



## The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

### Minute of meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2009 at Kilncraigs

	<b>Action</b>
<b><u>Present</u></b>	
<b>Landowners/Land Managers:</b> James Cullens, Sir Robert Stewart (for item 9.0)	
<b>User group representatives:</b> Gordon Durward, Linda Howson, Colin Thomson	
<b>Community group representatives:</b> Caroline Crawford, David Scott, Enid Trevett	
<b>Agency and advisory representatives:</b> Alistair Lawson, Chris Stark, Colin Ward	
<b>Council officers:</b> Councillor Harry McLaren, Martin Dean, Euan Hills	
<b><u>1.0 Apologies</u></b>	
<b>1.1</b> Apologies were received from Drew Michie, Brian Poett, Mike Shepherd, Sir Robert Stewart (for first part of meeting) and Niall Urquhart	
<b><u>2.0 Approval of minutes of 28th May 2009</u></b>	
<b>2.1</b> Colin T proposed that the minutes of 28th May 2009 were approved. This was seconded by David.	
<b><u>3.0 Matters arising</u></b>	
<b>3.1 Woods In and Around Town</b> Councillor McLaren reported	

<p>that the paths in Clackmannan Back Wood are serviceable, but that puddles do form in places during wet weather. He also advised that some of the bridges need to be replaced and that the paths showed some evidence of motor bike use.</p> <p>Alistair reported that the visit to look at the motorbike facility at Cardenden had not taken place because of difficulties in finding a suitable date.</p> <p>Gordon reported that he had visited Cambus and Alloa Woods with Jane Begg and that the paths were in need of some improvement. He also reported that jumps had been constructed in the woods by mountain bikers and that there was some litter and dumping.</p>	
<p><b>3.2 Ramblers Scotland</b> Colin T and Gordon reported that Gordon would be the link with Ramblers Scotland.</p>	<b>GD</b>
<p><b>3.3 Partnership agreement</b> Martin is due to arrange a meeting of the Working Group (comprising Drew, Alistair, David and Martin) appointed to review the current agreement.</p> <p>Martin reported that ill health has meant that Niall has not been able to prepare a paper highlighting how the Forum can advertise what it does to the wider public, but now that he is back at work, will address this in the near future.</p>	<b>MD</b>  <b>NU</b>
<p><b>3.4 Inclusive Outdoor Access Network</b> Martin reported that meetings have taken place between Julia Lawrie and Ian Newman (Fieldfare Trust) to ensure that the Ochils Landscape Partnership and the Inclusive Outdoor Access Network project do not duplicate each others work.</p>	
<p><b>3.5 Pegasus crossing</b> Martin reported that Roads have said that they will complete the crossing in the near future.</p>	
<p><b>3.6 Other matters arising</b> - see update (sent out in advance of meeting) below.</p>	
<p><b>4.0 Forum vacancies</b></p>	
<p><b>4.1</b> Enid Trevett of the Council for Voluntary Services Clackmannanshire has agreed to fill the Community Group vacancy on the Forum and was welcomed by Alistair.</p>	
<p><b>4.2</b> Chris Stark of the Forestry Commission has agreed to fill the vacancy in the Forum's Agencies and Advisory Group, and was also welcomed by Alistair.</p>	
<p><b>5.0 Forwarding of National Access Forum minutes</b></p>	
<p><b>5.1</b> Discussion took place on whether minutes from the National Access Forum meetings should be forwarded to members of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum. Colin W and James supported their circulation and it was agreed that future minutes will be forwarded on a trial basis.</p>	
<p><b>5.2</b> Martin reported that the annual joint meeting of the national</p>	

and local access forums is to be held in Inverness on 28th October. He went on to say that he would be attending and that a member of the Forum could also attend. Nobody else was able to attend, so it was agreed that Martin would e mail those members not at the meeting to see if they would like to represent Clackmannanshire at the meeting.	<b>MD</b>
<b>5.3</b> Alistair suggested that Richard Cooke, Convenor of the National Access Forum be invited to the next meeting of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum and that Martin should contact him with the invitation.	<b>MD</b>
<b>6.0 Signage advice</b>	
<b>6.1</b> Alistair thanked members for contributing to the advice given to the Council. Martin also thanked the Forum for its advice, and commented that it will be helpful when the core paths are signed.	
<b>7.0 Any other business</b>	
<b>7.1 Ochils Landscape Partnership</b> Alistair reported that he had received a letter from Julia Lawrie inviting a member of the Forum to become a join the Ochils Landscape Partnership sub-group for access. Gordon offered to represent the Forum on the sub-group.	<b>GD</b>
<b>7.2</b> Gordon reported that he had encountered locked gates on the path up the west side of Silver Glen, and that the adjacent stiles were not easy to cross. The route is used by hill walkers to access Ben Ever and Ben Cleuch. Euan commented that self closing gates (located alongside field gates) have been installed on many other paths in Clackmannanshire and that these do work well in that they facilitate access whilst containing livestock. James reiterated that, pointing to some of the difficulties that can arise when people climb gates. Martin agreed to visit the site to look at the issue and to report back to the Forum at the next meeting.	<b>MD</b>
<b>8.0 Time and date of next meeting</b>	
<b>8.1</b> The next meeting of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum will be at 2pm on Tuesday, 24th November 2009 in the Boardroom at Kilncraigs.	
<b>9.0 Site visit to Tillicoultry Glen</b>	
<b>9.1</b> The Forum visited the glen to look at the uppermost bridge with a view to providing advice to the Council on whether when it needs replaced, it should be with another bridge, another structure such as stepping stones, or with nothing.	
<b>9.2</b> The discussion considered the type of use the path received and its importance for hill walkers was noted.	

**9.3** Alistair agreed to seek the views of Forum members, once they had had time to reflect on them, and to forward their advice to the Council.

**AL/AII**



## **The Clackmannanshire Access Forum**

**Update for meeting to be held on Tuesday, 25th August 2009**

### **1.0 Core Paths Plan**

The Strategic Environment Assessment Post-Adoption Statement has been written and submitted to the Scottish Government, the public notice of adoption of the Core Paths Plan has been posted in the Alloa Advertiser and on the Council website, the Scottish Government has been advised of the adoption of the Plan and forwarded a copy of it, the web pages on the Core Paths Plan and SEA have been updated, and the Plan, together with the SEA, made available for inspection at the Council's Kilncraigs reception.

### **2.0 Clackmannanshire Access Strategy and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment**

A draft framework for the Strategy and its SEA is shown below:

<b>Strategy</b>
Introduction
Background
Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003/legislation
Relevant strategies, plans etc
Current outdoor access provision

Vision statement
Key issues
Action Plan/ Aims and objectives
Financial resources
Forward view
Appendices
Executive summary
Inspection and maintenance?
Devise routes for different users eg walkers, cyclists etc and post on Clacksweb

<b>SEA</b>
Scoping
Environmental Report Introduction
Environmental Report strategy context
Environmental Report environmental baseline
Environmental Report assessment of effects and proposed mitigation
Environmental Report monitoring
Environmental Report next steps
Environmental Report non technical summary
Post-Adoption Statement

### **3.0 Climate Challenge Fund**

The Climate Challenge Fund helps communities to put their own solutions for significant reduction of carbon emissions into action and is worth £27.4 million over three years (2008-11).

Improving paths around the Lornshill Academy to encourage pupils to walk/cycle, instead of being driven/taking other forms of motorised transport, would appear to meet the aims of the Fund, which is eligible to schools but not, ironically, to local authorities.

In light of the above, I have been liaising with the Academy over a possible bid by the school for Climate Challenge Funding to improve the surface of paths around the school.

#### **4.0 Round The Forth route**

The tenant farmer has recently indicated that he would be prepared to allow the cycle path to go through the tenanted ground and has held discussions with Diageo on the matter.

#### **5.0 Walk Homecoming 2009**

The following message was recently received from Alison Turnbull, Promoting Walking Coordinator, Ramblers Scotland:

Just a quick update on the Walk Homecoming 2009 project. Some of you may have seen the media reports regarding the financial situation of Ramblers Scotland and at the moment we are facing very severe budget cuts which may result in the closure of the Ramblers Scotland office. These budget cuts also include money set aside to fund the Walk Homecoming 2009 project.

As so much work has gone into the project already and we have already received an offer of grant funding for the project, we are now in the process of applying for further external grants to make up the funding shortfall and ensure that the project can continue. However, we will not know the outcome of these funding bids until early August. All design and printing work for the project will therefore have to be put on hold until this time.

For those to whom I have already sent out maps, please do continue to send them to me with marked routes, text descriptions and photos and I will hold onto them until such time as we are able to complete the project. Hopefully we will not have to wait too long for this to happen.

In the meantime, thank you all very much for your patience and I hope that we can start preparing leaflets for you before the summer is out.