



# Clackmannanshire Council

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## The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

### Note of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 24th February 2015 at Dumyat Centre, Menstrie

|  | <u>Action</u> |
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| <b>Present</b>   |               |
| <b>Members of the public:</b> Stuart Dean, Alison Fox, Alan Hiscox, John Hutcheson, Linda Lucey, Barbara Maddox, Helene Mauchlen, Lenka Sukenikova, Nigel Whitelaw |               |
| <b>Landowners/Land Managers representatives:</b> Brian Poett, John Wilson  |               |
| <b>User group representatives:</b> Eric Davidson, Linda Howson, Colin Thomson (Chair)  |               |
| <b>Community group representatives:</b> Dick Clark, Caroline Crawford, David Scott,  |               |
| <b>Agency and advisory representatives:</b> David Anderson   |               |
| <b>Council officers:</b> Martin Dean, Ian Doctor   |               |
| <b>1.0 Welcome</b><br>Martin welcomed everybody to the Annual General Meeting of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum.  |               |
| <b>1.1 Apologies</b><br>Martin reported that he had received apologies from Ali Munnoch, Peter Munnoch and Enid Trevett.   |               |
| <b>1.2 Approval of draft note from 2014 AGM</b><br>Dick proposed that the note from last years AGM was approved. This was seconded by Caroline.                    |               |
| <b>1.3 Report on the work and achievements of the Foun</b><br>Colin reported that 2014 was another busy year for the Clackmannanshire Access Forum.                |               |

The Forum met on 2 occasions after last years AGM - in July and September. This was once less than usual because the first meeting had to be rescheduled, resulting in it and the subsequent meeting, both being put back.

Sir Robert Stewart (Land Managers Group) Gordon Durward (Users Group) and Caroline Crawford (Community Groups) all stood down, but were re-elected to the Forum. A vacancy existed in the Agency and advisory group.

The Forum provided the Council with advice that core path 133 should be diverted around Haugh Farm, near Dollar; following the creation of a new, alternative path (around the farmyard) as part of works by the Ochils Landscape Partnership.

The Forum has been provided with information on a variety of access matters, including:

- Updates on safety works to core path 61 in Tillicoultry Glen.
- Ochils Landscape Partnership - which is delivering 22 different projects in the Hillfoots area, some of which will benefit access.
- Inner Forth Landscape Initiative - which will deliver 4 access projects in Clackmannanshire.
- Cycling and the work of the Cycling in Clackmannanshire Forum and of the Give Me Cycle Space initiative.
- Improvements to the National Cycle Network, including works from Alva to Tillicoultry and from Tillicoultry to Dollar.
- Inclusive access and the work of the Clackmannanshire Disability Awareness Group.
- Outdoor access events that take place in Clackmannanshire - these vary in nature and include cross-country and hill running, cycling, duathlons and equestrian events. For the first time, canni-cross events took place in Clackmannanshire. 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.
- Planning applications that have relevance to outdoor access.
- Rights of way issues.
- Health Walk initiatives - the Wee County Walkers deliver, with the aid of volunteers, health walks across Clackmannanshire.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Longer Distance Routes and Scotland's Great Trails.</li> <li>• Improvements to core paths.</li> <li>• The Community Environmental Improvement Fund, which provided Muckhart Golf Club with some of the funding necessary for bridge improvements on core path 158.</li> <li>• Implementation of the Core Paths Plan. Signs, way markers and access friendly gates continue to be installed on core paths.</li> <li>• New path grading system introduced by Scottish Natural Heritage and Forestry Commission Scotland.</li> </ul> <p>Forum members have also been provided with updates from a variety of other organisations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Scotland Green Network</li> <li>• Greenspace Scotland</li> <li>• Paths For All</li> <li>• Scottish Natural Heritage</li> <li>• The National Access Forum</li> </ul> <p>The Access and Countryside Projects Officer attended the joint National Access Forum and Local Access Forum annual meeting at Gleneagles last November. Presentations were given on a range of topics, including an update on work the National Access Forum is undertaking and on matters relating to equestrian access - of which you will hear more about shortly. The meeting provided valuable insight into issues that affect equestrian access, as well as providing an opportunity to share experiences with members of other Local Access Forums.</p> <p>My report illustrates that the Clackmannanshire Access Forum continues to play a key role in outdoor access provision in Clackmannanshire and with various new initiatives and developments in the county, such as the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative, the Ochils Landscape Partnership projects and new cycle paths, there is an ongoing need for the Access Forum to provide the local authority with advice in 2015 and beyond.</p> |  |
| <p><b><u>1.4 Election of Forum members to stakeholder groups</u></b></p> <p>Martin explained the election process, advising 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><b>1.5</b> Martin then identified the vacancies in each of the 4 stakeholder groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners/Land managers - 0 vacancies, 1 current member to stand down</li> </ul>  |  |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Users group - 0 vacancies, 2 current members are standing down</li> <li>• Community groups - 0 vacancies, 1 current member is standing down</li> <li>• Agency and advisory groups - 1 vacancy, 2 current members are standing down</li> </ul>   |  |
| <p><b>1.6</b> Martin also informed the Forum that Colin Thomson had served his 2 years as Chair and that, in keeping with the Partnership Agreement, the position should move onto the Agency and Advisory Group. He also sought approval from the Forum for the Chair to come from the Community group should the one member of the Agency and Advisory Group be unable to take it on. This was approved.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>1.7</b> Elections then took place and the following were elected/re-elected to the Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners/Land managers - Brian Poett (re-elected)</li> <li>• Users group - John Hutcheson and Barbara Maddox</li> <li>• Community groups - Alison Fox</li> <li>• Agency and advisory - 3 vacancies</li> </ul>   |  |
| <p><b>1.8</b> Dick Clark of the Community Groups was elected as Chair. Dick asked Colin if he could conclude his term by introducing the speakers.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>1.9</b> Current members of the Forum for 2015 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners/land managers - Sir Robert Stewart, James Cullens, Brian Poett and John Wilson.</li> <li>• Users - Eric Davidson, John Hutcheson, Linda Howson and Barbara Maddox.</li> <li>• Community groups - Dick Clark (Chair), Caroline Crawford, Alison Fox and David Scott.</li> <li>• Agency and advisory - David Anderson, . 3 vacancies.</li> <li>• Council - Councillor Donald Balsillie, Councillor Derek Stewart, Martin Dean.</li> </ul> |  |
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| <p><b>2.0 Presentation on Equestrian access in Scotland by Helene Mauchlen of BHS Scotland.</b></p>  |  |
| <p><b>2.1</b> Helene gave an informative presentation on equestrian access in Scotland and of some of the issues that horse riders are faced with when taking access.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>2.2</b> Helene answered questions and was then thanked for her presentation by Colin.</p>  |  |
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| <p><b>3.0 Presentation on Greening the Greenways by Lenka Sukenikova of Sustrans.</b></p>  |  |
| <p><b>3.1</b> Lenka gave an interesting presentation on the work she is doing Greening the Greenways across Scotland and of the projects she is undertaking in Clackmannanshire.</p>   |  |

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| <p><b>3.2</b> Lenka was thanked for his presentation by Colin and answered a number of questions relating to her work.</p>   |  |
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| <p><b>4.0 Close</b></p>  |  |
| <p><b>4.1</b> Colin thanked people for attending the AGM.</p>  |  |
| <p><b>4.2</b> Dick (in his position as newly elected Chair) then thanked Colin for Chairing the Access Forum over the last 2 years. He also thanked Martin for his input to the Forum. Dick also informed Forum members that they would be advised of the date of the next meeting in the near future and that the agenda for this should include updating the Partnership Agreement to take account of the difficulty in recruiting members to the Agency and advisory group.</p> |  |