



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

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The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

**Minute of meeting held on Tuesday, 29th November 2011
at Kilncraigs**

	<u>Action</u>
<u>Present</u>	
Landowners/Land Managers: James Cullens (Chair), Sir Robert Stewart, John Wilson	
User group representatives: Gordon Durward, Linda Howson, Jane Preston, Colin Thomson	
Community group representatives: Caroline Crawford, David Scott	
Agency and advisory representatives: Alistair Lawson, Jane McArdle	
Council: Councillor Harry MacLaren, Martin Dean, Euan Hills	
Observer: Dorothy Breckenridge	
<u>1.0 Apologies</u>	
1.1 Apologies were received from: - Tim Barratt - Brian Poett - Niall Urquhart	
<u>2.0 Approval of draft minute of meeting held on 6th September 2011</u>	
2.1 Alistair proposed that the minutes of 6th September 2011 were approved. This was seconded by Jane P.	

3.0 Matters arising from meeting held on 6th September 2011	
3.1 Tourism Alistair referred to the Outdoor Guide and asked how effective it had been at promoting tourism. Martin advised that he didn't know but agreed to raise the matter with the Tourism Officer.	MD
3.2 SOAC - cows, calves and dogs Martin reported that he had distributed SOAC Dog Owners leaflets which promote responsible dog walking. He also advised that he had spoken further with the landowner and discussed the possibility of an alternative route when cows with calves are present. Further discussion is required.	MD
3.3 Horse dung Jane P reported that Clackmannanshire Riders Access Group members had cleared dung from the Devon Way on 18th September. The possibility of local liveries supporting such initiatives was also discussed.	
3.4 Core path 40 diversion Covered in item 5.0.	
3.5 Ochils Landscape Partnership - Devon Trail Martin reported that he had written to the OLP Co-ordinator raising concerns over the proximity of the River Devon to the Devon Trail, that he highlighted that riverbank erosion had impacted on existing fencing and asked whether fencing works along the route could be given priority and undertaken in the near future.	
3.6 Core path 168 Hillfoot Hill Martin advised that he had written to Tim Barratt of the Forestry Commission asking that if they are considering any planting proposals for Hillfoot Hill, they recognise the status of the path and ensure that any new tree planting does not infringe upon it.	
4.0 Update - Access and Countryside Projects Officer	
4.1 Core Paths Plan implementation Martin reported that signage, waymarking and gate installation works were ongoing, and that core path 29 at Cambus had received some surfacing improvements at its east end. Alistair mentioned that there were a number of old Clackmannanshire Countryside Paths Network (CCPN) signs still on some paths and asked whether they were now redundant. Martinsaid that they were and asked Alistair to let him know where these signs are so that he can arrange for them to be removed.	AL/MD
4.2 School Road, Muckhart Martin reported that at the end of School Road was core path 157, which is also a right of way, and that works to an adjacent property had meant that contractors machinery had used the path. This had raised path condition concerns and also safety concerns since the path is used by children walking/cycling to the nearby Primary School. Sir Robert reported that the path is on land he owns and that the works were nearing completion. He also advised that the	

<p>contractor was going to reinstate the path on completion of the works and that the Council would install a collapsible bollard to prevent unauthorised motor vehicle use of the path.</p>	<p>RS/MD</p>
<p>4.3 Joint NAF/LAF meeting Martin reported that he and James had attended the annual joint meeting of the National Access Forum and Local Access Forums. He reported that Dorothy was also in attendance.</p> <p>The meeting was held at the head quarters of the Loch Lomond National Park and comprised presentations and workshops.</p> <p>The presentations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and the planning system • Update from the National Access Forum • Managing the pressure; visitors, recreation and access • Scotland's Great Trails <p>The workshops included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Towards guidance on intensive and commercial access • Inappropriate locked gates and non-Code compliant signs • Managing informal camping • Access and planning <p>James commented that he had found it a useful and interesting day.</p> <p>Alistair recalled that Richard Cooke, Convenor of the National Access Forum had, when he visited the Clackmannanshire Access Forum, spoken of the need for effective links between the NAF and LAFs and wondered whether this was being achieved. Martin said that he thought it was, citing the joint NAF/LAF meeting and forwarding of NAF meeting minutes to LAF members.</p>	
<p>4.4 Open Space Strategy Martin reported that the Open Space Strategy comprises 4 sub-groups (- formal open space, sports provision, community managed recreational provision and active travel, outdoor access and natural/semi-natural provision) and that he was working on the outdoor access part which included core paths.</p>	
<p>4.5 Local Development Plan Martin reported that the Local Development Plan has 5 "streams" - creating sustainable communities, enterprise and prosperity, environmental assets, implementation and monitoring, and area statements. He advised that he is involved in the creating sustainable communities stream by supporting with the section on active travel and outdoor access.</p>	
<p>4.6 Health Walks - strategic group Martin reported that he sits on the Strategic Group for the Wee County Walkers. He further advised that the Wee County Walkers deliver a number of health walks each week and that they had recently organised a very successful walk raising awareness of the benefits walking can have on addressing mental health issues.</p> <p>There followed some discussion of the need for different walking</p>	

<p>groups in Clackmannanshire, but it was acknowledged that each fulfilled a different role and that those engaged in Health Walks were generally undertaking much shorter and less physically demanding walks than those delivered by local Ramblers Clubs.</p>	
<p>4.7 LDR's Martin reported that Scottish Natural Heritage had been promoting Longer Distance Routes and that a website entitled Scotland's Great Trails had been created. He advised that he recently been approached by Ian Logan regarding The Stevenson Way - a 240 mile long distance walk, based on the book 'Kidnapped' by Robert Louis Stevenson, from Mull to Edinburgh. It is not envisaged that the walk will be waymarked. The Stevenson Way will pass through Clackmannanshire, although the exact route is still being developed.</p>	
<p>4.8 PFA workday Euan reported that staff from Paths For All had recently undertaken a workday on core path 121 on the south side of Gartmorn Dam. The path was being eroded by wave action and, following advice from Kevin Fairclough, PFA's Technical Officer, willow walling was created to re-establish the path and, once the willows take root, stabilise the bank. Gordon mentioned that he used to work for Scottish Water and advised that mining subsidence had affected the Gartmorn Dam area and that this is likely to have impacted on some paths.</p>	
<p>4.9 NCN - Opening of Cambus path/art work Martin reported that Councillor Carrick opened the new Cambus path on 4th October. Harry Fox of Diageo, the landowner, was present; as was Katherine Soane of Sustrans who helped fund the work. Sustrans Volunteers and path users were also present at the opening. Given these improvements, Gordon questioned the need for the path which passes Cambus Pools (core path 26) to remain a core path given its muddy state. Martin said that the wet summer and autumn meant that many paths were muddy this year and highlighted the opportunities the path gives for circular walks for residents of Tullibody and Cambus, as well as for Diageo employees based at Cambus and Blackgrange. Martin also reported that Youth Services had undertaken some art work on a road bridge over core path 70 in Sauchie and that this had been opened by the Provost, Councillor Stewart. He also reported that art work was due for the road bridge over the Menstrie Branch line to the west of Tullibody.</p>	
<p>4.10 Events Martin reported that he and Euan continued to liaise with people organising events in Clackmannanshire. He referred to the Run of the Mill Hill race on 23rd October this autumn and a Cyclathon to be organised by Alloa Rotary Club on the Devon Way next year. Martin explained that communications with event organisers were useful to minimise the chances of more than one event taking</p>	

place at a given venue at the same time, to advise the event organisers of who the landowners are, to discuss signage to give other users prior warning of the event, and to request that organisers encourage participants to comply with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.	
4.11 Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003: Consultation on Draft Order to Permit Temporary Closures of Core Paths Martin reported that the Scottish Government are conducting a Consultation on Draft Order to permit temporary closure of core paths. This would only allow a core path to be closed temporarily, providing there are legitimate reasons. The consultation paper can be found on the Scottish Government website. Responses are required by 11th January 2012.	All
5.0 Update - Core path 40 diversion	
5.1 Martin reported that Scottish Natural Heritage and Alva Community Council had no objections to the core path being diverted.	
5.2 He reported that a Notice had been posted advertising the diversion, the Scottish Government had been informed and the Plan updated. He also advised that improvement works and signage still required to be undertaken.	
6.0 Update - Tillicoultry Glen	
6.1 Martin reported that the core path through the glen has signage in place which advises users to keep out on safety grounds. Fencing had also been installed to reinforce this message.	
6.2 He advised that contractors had provided a quotation to undertake rock stabilisation and scaling works, bridge remedial works and path repairs.	
6.3 He also advised that a report had been prepared for the Council's Chief Officers for them to consider whether or not a bid should be made for capital funding, but that they decided against this.	
7.0 Update - Ochils Landscape Partnership	
7.1 Martin reported that two members of staff are now in post - a Co-ordinator and a Research and Interpretation Officer. A Project Officer is also due to be appointed in the near future.	
7.2 Many of the projects will involve input from volunteers and in preparation for this, a Volunteer Strategy, Volunteer Handbook and Volunteer Agreement have been developed.	
7.3 The Ochils Landscape Partnership comprises 22 different projects, with 11 having been identified as being priorities for delivery. These projects include:	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1 Hillfoots Way • A2 Bonny Blairlogie • A3 Dumyat Paths • A5 Alva Glen • A8 Dollar Glen • A9 Restoration of Mill Green • A11 Dollar Burn Water Race Restoration • A12 Muckhart Nature Park • B4 Control of Invasive Species • C1 Ochils Orientation • C2 Ochils Festival 	
<u>8.0 Update - Menstrie Branch Line</u>	
8.1 Martin reported that works had started on the Branch Line and that the base course was being laid on the section of path to the south of the River Devon.	
8.2 He also reported that vegetation was being cleared from the Line to the north of the River Devon.	
8.3 Martin also advised that works were required to the bridge over the river and that a grant to help cover the cost of this had been awarded by the Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust.	
8.4 Martin reminded the Forum that works to the Branch Line are due to be completed by the end of March 2012.	
<u>9.0 Update - Inclusive Networks Project</u>	
9.1 Martin reported that the project, which covers Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Fife and Stirling and is coordinated by Fieldfare; is due to finish at the end of December. Volunteers have surveyed core paths and Phototrails have been produced which allow people to assess the suitability of the paths for them to use.	
<u>10.0 Update - Locked gates in woodland to south of Gartmorn Dam</u>	
10.1 Martin reminded the Forum that this matter had been discussed at the last meeting and that they had agreed that users of the path would impact on the farm buildings and that in their view it wasn't unreasonable for the landowner to lock the gates.	
10.2 Martin also reminded the Forum that he had been seeking legal advice on the matter and that the advice of the Forum would only be used to provide a way forward, if the legal advice was inconclusive.	
10.3 He then reported that he had visited the gates with a Council lawyer and that their view was that the track is subject to access rights and that the locked gates constitute an obstruction which prevent or deter people from exercising their access rights.	

<p>10.4 Martin reported that this view had been forwarded to the landowner and that they had agreed to unlock the gates.</p>	
<p>11.0 Advice required - Diversion of core path 28</p>	
<p>11.1 Martin presented a paper on the diversion of core path 28, west of Tullibody.</p>	
<p>11.2 Diversion of core path 28:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The diversion is 100m shorter than the original, although it was noted that the main reason for this is that the path joins another core path (number 27) further east. The affected core path is 1030m and the proposed diversion route is 930m. ii. Surface of original is earth and field margin. The proposed diversion route is tarred throughout. iii. The proposed diversion route is considerably wider than the original. iv. There are no barriers or gradients on the proposed diversion route. It does have a ramp which connects the former railway branch line with the old road, and which has been constructed to be inclusive. v. Enjoyment may be enhanced because the proposed diversion route has a much better surface whilst retaining views of the River Devon and the Dovecot. vi. I am assured this condition will be met. 	
<p>11.3 It was noted that the views of landowners (Diageo and Railway Paths Ltd), Scottish Natural Heritage and Tullibody, Cambus and Glenochil Community Council still require to be sought.</p>	
<p>11.4 The Forum advised that the diversion should be progressed.</p>	
<p>12.0 AGM</p>	
<p>12.1 Martin advised Forum members that the next meeting would be the AGM. He also reminded members that the last AGM had been poorly attended and that discussion at the Forum meeting of 31st May 2011 had identified ways of boosting attendance, which included using presentations/speakers as "carrots". The purpose, timing and location of the AGM was also discussed.</p>	
<p>12.2 It was agreed that the AGM should be held in the evening, from 7.00pm to 8.30pm, and that the venue should be inclusive and able to cater for all abilities.</p>	
<p>12.3 The purpose would be for the Chair/Access and Countryside Projects Officer to provide a brief report on the previous year followed by elections and presentations/speakers.</p>	
<p>12.4 It was noted that the current membership/vacancies is: Land managers - no vacancies - oldest serving member to stand down, but can stand for re-election.</p>	

Users - as above. Community groups - 1 vacancy - no need for any members to stand down. Agency and advisory representatives - 1 vacancy. Also 2 members (Tim and Alistair) wanting to stand down, but with replacements identified.	
12.5 It was agreed that 2 speakers should be invited to the AGM, one of whom should be the OLP Co-ordinator.	MD
13.0 Feedback - Forum members	
13.1 Lack of time prevented this item from being discussed.	
14.0 Any other business	
14.1 Partnership Agreement Alistair referred to the Partnership Agreement of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum, noting that the Chair Person will serve for 2 years and that the position rotates amongst the 4 key stakeholder groups in order of land managers, users, agencies and community groups. He referred to the fact that all previous Chairs had been fair and unbiased and queried the need for the position to rotate around the groups. Martin reminded the Forum that the current Agreement had been amended by a Working Group which comprised members from each stakeholder group. He also pointed out that the current Chair had been in post for less than a year and suggested that a decision to make any changes should be deferred until after the next AGM.	
14.2 Burnfoot Hill Wind Farm Caroline advised that a planning application had been submitted to extend the Burnfoot Hill Wind Farm and asked whether the proposed extension would impact on any core paths. Martin advised that there was only a single core path in the area (number 62) which goes from Tillicoultry to Blackford - a route which is also a right of way. He reminded Forum members that all planning applications can be viewed on the Council website and that they can make comments should they wish to do so.=	
14.3 Core path 53 Linda reported that utilities had undertaken works on the path near Howetown and that the surface and adjacent fencing had been left in an inferior condition. Martin agreed to investigate the matter.=	MD
14.4 Core path 54 Linda reported that signage had appeared on the Bankhead Farm track (core path 54) warning vehicular traffic of cyclists (using the Devon Way - core path 70) crossing. She asked whether the signage shouldn't also refer to other users such as pedestrians and equestrian users. Martin advised that he wasn't aware of the signage and that he would investigate and report back.	MD
14.5 Core path 75 Linda reported that a planning application had	

been made for housing development to the west of Coalsnaughton and queried whether this would impact on core path 75. Martin advised that the core path status should safeguard the route, but agreed to investigate the matter and report back.=	MD
15.0 Time and date of next meeting	
15.1 The next meeting of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum will be the AGM which will be held from 7.00pm - 8.30pm on Tuesday, 28th February 2012 at Alloa Town Hall.	All