



**Clackmannanshire  
Council**



**The Clackmannanshire Access Forum**

**Minute of meeting held on Tuesday, 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018  
at Kilncraigs, Alloa**

	<b><u>Action</u></b>
<b><u>Present</u></b>	
<b>Landowners/Land Managers:</b> Ian McFarlane,	
<b>User group representatives:</b> Eric Davidson and Linda Howson	
<b>Community group representatives:</b> Dick Clark, Caroline Crawford and David Scott	
<b>Council:</b> Martin Dean	
Dick welcomed people to the meeting of the Access Forum.	
<b><u>1.0 Apologies</u></b>	
<b>1.1</b> Apologies were received from: - Barbara Maddox, Brian Poett, Sir Robert Stewart and John Wilson.	
<b><u>2.0 Approval of draft minute of meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017</u></b>	
<b>2.1</b> Linda proposed that the minutes were approved. This was seconded by Eric.	
<b><u>3.0 Matters arising from meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017</u></b>	
<b>3.1 Gartmorn Dam Management</b> The draft management plan for Gartmorn Dam Country Park covering the 5 year period from 2018-22 has been forwarded to Forum members.	
<b>3.2 Path maintenance in Jerah woodlands</b> Forestry Commission Scotland (who approved the tree planting at Jerah) have advised that maintenance wasn't made a condition of consent for the path in question – which isn't a core path.	
<b>3.3 Dollarbeg</b> Martin reported that a path does link Dollarbeg with the B913. The roadside path did have fallen branches, leaves and overhanging branches on it,	

but these have now been removed by the Council's Roads Department.	
<p><b>3.4 Bulls in fields with core path/public right of way</b> Martin advised that the Scottish Outdoor Access Code states that access rights do extend to fields with farm animals and that this could include bulls. He also advised that the Code states that some animals can react aggressively towards people and that it advises land managers to keep animals known to be dangerous away from core paths and other well used routes.</p> <p>The Health and Safety Executive information sheet on cattle and public access in Scotland states that bulls of dairy breeds should not be in fields with public rights of way and core paths. Bulls of beef breeds are allowed in fields with paths if accompanied by cows or heifers.</p>	
<p><b>3.5 Drummie</b> Waymarker discs have been added to help guide walkers along the path and undergrowth, that was making it difficult to use the path, has now been strimmed.</p>	
<p><b>4.0 AGM/Forum membership</b></p>	
<p><b>4.1</b> Martin reported that AGM was held on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2018 and that it was well attended. Dick had reported on the work and achievements of the Forum during the last year and Callum McNeill-Ritchie of the National Trust for Scotland gave an informative presentation on Dollar Glen.</p>	
<p><b>4.2</b> Martin reported that, in keeping with the Forum's Partnership Agreement, one member of each stakeholder group stood down.</p> <p>Those standing down were:</p> <p>Landowners/land managers – Sir Robert Stewart Users group – John Hutcheson Community groups – Caroline Crawford</p>	
<p><b>4.3</b> Sir Robert Stewart was re-elected to the Landowners/land managers group and Caroline Crawford was re-elected to the Community group.</p> <p>A vacancy exists in the Users group.</p>	
<p><b>4.4</b> Current members of the Forum for 2018 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landowners/land managers - Sir Robert Stewart, Ian McFarlane, Brian Poett and John Wilson.</li> <li>• Users - Eric Davidson, Linda Howson, Barbara Maddox and Vacancy.</li> <li>• Community groups - Dick Clark (Chair), Caroline Crawford, Alison Fox and David Scott.</li> <li>• Council - Martin Dean.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.5</b> Martin reported the sad news that Alison had died since the AGM and that this meant there was also a vacancy in the Community group.</p>	
<p><b>4.6</b> Some discussion took place over who could fill the 2 vacancies and it was agreed Martin and Dick would progress this.</p>	<b>DC/MD</b>
<p><b>5.0 Update – Access and Countryside Projects Officer</b></p>	
<p><b>5.1 Alva Glen</b> Martin reported that prices for 4 kit bridges have been obtained and an engineer has been appointed to assist with kit bridge selection and to oversee works, which will be undertaken by the Council's Grounds Maintenance Team.</p>	

<p><b>5.2 Enabling Projects In Clackmannanshire</b> Martin reported that he has attended meetings with EPIC to clarify who is maintaining the Ochils Landscape Partnership projects and that discussions are ongoing.</p>	
<p><b>5.3 Path Skillz projects</b> 2 Path Skillz projects are currently being delivered - one at Gartmorn Dam Country Park and the other on paths at Hawkhill Wood.</p>	
<p><b>5.4 Events</b> These continue to use the path network. A variety of events have taken/are due to take place, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gartmorn 6</li> <li>• SERC equestrian event</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.5 Planning responses</b> Martin reported that he has commented on several planning applications, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brucefield Long Term Forest Plan</li> <li>• Inglewood House glamping proposals</li> <li>• Cowden Japanese Garden</li> <li>• Lady Wood road access</li> </ul> <p>Martin advised that he had also met with Tilhill over timber harvesting at Dollar Forest.</p>	
<p><b>5.6 City Deal</b> Martin reported that projects are still being developed and that these link with themes covering investor confidence, inclusive growth and sustainable place.</p>	
<p><b>5.7 Sport and Active Living Strategy</b> Martin reported that he had participated in meetings to develop the strategy and to ensure that it included reference to outdoor access, and that a draft strategy would soon be going out for consultation.</p>	
<p><b>5.8 Sustainability Team</b> Martin reported that 2 full time equivalent posts are to be removed from the Sustainability Team in 2018-19, that one of these related to an existing vacancy within the team, but that the other still had to be identified. Dick commented that he had written to elected members raising concerns over the removal of the post.</p>	
<p><b>6.0 Inner Forth Landscape Initiative</b></p>	
<p><b>6.1</b> Martin reported that IFLI has now finished.</p>	
<p><b>6.2</b> He advised that 3 access projects have recently been delivered in Clackmannanshire, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inner Forth Inches Trail – where 1600m of path has been constructed</li> <li>• Clackmannan and Alloa Park Access Improvements- where 1500m of path and a bridge have been constructed</li> <li>• Cambus Woods – where 500m of path and a bridge have been constructed</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7.0 Public rights of way enquiries</b></p>	
<p><b>7.1</b> Martin reported that he regularly received enquiries asking whether routes were public rights of way and that he was currently investigating whether vehicular access was permissible on one public right of way in the Muckhart area.</p>	

<p><b>7.2</b> He further advised that not all public rights of way are recorded and that this further complicated responding to such enquiries.</p>	
<p><b>8.0 Feedback - Forum members</b></p>	
<p><b>8.1 Linda</b> reported that road works in Coalsnaughton resulted in increased vehicular use of Blackfaulds Road, which lead to a number of incidents between vehicles and horse riders. These were addressed by Blackfaulds Road being temporarily closed to traffic. She also reported that the British Horse Society Scotland and Police Scotland have launched a joint initiative, entitled the “lose blinkers initiative”, which will encourage vehicles to pass horse riders wide and slow. Police Scotland will undertake mounted patrols at trouble spots.</p>	
<p><b>8.2 Ian</b> reported that he had received some road planings that will be used on farm tracks and paths that are core paths or public rights of way. He also reported that some horse riders were riding through fields of silage. The use of signage to inform access takers that access rights does not extend to fields of silage was discussed, but given the small number of riders involved, was not thought to be necessary.</p>	
<p><b>9.0 Any other business</b></p>	
<p><b>9.1</b> No other business was reported.</p>	
<p><b>10.0 Time and date of next meeting</b></p>	
<p><b>10.1</b> The next meeting of the Access Forum will be a site visit on a Tuesday afternoon at the end of August. Martin will identify a venue and date, and inform Forum members of the location and date nearer the time.</p>	<p><b>MD</b></p>