



The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

Minute of meeting held on Thursday 28th May 2009 at Kilncraigs

	Action
<u>Present</u>	
Landowners/Land Managers: Sir Robert Stewart, Brian Poett	
User group representatives: Gordon Durward, Linda Howson, Drew Michie, Colin Thomson	
Community group representatives: Dick Clark, David Scott	
Agency representatives: Alistair Lawson	
Advisors:	
Council officers: Councillor Harry McLaren, Martin Dean, Niall Urquhart, Euan Hills, Jane Begg (for item 2.0) and Julia Lawrie (for item 9.0)	
<u>1.0 Apologies</u>	
1.1 Apologies were received from James Cullens, Jane Coull, Caroline Crawford, Mike Shepherd and Colin Ward	
<u>2.0 Presentation by Jane Begg on Woodlands In and Around Town</u>	
2.1 Jane explained that her post is funded by Forestry Commission Scotland and Clackmannanshire and Stirling Councils, and that she divides her time between Clackmannanshire and Stirling.	
2.2 She went on to say that the WIAT projects take place in woodlands that are close to communities with more than 2,000	

people and are funded by Forestry Commission Scotland, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust and Clackmannanshire Council (Housing Services and Ranger Service).	
<p>2.3 Projects have taken place in a number of woods in Clackmannanshire including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cowpark Wood, Sauchie • Headwall Wood, Sauchie • Woodlea Park, Alloa • Woodland Park, Alva • Quarrel Dean, Dollar 	
<p>2.4 The projects have achieved a range of targets including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Path improvements • Woodland management such as thinning • Leaflet production 	
<p>2.5 Jane explained that a Phase 2 of WIAT projects is being planned for Clackmannanshire and that management plans are to be written for 5 woods including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambus Woods • Gean Wood, Alloa • Forebraes Wood, Alloa • Hawkhill Wood, Alloa • Back Wood, Clackmannan 	
<p>2.6 Jane asked for feedback from the Forum on what the management plans should include. It was agreed that Gordon would provide feedback for the Cambus and Alloa Woods, and that Councillor McLaren and Dick would provide feedback for Clackmannan.</p>	<p>GD HMcL DC</p>
<p>2.7 Concern was raised over some path improvements eg to singletrack paths used by mountain bikers.</p>	
<p><u>3.0 Approval of minutes of 28th October 2008 and 24th February 2009</u></p>	
<p>3.1 Dick proposed that the minutes of 28th October 2008 were approved. This was seconded by Councillor McLaren.</p>	
<p>3.2 Sir Robert proposed that the minutes of 24th February 2009 were approved. This was seconded by Linda.</p>	
<p><u>4.0 Matters arising</u></p>	
<p>4.1 Arising from minutes of 28th October 2008 Martin gave an update on the Core Paths Plan. He reported that the Plan had been amended in keeping with the advice given by the Forum at its October meeting and that a final Plan had now been produced. He also advised that a Report to Council (and associated briefing and background papers) had been prepared for the Council</p>	

meeting in June. If approved, the Council are required to give the public notice of adoption and make the Plan available for public inspection and sale. Copies of the Plan require to be sent to the Scottish Government and it was agreed that they would also be sent to members of the Access Forum. A post adoption statement also requires to be written for the Plan's Strategic Environmental Assessment. Signage and some structures require to be installed on the core paths within 2 years of adoption.	MD
4.2 Arising from minutes of 24th February 2009 Alistair reported that he found the Open Meeting a "fraught" occasion. He commented that one attendee had called into question the manner in which the Forum organised itself and its Open Meeting. Alistair went on to say that he would like to establish a more formal relationship with some of the user groups who were at the meeting and, in particular, Ramblers Scotland; and sought suggestions as to who could provide that link. Gordon and Colin agreed to discuss the matter further to identify which one of them would be the link with Ramblers Scotland. Several members of the Forum complimented Alistair for the way in which he chaired the Open Meeting.	GD CT
5.0 Partnership agreement/Forum vacancies	
5.1 Martin reported that two of the stakeholder groups, the Landowners/Land Managers and User groups, had full representation. He went on to say that there was a single vacancy in the Community group and two vacancies in the Agencies group.	
5.2 It was agreed that Martin should approach Enid Trevett of the Council for Voluntary Services Clackmannanshire to ask if she can suggest a young person to fill the Community group vacancy or, if not, to invite her to fill the Community group vacancy.	MD
5.3 It was also agreed to merge the Agencies and Advisors groups, which would then leave one vacancy which should be offered to the Forestry Commission or, if they are unable to accept, the Devon Angling Association.	MD
5.4 David questioned whether the agreement should be amended to allow substitutes to attend meetings that members are unable to make. Linda suggested that the agreement should also make provision for members bringing "problems" to the Forum. Following some discussion about the agreement and how often it should be reviewed, it was agreed that a Working Group (comprising Drew, Alistair, David and Martin) is to be created in the autumn to review the current agreement.	DM AL DS MD
5.5 Gordon queried whether it was the responsibility of Forum members to communicate with those they represented or whether	

<p>the onus was on the public to communicate with Forum members. David questioned whether there was a way of communicating with people who had attended the Open Meeting, but had not been elected to the Forum. Following discussion about the current means of communication, Alistair requested that Niall prepare a paper (for the next meeting) highlighting how the Forum can advertise what it does to the wider public.</p>	<p>NU</p>
<p>6.0 Core Paths Plan</p>	
<p>6.1 This was discussed under matters arising - see 4.1 above.</p>	
<p>7.0 Clackmannanshire Access Strategy and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment</p>	
<p>7.1 Martin reported that an Access Strategy and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment are due to be written in the near future and that this will take up much of his time over the next few months. He also recognised the need for consultation with the Forum in the production of both documents.</p>	
<p>8.0 Inclusive Outdoor Access Networks Project</p>	
<p>8.1 Martin reported that Clackmannanshire are to be part of an Inclusive Outdoor Access Networks Project involving Fieldfare and Fife, Falkirk and Stirling Councils. Funding for the Project has been secured from a variety of sources, including Scottish Natural Heritage, TSB and Leader (Fife and Forth Valley).</p>	
<p>8.2 The Project runs for 3 years from April 2009 - March 2012 and aims to recruit and train volunteers to survey the accessibility of core paths for people with disabilities. This information is to be publicised so that those with disabilities know which core paths are suitable for them. A secondary aim of the Project is to identify which core paths could, with minor works, become accessible to people with disabilities.</p>	
<p>9.0 Ochils Landscape Partnership</p>	
<p>9.1 Niall introduced Julia Lawrie, the newly appointed Landscape Partnership Officer, to the Forum.</p>	
<p>9.2 Julia advertised an event due to take place on World Environment Day (5th June) at Alva Parklands, which aims to celebrate the environment and heritage of Clackmannanshire and promote a number of initiatives, including the Ochils Landscape Partnership.</p>	
<p>9.3 Julia distributed details of the Partnerships Programmes and Projects, which included a number of Projects that include access. Julia also commented that the Forum may well be asked to advise on some of these Projects.</p>	
<p>9.4 Some Forum members expressed concerns over the</p>	

structure of the committees and suggested that the Partnership should liaise closely with landowners, whilst others commented that the Partnership was an exciting initiative. Particular mention was made to waymarking in the Ochils and a suggestion made that the Mountaineering Council of Scotland's policy on waymarking is followed.	
9.5 The need for updating the Forum on the progress of the Partnership was recognised as being necessary and it was agreed that Niall would provide this at the next meeting.	NU
<u>10.0 Climate Challenge Fund</u>	
10.1 Niall gave a short presentation on the Climate Challenge Fund.	
10.2 He explained that the Climate Challenge Fund helps communities to put their own solutions for significant reduction of carbon emission into action and that £27.4 million had been made available, with funding stopping in March 2011. He also mentioned that funding was restricted to community groups and was not available to Councils.	
10.3 Niall then gave examples of access projects which had received Climate Challenge Funding.	
10.4 There followed some discussion about whether the Forum would be eligible for funding, with reference being made to the Hardy's Link bridge and to the "Bums Off Seats" initiative in Fife.	
<u>11.0 Round The Forth route</u>	
11.1 Martin reported that negotiations (with the landowner) to reroute and upgrade the Round The Forth Route to the west of Cambus had not, as yet, been productive. He went on to say that should this continue to be the case, the Council will look to create a Path Order under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.	
11.2 Martin further reported that Sustrans are currently acquiring the Menstrie Branch Line with a view to constructing a path on it.	
<u>12.0 Walk Homecoming 2009</u>	
12.1 Martin reported that the Ramblers Scotland have initiated a Walk Homecoming project that aims to see "medal" (gold, silver and bronze taking 60, 30 and 15 minutes respectively) walking routes in all parts of Scotland.	
12.2 He went on say that, the Council had identified Gartmorn Dam Visitor Centre as a walking "hub" from which walks would radiate. Routes are currently being identified in partnership with the Forestry Commission.	
<u>13.0 Walk to Work Week 2009</u>	
13.1 Martin reported that Walk to Work Week 2009 was from	

Monday, 27th April to Friday, 1st May. These dates were advertised to Council staff, paths that they could use publicised and two walks, to encourage staff to walk more, organised.	
14.0 Clackmannanshire Walking Festival	
14.1 Martin reported that this years Walking Festival will take place from Thursday, 17th September to Monday, 21st September inclusive. A variety of walks are being organised by Council staff and others.	
14.2 There was some discussion about how the Festival will be advertised, with Euan referring to what happened last year.	
15.0 Any other business	
15.1 Motorbikes Martin reported that the Community Wardens have arranged for the Auto Cycle Union to give a presentation (at the Clarendon Lodge Hotel on Wednesday, 10th June) to Council staff and elected members on alternatives to enforcement - a talk about how the ACU have made their model a success in other areas and reduced the problem of illegal bikes.	
15.2 SNH evening reception Niall reported that SNH are hosting an evening reception in Alloa Town Hall on Thursday, 18th June and that members of the Forum will receive an invitation for it in the near future.	
15.3 Pegasus crossing Linda voiced concerns that the pegasus crossing at Devon Village was started some time ago, but is unfinished and has not been worked on recently. She went on to say that the A908 is becoming more difficult to cross for equestrian users. Martin commented that the crossing was to be constructed as planning gain from the adjacent development, that development had stopped because of the current recession and that he didn't know when it would be completed.	
15.4 Leaflets Martin distributed the Forth Estuary Forum's On the Forth - a Leisure craft users' guide to the Firth of Forth and the Scottish Canoe Association's Paddlers' Access Code - Access Advice for Paddlers in Scotland.	
16.0 Time and date of next meeting	
16.1 The next meeting of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum will be at 2pm on Tuesday, 25th August 2009 in the Boardroom at Kilncraigs.	