



Clackmannanshire Council

www.clacksweb.org.uk



The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

Minute of meeting held on Monday, 13th September 2010 at Kilncraigs

	<u>Action</u>
Present	
Landowners/Land Managers: Sir Robert Stewart, Brian Poett, James Cullens	
User group representatives: Gordon Durward, Linda Howson, Jane Preston	
Community group representatives: Dick Clark, Caroline Crawford, David Scott, Enid Trevett	
Agency and advisory representatives: Alistair Lawson, Colin Ward, Mirren Begbie (substitute for Jane McArdle)	
Council: Councillor McLaren, Martin Dean, Euan Hills, Gordon Roger	
Observers: Jeff Smith, Neil Ramsay (Dick, as Chair, welcomed both on behalf of the Forum.)	
<u>1.0 Presentation on the Environment Partnership Team</u>	
1.1 Gordon Roger, Planning Officer in Clackmannanshire Council's Sustainability Team, gave a presentation on the Environment Partnership Team.	
1.2 Community Planning Gordon said that local authorities have a statutory duty to undertake community planning under the Local Government Scotland Act 2003. The two main aims of community planning are to:	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make sure that people and communities are genuinely engaged in the decisions made on public services that affect them • ensure there is a commitment from organisations to work together in providing better public services <p>Clackmannanshire Alliance is the partnership which takes the community planning process forward in Clackmannanshire.</p>	
<p>1.3 The Clackmannanshire Alliance's role is to provide the strategic vision and direction for community planning, as well as to monitor the implementation of the Community Plan and the Single Outcome Agreement.</p> <p>The Alliance meets quarterly and is chaired by the Leader of the Council.</p> <p>Membership of the Alliance comprises representatives of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Central Scotland Fire and Rescue Service • Central Scotland Police • Forth Valley College • NHS Forth Valley • Clackmannanshire Council <p>The Alliance also has representation from community, voluntary and business sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clackmannanshire Business • Clackmannanshire Joint Community Council Forum • Clackmannanshire Tenants & Residents Federation • Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) Clackmannanshire 	
<p>1.4 The Community Plan provides the overall framework in which community planning operates.</p> <p>By laying out the long term vision for Clackmannanshire and aims for the community planning partnership, the Community Plan is the foundation for the Single Outcome Agreement.</p> <p>The Alliance is currently working on an update to the Clackmannanshire Community Plan and will produce a plan to 2020.</p>	
<p>1.5 The Alliance is supported by Partnership Teams whose role it is to develop action plans to realise the strategic vision.</p> <p>There are six Partnership Teams:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety: chaired by Central Scotland Police • Health • Economic Development • Environment • Children and Young People's Partnership Team • Community Learning & Development Partnership Team 	
<p>1.6 Alistair asked if the information presented could be forwarded to Forum members in diagramatic form.</p>	<p>GR</p>
<p>1.7 Gordon R then spoke about the Gartmorn Dam Green Hub, a</p>	

Council initiative that has secured funding from the Central Scotland Green Network.	
<p>1.8 The Central Scotland Green Network aims to change the face of Central Scotland, by restoring and transforming the landscape of an area stretching from Ayrshire and Inverclyde in the west, to Fife and the Lothians in the east, including Clackmannanshire.</p> <p>The Scottish Government's second National Planning Framework identifies the CGSN as a national priority, which will deliver: <i>"...a step change in environmental quality, woodland cover and recreational opportunities...[and] make Central Scotland a more attractive place to live in, do business and visit; help to absorb CO₂; enhance biodiversity; and promote active travel and healthier life styles".</i></p>	
<p>1.9 The aim of the Gartmorn Dam Green Hub project is to investigate the most effective means of further developing Gartmorn Dam so that it becomes a green hub for Clackmannanshire, drawing in large numbers of visitors due to its accessibility not only from Clackmannanshire's main settlements, but also the wider area. The project seeks to reinforce and enhance the key importance of Gartmorn Dam as a sub-regional focus for habitat and access networks, and for outdoor recreational activity. It will identify ways to extend the range of activities on offer, to improve facilities on, and links to, the site; and to market the site more effectively.</p>	
<p>2.0 Apologies</p>	
<p>2.1 Apologies were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Niall Urquhart - Colin Thomson - Jane McArdle - Alan Hunt 	
<p><u>3.0 Approval of draft minute of meeting held on 1st June 2010</u></p>	
<p>3.1 Dick requested that 6.7 be changed to read "Dick thanked the Forum for electing him as Chair, that he was looking forward to the future and asked as a courtesy to Alistair, if he would Chair the rest of the meeting, which Alistair agreed to." This was accepted by the Forum.</p>	
<p>3.2 Alistair proposed that the minutes of 1st June 2010 were approved. This was seconded by David.</p>	
<p><u>4.0 Matters arising from meeting on 1st June 2010</u></p>	
<p>4.1 Partnership Agreement/Promotion of Forum Dick firstly advised that he had not written an article about the activities of</p>	

<p>the Forum for publication in the press, having been overtaken by a major health problem a few days after the last meeting and gave his apology.</p> <p>He also commented that he thought the Partnership Agreement needs to redefine membership criteria and that the section on "Conduct of meetings" needs reviewed, and that such changes will benefit the integrity of the Forum. It was suggested that consideration be given to reviewing the Partnership Agreement after the next AGM.</p>	
<p>4.2 Pegasus crossing Martin reported that he had raised the problems with the Pegasus crossing at Devon Village with the Roads Department and that these had now been rectified.</p>	
<p>4.3 Possible joint meeting with Falkirk Access Forum Martin advised that he had declined the invitation from Falkirk Access Forum for a joint event.</p>	
<p>4.4 Devon Way Martin reported that he had raised the fact that the tarred sections were slippery with Roads colleagues and that he was waiting to hear back from them. Linda advised that the problem occurred where there was a slope. There followed some discussion on police horses and their studded shoes allowing them to cope with tarred slopes. It was pointed out that not all horses can wear studded shoes and also that studded shoes can damage some path surfaces.</p>	
<p>4.5 Blackfaulds to Devon Village path Martin reported that he had looked at the path, that it's width couldn't be increased because of buildings on one side and a ditch on the other, and that the edging that has been installed would make it reducing the cross-fall difficult.</p> <p>Linda reported that CRAG have approached the developers, Marshalls, and that they will construct a fence between the path and the ditch.</p>	
<p>4.6 Diversion of core path 59 at Tillicoultry Golf Course followed by site visit See item 7.0 on agenda.</p>	
<p>5.0 Access and Countryside Projects Officer update</p>	
<p>5.1 Path improvements:</p> <p>- NCN at Mary Wood and Cambus</p> <p>Martin reported that a 300m stretch of National Cycle Network at Mary Wood, Clackmannan, had never been tarred because forestry works were due to take place in the surrounding woodland. The forestry works have now been completed and the path will be tarred this autumn.</p> <p>Martin also reported that he had met with a landowner at Cambus to try and progress work on the NCN between Cambus and the Old Tullibody Bridge. The landowner is accepting of the works but is keen that the Council raises the matter with their</p>	

tenant to make them aware of the proposals.

- Menstrie Branch Line

Martin reported that the Menstrie Branch Line has now been acquired by Railway Paths and that they hope to lift the redundant sleepers and track in the near future. It is hoped that path works will take place on the Line thereafter.

- Devon Way Demonstration Project

Martin reported that funding has been secured for a Demonstration Project which will see different path surfaces, including tar with a rubber sub-base and toptrec, laid on the Devon Way, between Fishcross and Tillicoultry. Partners include Clackmannanshire Council, Sustrans, Cycling Scotland and Paths For All.

- Gartunny

CRAG have funded improvements to core path 127 at Gartunny, near Coalsnaughton; a path used by a variety of access takers.

- Coalpots Wood

Martin reported that the Forestry Commission have improved core path 85 and also a path linking from the core path to the underground reservoir at the west edge of the wood.

- WIAT - Arnsbrae and Gean Wood

Clackmannanshire Council have been successful in an application for Woodlands In and Around Town monies to improve paths at Arnsbrae and at Gean Wood.

- Lade path

Brian commented that he's had discussions with Scottish Water over improving the Lade path between Forest Mill and Gartmorn Dam Country Park.

5.2 SNH initiatives:

- Scottish Coastal way

SNH has established a steering group, with representatives from local authorities, users and long distance route managers. The group's aim is to establish, promote and implement a Scottish Coastal Ways Initiative. Rather than a single, continuous, coastal path, it's envisaged that this will be a mixture of existing longer distance routes, local paths and general access provision. In the short term, it's envisaged that the promotion and marketing of this initiative will be as important as having additional paths on the ground. A longer term ambition though, is the incremental development of coastal paths and routes as local authorities implement core path plans, access strategies and other projects, and community-led initiatives are established.

Improvements to core paths which follow the Forth to the west of Alloa and a new route following the coast between Alloa and Kennet Pans have been suggested as aspirational works in

<p>Clackmannanshire.</p> <p>- Long Distance Routes</p> <p>Martin reported that SNH's proposals for establishing and promoting a network of longer distance routes in Scotland include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition, vision, aims and outcomes of a network of longer distance routes • Initial listing of longer distance routes in the branded network • Strengthening and enhancing the longer distance route network • Developing collective branding and marketing to promote the network of longer distance routes in Scotland • Developing new partnership working arrangements <p>Martin provided feedback to SNH commenting that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One of the proposed Ochils Landscape Partnership projects is the Hillfoots Way - a "longish" distance route from Blairlogie to Muckhart • The Scottish Coastal Way would be a long distance route, so the two ideas should be merged into a single initiative • Resources will be required to deliver long distance routes 	
<p>5.3 Inclusive networks + phototrails</p> <p>Martin reported that phototrails (which provide disabled access takers with information on path conditions, including their surface, width, gradient etc) had now been produced for Gartmorn Dam, the Devon Way and the Delph Pond area in Tullibody.</p>	
<p>5.4 Health Walks</p> <p>Martin reported that he is on the Strategic Group for the Wee County Walkers who deliver health walks across Clackmannanshire.</p>	
<p>5.5 Bike Week 19-27 June</p> <p>Martin reported that Bike Week took place in June and that this was advertised in local media .</p>	
<p>5.6 Events</p> <p>Martin reported that a significant number of events take place in Clackmannanshire and that some of his time is spent liaising with event organisers, advising them of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, of land owners etc. Most events take place in the Ochils and around Gartmorn Dam Country Park.</p>	
<p>5.7 Planning responses</p> <p>Martin advised that some of his time is spent responding to planning applications which may impact on access and that he had responded to two planning applications recently, one at NW Alloa where housing development is planned and the other at the former Equestrian Centre at Fishcross, where the SSPCA</p>	

want to demolish the existing centre and construct a Wildlife Centre.	
5.8 Strategy and SEA Martin reported that he was making some progress with the Outdoor Access Strategy and its associated Strategic Environmental Assessment.	
6.0 Core Paths Plan - Implementation	
6.1 Martin reported that signs advertising core paths are currently being installed. Information detailing the destination and distance will be added to each sign in the near future.	
6.2 Brian sought clarification on what signage was being installed. Martin explained that metal signs would be installed at the point where paths leave roads and that plastic waymarker posts would be installed at points where access takers could inadvertently stray from the core path.	
6.3 Martin also explained that self closing and 2 in 1 self closing gates were being installed on core paths where required.	
6.4 It was agreed that Martin would meet with James and Brian to discuss where signs and gates would be installed on their land.	MD
6.5 Martin reported that core paths which follow quiet roads without a footway would have a 30mph speed limit introduced and signage stating "cycling, riding and walking friendly road". Core paths affected are: - 35 Menstrie - Alva Back Road - 148 Dollar - Muckhart Back Road - 170 - School Road, Muckhart - 151 and 169 Roads leading to Vicars Bridge	
6.6 Martin advised that traffic calming measures have already been introduced to core path 101 - Clackmannan to Kincardine Road via Kennet Pans.	
7.0 Diversion of core path 59 at Tillicoultry Golf Course	
7.1 Martin reminded Forum members that the Golf Club had requested that core path 59 is diverted and that the Forum had supported the request.	
7.2 He reported that both Scottish Natural Heritage and Tillicoultry Community Council are also supportive of the request.	
7.3 In light of this, the Core Paths Plan and list can now be amended to take account of the diversion. Scottish Ministers also require to be informed of the change.	MD
8.0 Ochils Landscape Partnership update	
8.1 Martin circulated a letter from Councillor Carrick which stated that the Ochils Landscape Partnership has been successful in securing £631,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.	

<p>8.2 He also circulated information which appeared on the BBC News website for Tayside and Central. This stated that the money would be used to help conserve the area's "built, social and natural heritage" and that it comprises 22 individual projects.</p>	
<p>8.3 The Ochils Landscape partnership projects include: Programme A: Your Wee Bit Hill and Glen A1 The Hillfoots Way A2 Bonnie Blairlogie A3 Dumyat Paths A4 Menstrie Glen A5 Alva Glen A6 Ochils Woodland Park A7 Tillicoultry Glen A8 Dollar Glen A9 Restoration of Mill Green A10 Dollar Burn Education and Interpretation A11 Dollar Burn Water Race Course Restoration A12 Muckhart Nature Park A13 Control of Bracken Programme B: By the Banks of the Devon B1 Devon Trail B2 Reinstatement of Natural Wetlands B3 Riverbank Stabilisation B4 Control of Alien Species Programme C: The Hills of Time C1 Ochils Orientation C2 Ochils Festival C3 Historic Kirkyards C4 Mining and Minerals C5 Alva Ice House</p>	
<p>8.4 There was discussion about some of the projects and, in particular, about A13 Control of Bracken and B4 Control of Alien Species. Brian pointed out that bracken was best controlled as part of a single, large scale scheme and Euan advised that balsam (an alien, non-native species) needed controlled because it had a negative impact on native flora.</p>	
<p>8.5 Martin acknowledged the contributions made by Forum members to the bid.</p>	
<p>8.6 Gordon D, who was on the Access Sub-Group, said that he would like to continue to be involved in the project. Martin agreed to investigate what opportunities there were and to let him know.</p>	<p>MD</p>
<p>8.7 Sir Robert asked what staff would be appointed to deliver the project. Martin reported that there would be 3 full-time staff (a Landscape Partnership Co-ordinator, a Landscape Partnership Heritage Officer and a Landscape Partnership Finance and Administration Officer) and one part-time (0.6 full time equivalent)</p>	

Landscape Partnership Research and Interpretation Officer.	
8.8 Alistair reported that ScotWays and the Woodland Trust have been looking at the Reservoirs Trail (which goes between Muckhart and Lower Glendevon Reservoir), with a view to adding improvements. One improvement they would like to add is loops at strategic locations. In Clackmannanshire, they would like to create a loop which goes from Muckhart Nature Park to Seamab. Signage would only be installed where the loop leaves the main trail. Alistair also pointed out that walkers following the Hillfoots Way (which runs between Logie Kirk and Muckhart) could extend their walk, by following the Reservoirs Trail from Muckhart.	
9.0 Scottish Outdoor Access Code - Enjoy Scotland's Outdoors	
9.1 Martin circulated Scottish Natural Heritage's new leaflet "Enjoy Scotland's Outdoors" which describes how people can enjoy their access rights and follow the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. He also explained that the new leaflet replaced the "Know the Code before you go" leaflets.	
9.2 Martin distributed the British Horse Society Scotland and Cycling Scotland's joint leaflet on "Getting the best from Shared-use paths: A guide for cyclists and horse riders". He highlighted a concern, raised by Drew Michie, which queried the advice given to cyclists, that they should ring their bell if they meet a horse rider.	
9.3 There then followed some discussion about fouling of paths by dogs and horses. Mirren highlighted the fact that some dog owners bag their dog's waste, but don't dispose of it responsibly. Brian felt that the advice given to dog owners in the "Enjoy Scotland's Outdoors" leaflet was inadequate, but did comment that the "Dog Owners - What the Scottish Outdoor Access Code means to dog walkers" leaflet does give good advice. Colin drew the Forum's attention to the "Green Dog Walkers Scheme" in Falkirk Council area where dog owners promote responsible behaviour to other dog owners. The possibility of commercial operations organising clean-ups of paths was discussed. Linda advised Forum members that horse riders don't always know when their horses are fouling, but did say that posters are placed in liveries which ask riders to try and ensure their horse fouls to the side of, not on, paths.	
10.0 Any other business	
10.1 Gartmorn Dam Green Hub Further to Gordon Roger's presentation, Dick proposed Gordon Durward represent the Forum at Green Hub Meetings and this was agreed unanimously.	GD
10.2 Environment Partnership Team Following on from Gordon	

Roger's presentation, no decision was taken as to who would represent the Forum at Environment Partnership Team meetings. Further discussion will take place at the next meeting.	MD
10.3 SRPBA and NFU Scotland Joint Briefing Note on Outdoor Access in Fields with Cattle; Guidance for Land Managers Brian brought the Joint Briefing Note to the attention of Forum members. It was agreed that Martin would circulate this to Forum members.	MD
10.4 Friends of the Forum Alistair advised the Forum that the Argyll Access Forum had created a Friends of the Forum to allow former members to stay in touch with what it is doing. Martin suggested that minutes posted on Clacksweb, being able to attend Forum meetings as an observer and to attend the AGM, allowed former members of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum to stay in touch with what it is doing. After some discussion on the pros and cons, it was agreed not to create such a group at present, but if further demand is shown, to discuss the matter again at a future meeting.	
10.5 Jane Coull Martin reported that Jane has resigned from the Forum's Landowners/Land Managers representatives. It was agreed that Martin would write to Jane to thank her for her contributions to the Forum. It was also agreed that James and Brian would look for somebody to replace Jane on the Landowners/Land Managers representatives at the next AGM.	MD JC and BP
10.6 Dick Clark Dick reported that he was having to stand down from the Forum for health reasons and said that this would be his last Forum meeting. Members of the Forum thanked Dick for his input to the Forum since it was founded in 2001 and wished him well for the future. Dick suggested that another member of the Community groups should take over from him and, after some discussion, it was agreed that Caroline, as Vice Chair, would Chair the next meeting and that a new Chair would be elected at the next AGM.	CC
11.0 Time and date of next meeting	
11.1 The next meeting of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum will be at 2pm on Tuesday, 30th November 2010 in the Boardroom at Kilncraigs.	