for the Project.   |  |
| <b>7.4</b> The project will comprise of 4 different surface types: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tar with rubber underneath</li> <li>• Type 1 and whin dust</li> <li>• Toptrec</li> <li>• 2 parallel paths of tar and type 1/whin dust</li> </ul> |  |
| <b>7.5</b> Peter reported that some of the path surfaces would use recycled materials. The rubber would be sourced from recycled tyres and the toptrec is made from road planings.   |  |
| <b>7.6</b> Peter also advised the Forum that the recent bad weather had delayed the start date of the works, but that they should be undertaken in the next few months.  |  |
| <b>8.0 Update - Ochils Landscape Partnership (Helen Blenkharn)</b>   |  |
| <b>8.1</b> Helen reported that the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) had approved funding the Ochils Landscape partnership and that a "start-up" meeting had been held between representatives of the Partnership and the HLF in November.                         |  |
| <b>8.2</b> Helen informed the Forum that 2 task groups had been formed - a Project Delivery Task Group and a Learning and Participation Task Group.  |  |
| <b>8.3</b> The Project Delivery Task Group have been prioritising projects and the Learning and Participation Task Group have been developing a training and volunteering schedule.  |  |
| <b>8.4</b> Helen advised that the next steps for the Council are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sign the constitution</li> <li>• recruit staff</li> <li>• source further funding</li> </ul>  |  |
| <b>9.0 Update - Open Space Framework (Helen Blenkharn) and</b>   |  |

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| <b>Local Development Plan (Ronnie Beveridge)</b>   |  |
| 9.1 Helen advised the Forum that the Council has published an Open Space Framework for consultation.   |  |
| <p>9.2 She said that open spaces perform many roles or 'functions', and the majority of spaces have more than one function, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal sport and leisure</li> <li>• Informal recreation</li> <li>• Active travel</li> <li>• Improving wellbeing</li> <li>• Amenity</li> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• Water and flood management</li> <li>• Green belt</li> <li>• Climate change mitigation</li> <li>• Climate change adaptation</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Meeting places/ event spaces</li> </ul>   |  |
| 9.3 Helen advised that the Open Space Framework is linked with the Main Issues Report, which is the first stage in preparing a Local Development Plan for the County. The Local Development Plan will set out policies relating to land use in Clackmannanshire over the next 20 years.  |  |
| <p>9.4 The Framework aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure a coordinated approach to the protection and development of Clackmannanshire's open space</li> <li>• Inform land-use planning decisions on the provision of open space</li> <li>• Encourage residents to lead healthier and more active lifestyles by providing a range of accessible open spaces for sport and leisure</li> <li>• Promote wellbeing by providing spaces in which people can relax and enjoy being outdoors</li> <li>• Make Clackmannanshire an attractive place to live, work and visit</li> <li>• Improve biodiversity in Clackmannanshire by identifying areas where there are opportunities to strengthen and recreate habitat networks</li> </ul> |  |
| 9.5 Helen informed the Forum that consultation on the Framework would take place from Monday, 10th January to Friday, 11th March 2011. She also advised that more information on the Open Space Framework can be found on Clacksweb where questionnaires can be completed online.  |  |
| 9.6 <b>Local Development Plan</b> Ronnie advised the Forum that Clackmannanshire is not within a city region planning area, so the current Structure and Local Plans will be replaced by one Plan, the   |  |

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| Local Development Plan.   |  |
| <b>9.7</b> He said that the Local Development Plan will set out policies relating to land use in Clackmannanshire over the next 20 years.   |  |
| <b>9.8</b> Ronnie reported that Clackmannanshire Council has produced a Main Issues Report as required by the Planning etc (Scotland) Act 2006, and that this is a first stage in preparing the Local Development Plan.   |  |
| <b>9.9</b> He advised that consultation on the Main Issues Report would take place together with the Open Space Framework and would consist of interactive and drop-in events in communities from 10th January to 2nd March. Details of these events, the documents themselves and online response forms are available on Clacksweb.  |  |
| <b>9.10</b> Ronnie invited Forum members to attend the stakeholder workshops, and suggested that the Natural Environment and the Housing, infrastructure and connectivity workshops would be of particular relevance. Any Forum member wishing to attend these workshops should inform Ronnie on 01259 452613 or <a href="mailto:rbeveridge@clacks.gov.uk">rbeveridge@clacks.gov.uk</a>                         |  |
| <b>9.11</b> Ronnie advised that the consultation closing date is 11th March.  |  |
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| <b>10.0 Update - Tillicoultry Glen (Euan Hills)</b>   |  |
| <b>10.1</b> Euan reported that consultants had been appointed to assess the risks in Alva and Tillicoultry Glens, and that a high risk of major rockfall had been identified at one point in Tillicoultry Glen.   |  |
| <b>10.2</b> He reported that the consultants estimated that the cost of stabilising the rock would be £95,000.  |  |
| <b>10.3</b> Euan reported that a Working Group comprising Martin, himself, Sarah Robertson (Health and Safety Adviser) and David Thomson (Solicitor), had been established to consider the consultants findings.  |  |
| <b>10.4</b> The Working Group agreed (after consultation with the Health and Safety Executive and consideration of relevant guidance and good practice) that signage which warns users of the risk of rockfall should be posted at the top and bottom of the glen, and that a safe alternative route on the east side of the glen should be highlighted for those not wanting to expose themselves to the risk. |  |
| <b>10.5</b> Euan advised that the signage is inspected at regular intervals and that local Councillors, Tillicoultry Community Council, the Access Forum and local groups have been advised of the actions taken. He also reported that land ownership is being investigated.   |  |
| <b>10.5</b> Some members of the Forum expressed the view that warning signage is insufficient and that not everybody reads, or can read, signs.   |  |



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| <b>10.6</b> Euan reported that contractors had been appointed to scale (remove loose rocks) in the vicinity of the unstable rock and then reassess the risk and, if necessary, identify costed solutions.  |           |
| <b>10.7</b> Euan advised that the position regarding access in the glen would be reassessed once the contractors had completed their work.   |           |
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| <b><u>11.0 Advice required - Diversion of core path 72 at Devon Village</u></b>  |           |
| <b>11.1</b> Martin presented a paper on the diversion of core path 72.   |           |
| <b>11.2</b> Proposed diversion of core path 72 at Devon Village:<br>i. The proposed diversion route connects with core path 78 at Devon Village. This provides a link to core path 70 - the Devon Way. If going from Blackfaulds to the Devon Way, near Devon Village, the proposed diversion is the same distance.<br>ii. Surface is type 1 with whin dust. Minor surface improvements are proposed.<br>iii. The proposed route is narrower than the road, but is, at 2.5m - 3.0m wide ample width for access takers.<br>iv. There is one gate on the proposed route which will be replaced with a self closing gate. There is a small, but short, climb at the east end of the proposed route. Crossing the A908 is, because of a Pegasus crossing, easier and safer on the proposed route when compared with the original route.<br>v. Enjoyment should be enhanced because the proposed route is off road.<br>vi. I am assured this condition will be met. |           |
| <b>11.3</b> One (of the two) landowners is supportive of the change. The views of the other landowner and Scottish Natural Heritage still require to be sought. It is not possible to get the views of a Community Council as there isn't one in the area concerned.   | <b>MD</b> |
| <b>11.4</b> The Forum is invited to discuss the proposed diversion.  |           |
| <b>11.5</b> Comment was made that the proposed diversion is safer. It was also suggested that, in future, for the Forum to consider proposed diversions it is necessary to be familiar with the route/have had a site visit.   |           |
| <b>11.6</b> The Forum commented that their advice to the Council is to accept the proposed diversion to core path 72 at Devon Village.   |           |
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| <b><u>12.0 Feedback - Forum members</u></b>  |           |
| <b>12.1</b> Lack of time prevented this item from being discussed.   |           |
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| <b><u>13.0 Any other business</u></b>  |           |
| <b>13.1</b> Lack of time prevented this item from being discussed.   |           |
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| <b><u>14.0 Time and date of next meeting</u></b>   |           |

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| <p><b>14.1</b> The next meeting of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum will be the Annual General Meeting at 6.30pm on Tuesday, 1st March 2011 at Lornhill Academy.</p> |  |
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