



CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL



The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

Minute of meeting held on 6th June 2007
in Room 36, Lime Tree House, Alloa

Action

Present

Landowners/Land Managers: Brian Poett, Ken Christie

Agency representatives: Alistair Lawson

Advisors: Mike Shepherd

Community group representatives: Dick Clark, Caroline Crawford

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

Council officers: Martin Dean, Niall Urquhart

1.0 Apologies

Landowners/Land Managers: Sir Robert Stewart

Agency representatives: Councillor Harry McLaren

Advisors: Colin Ward

2.0 Approval of minutes of 25th April 2007

2.1 Matters arising

2.1.1 Alistair highlighted that working groups can be helpful in addressing particular issues and suggested that the reference to workshops in 2.3 should be changed to working groups.

2.1.2 Drew questioned whether there shouldn't be a way in which people from outwith the Forum can raise access matters with it. It was suggested that the Council's website would be one way of raising awareness of who is on the Forum, what it does etc. Mike commented that members should publicise their involvement to those they represent. It was agreed that further discussion is required and that Martin and Francis should meet to determine how best to address this issue.

MD/FM

2.2 Approval

2.2.1 Alistair proposed acceptance of the minutes. This was seconded by Drew.

3.0 National Cycle Route

3.1 Martin reported that a negotiator had been appointed to liaise with Diageo over the possibility of tarring the path between Cambus and Orchard Farm, and of creating a new path between Cambus and Tullibody Old Brig.

4.0 Menstrie – Tullibody railway line

4.1 Martin reported that communication had taken place with British Rail over the sale of the line. He also highlighted the importance of the route in creating a link, from the Hillfoots, to the National Cycle Route.

4.2 Brian voiced his support to the Council acquiring and converting the former railway line into a multi-use path.

4.3 Francis pointed out that the line would also provide a useful link to the Round the Forth route.

5.0 Clackmannanshire Trail

5.1 Martin reported on the background to this and showed a slide illustrating a five day route of circa 80k starting and finishing in Alloa, going from sea level to Clackmannanshire's highest point at Ben Cleuch and visiting the County's five towers.

5.2 Alistair voiced some reservations about whether there was the demand for such a route, citing a trail at Kelty which was developed but rarely used. This view was echoed by Dick.

5.3 Brian pointed out that the proposed Trail followed existing paths and that many people like to make up their own routes/trails. He also commented that Dollar was already busy with visitors at weekends. Francis advised that he too, had encountered groups of visitors using Clackmannanshire's paths. Ken commented that the

Glens were all well used and maintained, and voiced his support for such a trail.

5.4 Drew suggested that people will use trails if there is a “carrot” to attract them. He referred to a trail in Austria where people were encouraged to keep a record of their progress.

5.5 Mike referred to the Draft Access Strategy and commented that it made reference to a Hillfoots Trail. He suggested that it may be possible to link a trail with the Landscape Partnership initiative and highlighted the need for joined-up thinking. He also emphasised the need for clarity about who such a trail would be targeted at.

5.6 It was agreed that Martin should enquire whether Dick could be invited to attend future meetings on the Clackmannanshire Trail.

MD

6.0 Hardy’s Link

6.1 Drew circulated “action notes” on the project. These provided some background information, explained the current position and reported on recent meetings.

6.2 Francis thanked Drew for the work he has done on the project.

6.3 Alistair commented that the project had stagnated and that input from Forum members had resulted in some progress.

6.4 Brian enquired if Ian McFarlane had been kept informed of developments. It was agreed that a meeting does need to be arranged with Ian and that Drew/Dick would organise this.

DM/DC

6.5 Linda raised concerns about the decking surface, commenting that it was unsuitable for equestrian use. Alistair said that a similar decking with tar and chip had been used on a bridge in West Lothian and offered to find out if there had been any issues surrounding horses using it.

AL

6.6 Niall advised that there are other significant issues to address including clarification on the need for a building warrant, on whether the listed status of the Lade requires communication with Historic Scotland and the acquisition of funding.

MD

7.0 Land Management Contract Scheme

7.1 Martin reported that he had been informed by the Scottish Executive of a requirement for applicants to submit maps, showing the location of any paths managed under Option 15, to access authorities by 1 June 2007. He advised that 8 landowners had submitted maps.

8.0 Core Path Planning update

8.1 Martin reported that he had undertaken the preliminary assessment and went on to summarise the findings. He gave details of the number of responses, type and frequency of use, origin, age and gender of respondents, likes and dislikes about the

path network, and suggestions on how the network can be improved.

8.2 Drew raised concerns over “sanitising” paths, whilst others felt improvements were necessary in some instances, especially if they benefited less able people.

8.3 Alistair noted that motorbikes were disliked by many of the respondents and Drew reminded Forum members of the presentation on a motorbike initiative in Lanarkshire. It was agreed that motorbikes continue to be a problem for outdoor access takers in Clackmannanshire. Dick advised that he was due to meet with the police in the near future and it was agreed that he should raise the matter with them.

DC

9.0 Criteria to be used to identify core paths

9.1 Martin reported that he had received copies of the criteria used to identify core paths from 4 Councils and enquired whether it would be helpful for the Forum to see these. It was agreed that this was the case and Martin then gave details of the criteria used by East Lothian, Falkirk, Aberdeen and Highland Councils.

9.2 Drew referred to the Core Path Plans – A guide to good practice and highlighted the need for core paths to give reasonable access throughout their area.

9.3 Brian commented that it is essential for land managers to be kept informed. Mike suggested consulting with land managers prior to the wider community. Martin and Niall agreed to consider this and to make this an agenda item for the next meeting.

MD/NU

9.4 Linda voiced concerns over mapping all paths considered for core path status during future consultations, pointing out that this had caused difficulties in other Council areas and suggesting it would be best to only mark those identified as candidate core paths.

9.5 Mike suggested that one criteria which should be included is that a core path does not adversely impact upon the natural heritage.

9.6 Drew suggested that core paths should meet essential and desirable criteria. It was agreed that Martin would produce a list of criteria to be circulated around the Forum for comment.

MD/ALL

10.0 Any other business

10.1 Alva

10.1.1 Martin reported that a section of path in Alva Glen had collapsed and that the path had been closed-off. He further reported that the Ranger Service had appointed contractors to undertake repairs and that the work had recently been completed.

10.1.2 Linda advised that a route used by horse riders had been

fenced-off by contractors. It was agreed that Martin would contact Linda on the matter.

MD

10.2 Clacksweb

10.2.1 It was agreed that Clackmannanshire Access Forum minutes should, in future, be posted on the Council website – Clacksweb.

MD

10.3 Paths For All

10.3.1 Martin reported that he had been asked by PFA to inform the Forum of a press release on a salmon parasite threat produced by the Association of Salmon Fishery Boards and the Scottish Canoe Association.

10.3.2 Martin reported that he had also been asked by PFA to inform the Forum of a new leaflet, by the Scottish Executive, on E. coli. It was agreed that Martin should forward this information to Forum members.

MD

10.4 Scottish Natural Heritage

10.4.1 Martin reported that he recently received SNH's Recreation and Access Update 30. It was agreed that this would be of interest to Forum members and that Martin should circulate it.

MD

10.4.2 Martin also reported that SNH have produced 2 Activity Guides on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code – one for 8-12 year olds and the other for 12-14 year olds. He advised that the Council's Ranger Service would use these Guides in their environmental education work with children.

10.5 Landowner/Land Manager representation

10.5.1 Martin reported that Drew McLaren had resigned from the Forum. It was agreed that Brian would seek a replacement.

BP

11.0 Date of next meeting

11.1 The next meeting of The Clackmannanshire Access Forum will be at 2:00pm on Wednesday, 5th September 2007 in Room 3, Greenfield.