



Clackmannanshire Council

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The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

Note of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 26th February 2013 at Alloa Town Hall

	<u>Action</u>
Present	
Members of the public: Eric Davidson (Stirling and Falkirk Ramblers), Stuart Dean (Friends Of The Ochils), Kate Fuller (Inner Forth Landscape Initiative), Philip Kearney (Inner Forth Landscape Initiative), A Madden, Neil Ramsay (Scotways),	
Landowners/Land Managers representatives: Sir Robert Stewart, Brian Poett, John Wilson	
User group representatives: Gordon Durward, Linda Howson, Jane Preston, Colin Thomson	
Community group representatives: Dick Clark, Caroline Crawford, David Scott, Enid Trevett	
Agency and advisory representatives: David Anderson	
Council officers: Martin Dean, Euan Hills	
Apologies: Councillor Balsillie, James Cullens, Sarah Eaton	
<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 the Clackmannanshire Access 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	

<p>establish an Access Forum and that its role was advisory and assisting in dispute resolution.</p>	
<p>1.2 Martin reported that the Chair of the Forum, James Cullens, was unable to attend the meeting and asked if there was any objection to Sir Robert Stewart (who is a member of the same stakeholder group) chairing it instead. This was agreed.</p>	
<p>1.3 David A proposed that the note from last years AGM was approved. This was seconded by Caroline.</p>	
<p>1.4 Martin then read out the report by the Chair (in their absence) on the work and achievements of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum in 2012.</p> <p>2012 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>Dick Clark ((Community Groups) and David Anderson, Dorothy Breckenridge and Stuart Davies (all Agency and Advisory Group) joined the Forum at our last AGM, whilst Brian Poett (Land Managers Group) and Colin Thomson (Users Group) 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 153 - to the east of Dollar. • Core path 26 - to the west of Cambus. <p>The decision to advise that core path153 should be diverted was made following a request from the landowner for the path to be moved from the field margin to an adjacent strip of woodland. Core path 26 is to be diverted to accommodate expansion of the Diageo site at Blackgrange.</p> <p>The Forum has also provided advice to the Council on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent of the garden area (which is outwith access rights) at The Coach House on Harviestoun Estate. • The extent of access rights through the Diageo Factory at Menstrie. • Measures to control motorbikes on core path 10, which is also a part of the National Cycle Network, between Alloa and Clackmannan. • The use of stiles to provide alternative access for dog owners when cows with calves are present on core path 157. 	

- Potential projects for the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative.
- Outdoor access considerations should the eastern slopes of Menstrie Glen be planted with trees.

The Forum has been provided with information on:

- Updates on safety works to core path 61 in Tillicoultry Glen.
- Rights of way issues.
- Inclusive access improvements.
- 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 land management operations, or with other events, and that participants comply with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.
- Open Space Strategy - this is nearing completion.
- Health Walk initiatives and the activities of the Wee County Walkers. The project ended last December, but the Wee County Walkers continue to deliver walks thanks to volunteers.
- Longer Distance Routes and Scotland's Great Trails.
- Improvements to core paths.
- Improvements to the National Cycle Network - notably the Menstrie Branch Line, which was opened last May.
- Cycling initiatives.
- The Community Environmental Improvement Fund.
- Implementation of the Core Paths Plan. Signs, way markers and access friendly gates continue to be installed on core paths.

Forum members have also been provided with updates from a variety of other organisations, including:

- The National Access Forum
- Paths For All
- Greenspace Scotland
- The Scottish Access Technical Information Network

The Access and Countryside Projects Officer attended the joint National Access Forum and Local Access Forum annual meeting in Edinburgh last October.

<p>Presentations were given on a range of topics, including on "Access in urban Scotland" and an update provided on Scottish Natural Heritage campaigns to promote responsible behaviour. The meeting provided insight into what is happening nationally, as well as providing an opportunity to share experiences with members of other Local Access Forums.</p> <p>My report has illustrated that the Access Forum continues to play a key role in outdoor access provision in Clackmannanshire and with various new initiatives in the county, such as the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative (of which you will hear more later!), there is an ongoing need for the Access Forum to provide the local authority with advice in 2013 and beyond.</p> <p>I have now served two years as Chair and am, in keeping with the Partnership Agreement, stepping down from that position. I do however, intend to continue to be a member of the Land Managers group on the Forum and would like to take this opportunity of wishing my successor, who is to be appointed from the Users group, well in the post.</p>	
<p>1.5 Sir Robert then asked Martin to explain the election process. Martin 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. He also explained that the current Chair is due to stand down and that, in keeping with the Partnership Agreement, it was the turn of the Users group to appoint the next Chair.</p>	
<p>1.6 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 • Users group - 0 vacancies, 1 current member to stand down • Community groups - 0 vacancies, 1 current member to stand down • Agency and advisory groups - 1 vacancy 	
<p>1.7 Elections then took place and the following were elected/re-elected to the Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners/Land managers - Sir Robert Stewart (re-elected) • Users group - Eric Davidson • Community groups - Enid Trevett (re-elected) • Agency and advisory - Neil Ramsay <p>Colin Thomson (Users group) was elected as Chair.</p>	

<p>1.8 Current members of the Forum for 2013 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners/land managers - Sir Robert Stewart, James Cullens, Brian Poett and John Wilson. • Users - Eric Davidson, Gordon Durward, Linda Howson and Colin Thomson (Chair). • Community groups - Dick Clark, Caroline Crawford, David Scott and Enid Trevett. • Agency and advisory - David Anderson, Dorothy Breckenridge, Stuart Davies and Neil Ramsay. • Council - Councillor Donald Balsillie, Councillor Derek Stewart, Martin Dean, Euan Hills and Niall Urquhart. 	
<p>1.9 Sir Robert vacated the Chair to Colin who thanked him for his input.</p>	
<p><u>2.0 Presentation on the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative</u></p>	
<p>2.1 Kate Fuller and Philip Kearney gave an informative presentation on the Initiative and what it hopes to deliver.</p>	
<p>2.2 Kate and Philip invited questions and were then thanked for their presentations by Colin.</p>	
<p><u>3.0 Presentation on Heritage Paths in Scotland</u></p>	
<p>3.1 Neil Ramsay gave an interesting presentation on the historical aspects of paths in Scotland.</p>	
<p>3.2 Neil invited questions and was then thanked for his presentation by Colin.</p>	
<p><u>4.0 Close</u></p>	
<p>4.1 Colin thanked people for attending and concluded the meeting.</p>	