



Clackmannanshire Council

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The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

Note of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 28th February 2012 at Alloa Town Hall

	<u>Action</u>
Present	
Members of the public: David Anderson (Forestry Commission), Wilson Brown (Kinross and Ochils Ramblers), Stuart Davies (Scottish Natural Heritage), Dick Clark (The Clackmannan Society and Clackmannan Community Council), Stuart Dean (Friends Of The Ochils), James Gilmour (Woodland Trust Scotland), Brian Jamieson (Ochils Mountain Rescue Team), Janet McAuley (Stirling and Falkirk Ramblers), Simon Randfield (Ochils Mountain Rescue Team), Hilary Thomson (Stirling and Falkirk Ramblers), Dennis Toon (Ochils Landscape Partnership)	
Landowners/Land Managers representatives: Sir Robert Stewart, James Cullens (Chair), 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 officers: Martin Dean, Doulgas Ralph	
Apologies: Euan Hills, Brian Poett, Enid Trevett, Niall Urquhart	
<u>1.0 Welcome, approval of note from last AGM, report on the work and achievements of the Forum, and election of Forum members to stakeholder groups</u>	
1.1 Martin welcomed everybody to the Annual General Meeting of	

<p>the Forum. He provided some background on the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and explained that Part 1 of the Act provided a right of responsible access. Martin then advised that the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 placed a number of duties on the Council and informed those present that one of the duties was for a local authority to establish an Access Forum and that its role was advisory and assisting in dispute resolution.</p>	
<p>1.2 Jane P proposed that the note from last years AGM was approved. This was seconded by John.</p>	
<p>1.3 Martin then read out the report by the Chair (in their absence) on the work and achievements of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum in 2011.</p> <p>2011 was another busy year for the Clackmannanshire Access Forum.</p> <p>The Forum met on 3 occasions after last years AGM - in May, September and November.</p> <p>John Wilson (Land Managers) and Tim Barratt (Agency and advisory) joined the Forum at our last AGM, whilst Linda Howson (Users) and Alistair Lawson (Agency and advisory) stood down, but were re-elected.</p> <p>The Forum has provided advice to the Council on diverting 2 core paths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core path 40 - to the south of Alva. • Core path 28 - to the west of Tullibody. <p>The decision to advise that core path 40 should be diverted was only taken after considerable debate within the Forum, and also site visits with interested access takers and meetings with farmers. Core path 28 was much less contentious since the diversion involved re-aligning the route of the core path so that it follows a newly constructed path.</p> <p>The Forum has also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written a letter of support for the Inner Forth Landscape Partnership - a project which hopes to restore habitats in and around the Forth Estuary and generate new opportunities for public access. • Responded to a questionnaire (by Cycling Scotland) on the Devon Way Demonstration Project. • Helped publicise the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, notably with regard to horse fouling on the Devon Way and to dog walkers when cows and calves are present. • Requested that the Access and Countryside Projects 	

Officer comment on a landowners application for SRDP funding - noting that the land (a woodland) has 2 core paths (1 of which is a right of way) and welcoming their proposals for maintenance. It was also suggested that stiles and kissing gates were replaced with access friendly gates.

The Forum has been provided with information on:

- Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 - The Scottish Government's consultation on draft order to permit temporary closures of core paths.
- Proposals for core path 61 in Tillicoultry Glen.
- Ochils Landscape Partnership - which will deliver 22 different projects in the Hillfoots area, some of which will benefit access.
- Planning applications that have relevance to outdoor access.
- Outdoor access events that take place in Clackmannanshire - these vary in nature and include running, cycling and equestrian events . Every effort is made to ensure that these events do not clash with other events, that conflict with other users is minimised, that participants comply with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and that liaison takes place with relevant landowners.
- Outdoor Access Strategy - this is now being integrated into an Open Space Strategy and is currently being prepared.
- Local Development Plan.
- Inclusive Networks Project - a 3 year project with Fieldfare that has just finished. It covered 4 local authority areas (Clackmannanshire, Falkirk, Fife and Stirling) and produced Phototrails which allow disabled (and other) access takers to look at photographs of a path on a website to assess whether it is suitable for them to use or not.
- Health Walk initiatives and the activities of the Wee County Walkers.
- Longer Distance Routes and Scotland's Great Trails.
- Path improvements which have occurred on the Devon Way/core paths 70 and 134 (between Fishcross and Dollar - Note: members of the Forum provided detailed advice to ensure that the path improvements catered for the needs of all users, including equestrians), the National Cycle Network/core path 28 (at Cambus), Core path 78 (at Devon Village), Core path 76 (at Coalsnaughton), Core path 89 (at Alloa) and to the Menstrie Branch Line.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Core Paths Plan. This is ongoing with signs, way markers and access friendly gates having been installed on a number of paths. Outdated signage is, at the request of the Forum, also being removed. <p>Forum members have also been provided with updates from a variety of other organisations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Access Forum • Paths For All • Travel Actively • Greenspace Scotland <p>The Chair and Access and Countryside Projects Officer attended the joint National Access Forum and Local Access Forum annual meeting at the Loch Lomond National Park's headquarters in Balloch. This was a useful meeting because it gave insight into what is happening nationally and because it gave an opportunity to share experiences with members of other Local Access Forums.</p> <p>My report has illustrated that the Clackmannanshire Access Forum continues to play a key role in outdoor access provision in this area and with various new initiatives now being implemented in the county such as the Ochils Landscape Partnership, there will be ongoing and new challenges which will require the advice and input of the Access Forum in 2012 and beyond.</p>	
<p>1.4 James then explained that the membership of the Access Forum was equally divided between 4 stakeholder groups (land managers, user groups, community groups and agency and advisory representatives), and that a Partnership Agreement gave the Forum direction.</p>	
<p>1.5 He identified the vacancies in each of the 4 stakeholder groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners/Land managers - 0 vacancies, 1 current member to stand down • User groups - 0 vacancies, 1 current member to stand down • Community groups - 1 vacancy • Agency and advisory groups - 1 vacancy + 2 existing members standing down 	
<p>1.6 Elections then took place and the following were elected/re-elected to the Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners/Land managers - Brian Poett (re-elected) • User groups - Colin Thomson (re-elected) • Community groups - Dick Clark (elected) • Agency and advisory - David Anderson, Dorothy 	

Breckenridge, Stuart Davies (all elected)	
<p>1.7 Current members of the Forum for 2012 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners/land managers - Sir Robert Stewart, James Cullens (Chair), Brian Poett, John Wilson. • Users - Gordon Durward, Linda Howson, Nan Preston and Colin Thomson • Community groups - Dick Clark, Caroline Crawford, David Scott, Enid Trevett, • Agency and advisory - David Anderson, Dorothy Breckenridge, Stuart Davies, Jane McArdle, • Council - Councillor Walter McAdam, Councillor Harry McLaren, Martin Dean, Euan Hills and Niall Urquhart 	
<u>2.0 Presentation on the Ochils Landscape Partnership projects</u>	
2.1 Dennis Toon of the Ochils Landscape Partnership gave an informative presentation on the Partnership and its projects.	
2.2 Dennis invited questions and was then thanked for his presentation by James.	
<u>3.0 Presentation on the Evolution of access in Scotland</u>	
3.1 Alistair Lawson gave an interesting presentation on the evolution of access in Scotland.	
3.2 Alistair invited questions and was then thanked for his presentation by James.	
<u>4.0 Close</u>	
4.1 James thanked people for attending and concluded the meeting.	