



CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL



The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

Minute of meeting held on 5th September 2007
in Room 3, Greenfield, Alloa

Action

Present

Landowners/Land Managers: Brian Poett

Agency representatives: Councillor Harry McLaren, Alistair Lawson

Advisors: Mike Shepherd, Colin Ward

Community group representatives: Dick Clark, Caroline Crawford, Jane Coull

User group representatives: Francis McKay, Linda Howson, Drew Michie, Robin Kelsall

Council officers: Martin Dean, Catriona McDonald, Guy Harewood

1.0 Apologies

Landowners/Land Managers: Sir Robert Stewart

Agency representatives: Councillor Walter McAdam

Council officers: Niall Urquhart

2.0 Approval of minutes of 6th June 2007

2.1 The minutes were approved by Brian and seconded by Dick.

2.2 Matters arising

2.2.1 Apologies It was noted the minutes of 6th June did not record that Robin Kelsall and Jane Coull had submitted their apologies.

2.2.2 Clacksweb Minutes of the last Access Forum meeting were posted on Clacksweb. It was agreed that the organisations which comprise the Forum, and their representatives name and e mail address, should be posted on Clacksweb.

MD

2.2.3 E. coli leaflet The Scottish Executive leaflet on E. coli was circulated to Forum members.

2.2.4 SNH's Recreation and Access Update Update 30 was circulated to Forum members.

2.2.5 Landowner/Land Manager representation Brian reported that James Cullens is considering joining the Forum.

3.0 Draft Core Path Plan, Outdoor Access Strategy and Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.1 Martin thanked Forum members for their comments on the criteria.

3.2 Brian expressed concern that the criteria did not adequately address biosecurity issues. Martin advised that the desirable criteria did make reference to land management issues, including enclosed fields of crops/livestock and also curtilage/privacy issues, including farm yards. Drew commented that the criteria had been created in keeping with procedures agreed by the Forum.

3.3 Mike informed the Forum that Scottish Natural Heritage required to see the Core Paths Plan in order to assess its likely impact on natural heritage.

3.4 Martin produced a plan showing candidate core paths and requested advice on core paths over setaside, on hills, and on waterbodies.

3.5 The Forum felt that they needed more time to study the plan and that it was necessary to organise a separate meeting to do this. A meeting was arranged for 20th September 2007. They also requested that information be available on neighbouring local authorities core paths which extended to the Clackmannanshire boundary.

MD

3.6 Martin reported that the Outdoor Access Strategy had been placed on-hold because of time pressures and that it would not now be written until 2008-2009.

3.7 Martin reported that the Screening Report for the Core Paths Plan had been submitted to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Gateway. Scottish Natural Heritage and Historic

Scotland responded saying an SEA was required, whilst the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency had said it was not. The Scoping and Environmental Reports still require to be written.

4.0 Second round of consultations

4.1 Martin reported that he intended to undertake the second round of consultations during October and November 2007, and that they would take place during weekday afternoons and evenings, and on Saturday mornings.

4.2 He also advised that the Core Paths Plan and Comments Form would be available on the Council website and in libraries.

4.3 Martin advised that the consultations would be advertised in local papers, on the Council website, by e mail and with posters.

5.0 Hardy's Link

5.1 Drew reported that he, Dick and Martin had met with both landowners and that permission to construct a new bridge had been obtained.

5.2 Martin informed the Forum that an application had been made to Forward Scotland for Community Environmental Renewal Scheme funding but that this had been unsuccessful, with the bid being placed on the reserve list.

5.3 Brian questioned whether the Landscape Partnership area could be extended to cover Hardy's Link. Catriona said that it was a potential project.

5.4 Jane commented that the Dam will be 300 years old in 2013 and that the Gartmorn Dam Advisory Group was looking at projects to commemorate the occasion.

5.5 Mike asked whether Clackmannan Heritage Trust could fund the bridge. Alistair felt that the bridge did not meet "heritage" criteria. Catriona commented that it may be possible for the Trust to part fund the project and agreed to raise the matter at the next CHT meeting.

CM

5.6 The possibility of the project being funded by Land Fill tax monies was raised and it was agreed that Martin would further investigate this.

MD

6.0 National Cycle Route

6.1 Martin reported that the negotiator was in ongoing discussions with Diageo and their tenant farmer, and that the negotiator had reported good progress.

7.0 Menstrie – Tullibody railway line

7.1 Martin reported that the Council had been offered the line by British Rail and that a survey of the bridge over the River Devon had been commissioned to assess its condition.

8.0 Clackmannanshire Trail

8.1 Martin reported that the Clackmannanshire Tourism Association were still keen on the project and that a 5 day walk was currently being discussed.

8.2 Dick stated that he was not convinced of the need for a long distance walk in Clackmannanshire and commented that there are other publications promoting walks in the county.

8.3 Alistair commented that if the public were not asking about a trail, then the idea should be shelved. He went onto say that he felt it is possible to over provide for the public and cited a similar Trail project that had been established in Fife, but which had not attracted many visitors.

8.4 Drew questioned the purpose of the Trail and highlighted the need for clarity on what is trying to be achieved.

8.5 Colin stated that the priority should be to create and promote a Core Path Network.

8.6 Catriona suggested that it may be possible for the project to be undertaken under the umbrella of the Landscape Partnership and agreed to look into this.

CM

9.0 Any other business

9.1 Ochils Landscape Partnership Alistair has agreed to represent the Forum on the Ochils Landscape Partnership, but sought clarification on what his remit is. Drew suggested that those representing the Forum at such meetings should use a standard template which highlights the significant agenda items, any key issues and any decisions/recommendations for the Forum. This was agreed by the Forum.

9.2 Chair/Vice Chair Francis reminded the Forum of his intention to stand down as Chair and asked members to be prepared to nominate a Chair and Vice Chair at the next meeting.

All

9.3 Alva horse access Linda asked Martin for an update of the horse access issue adjacent to the new Academy in Alva. Martin reported that he had met with some of the riders and also discussed the matter with adjacent businesses as well as those involved in the construction of the new school. A temporary arrangement had been agreed whereby the horse riders were taking access via the new access road to the school. The long term viability of this route was under question because of bridge regulations, with the possibility of a gap in a barrier being a possible solution. It was agreed Martin would provide an update at the next meeting.

MD

9.4 Raising access issues Drew referred to 2.1.2 in matters arising and questioned whether there is a way in which people from outwith the Forum can raise matters with it. Martin reported

that access issues were currently raised directly with officers, through the Council's call centre, or by e mail via the Council website. He also suggested that with the Council website detailing the organisations represented on the Forum and their representatives names and e mail addresses in future, as per 2.2.2 above, this would enable contact to be made.

9.5 Motorbikes Alistair noted that some of the issues the Forum discussed were repeated/intransigent ones. Drew highlighted motorbikes as one such issue. It was agreed Francis would ask Harry if elected members would be interested in hearing about the measures that had been taken to address the problem in South Lanarkshire.

FM

10.0 Date of next meeting

10.1 The next meeting of The Clackmannanshire Access Forum will be at 2:00pm on Wednesday, 28th November 2007 in Room 3, Greenfield.

11.0 Presentation on local biodiversity priorities by Guy Harewood, Biodiversity Coordinator

11.1 Guy reported that the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership has a Steering Group and 3 Working Groups – urban and education, water and wetland, and rural.

11.2 He advised that the groups help identify the projects that are undertaken.

11.3 Recent projects have included placing barn owl boxes at a number of sites throughout Clackmannanshire, construction of a bank at Gartmorn Dam for sand martins to nest-in and a clean-up of the Delph Pond in Tullibody.

11.3 He also mentioned that much of the work on these projects was undertaken in partnership with others, especially volunteers.

11.4 He suggested that any future access projects should make some provision for biodiversity.

11.5 Guy also highlighted the need for access takers to follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and Care For the Environment.