



Clackmannanshire Council

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The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

Note of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 1st March 2011 at Lornshill Academy

| | <u>Action</u> |
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| Present | |
| Members of the public: Tim Barratt (Forestry Commission), Sheila Cram (Wee County Walkers), Stuart Davies (Scottish Natural Heritage), Kevin Mitchell (Ochils Mountain Rescue Team), Ian Newman (Fieldfare Trust), John Wilson (Land manager), | |
| Landowners/Land Managers representatives: Sir Robert Stewart, James Cullens | |
| Agency and advisory representatives: Alistair Lawson, Jane McArdle | |
| Community group representatives: David Scott | |
| User group representatives: Jane Preston | |
| Council officers: Martin Dean, Euan Hills | |
| Apologies: Dick Clark, Caroline Crawford, Linda Howson, Brian Poett, Colin Thomson, Colin Ward, Niall Urquhart | |
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| <u>1.0 Welcome approval of note from last AGM and report on the work and achievements of the Forum</u> | |
| 1.1 Martin welcomed everybody to the Annual General Meeting of the Forum. | |
| 1.2 Sir Robert proposed that the note from last years AGM was approved. This was seconded by Alistair. | |
| 1.3 Martin provided some background on the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and explained that Part 1 of the Act provided | |

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| <p>a right of responsible access. He advised that the Scottish Outdoor Access Code provided clarification on what was responsible behaviour by users and by land managers.</p> | |
| <p>1.4 He then advised that the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 placed 7 duties on the Council and gave it 12 powers.</p> | |
| <p>1.5 Martin informed those present that one of the duties was for a local authority to establish an Access Forum and that its role was advisory and to assist in dispute resolution.</p> | |
| <p>1.6 Martin then explained that the membership of the Access Forum was equally divided between 4 stakeholder groups (land managers, user groups, community groups and agency and advisory representatives), and that a Partnership Agreement gave the Forum direction.</p> | |
| <p>1.7 Martin reported that there had been 3 meetings of the Forum since last years AGM - in June, September and January.</p> | |
| <p>1.8 The Forum had provided advice on core path diversions at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tillicoultry Golf Course/core path 59 • Devon Village/core path 72 | |
| <p>1.9 He reported that the Forum had also provided advice to other groups/initiatives, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ochils Landscape Partnership • Woodlands In and Around Town (Arnsbrae and Gean Wood) • Gartmorn Dam Green Hub | |
| <p>1.10 The Forum had received information on and commented on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devon Way/core path 70 • Tillicoultry Glen/core path 61 | |
| <p>1.11 It had received presentations/information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Access Forum • Paths For All events and funding • Health walks in Clackmannanshire • Environment Partnership Team • Central Scotland Green Network • Gartmorn Dam Green Hub • Scottish Coastal Way • Long Distance Routes • John Muir Way • Devon Way Demonstration Project • Open Space Framework • Local Development Plan | |
| <p>1.12 Martin reported that he and Caroline had attended the joint National and Local Access Forums annual meeting in Falkirk.</p> | |
| <p>1.13 Path improvements were made to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devon Way/core path 70 (between Fishcross and Tillicoultry) | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Cycle Network/core paths 10 and 28 (at Mary Wood and at Cambus) • Gartlinny/core path 127 (by CRAG) • Coalpots Wood/core path 85 (by the Forestry Commission) • Devon Village/core path 72 (by CRAG) | |
| <p>1.14 Martin reported that implementation of the Core Paths Plan had begun and that signage and access friendly gates had been installed on a number of paths.</p> | |
| <p>1.15 He also advised that a number of events had taken place, especially in the Ochils and at Gartmorn Dam Country Park.</p> | |
| <p>1.16 Martin reported that he had responded to a number of planning applications.</p> | |
| <p>1.17 He also reported that he had attended strategic group meetings of the inclusive networks project.</p> | |
| <p>1.18 The Council had also publicised the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.</p> | |
| <p>1.19 Martin reported that Dick Clark and Jane Coull had stood down from the Forum in 2010, that they had supported it since it was founded and thanked them for their valuable contributions over that period. He also thanked Caroline who was the Chair for the latter part of 2010 and who remains on the Forum.</p> | |
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| <p><u>2.0 Presentation on outdoor access by Ian Newman, Fieldfare Trust</u></p> | |
| <p>2.1 Ian gave an informative presentation on the work of the Fieldfare Trust and explained that their purpose is "Promoting countryside access for disabled people".</p> | |
| <p>2.2 He spoke about::</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusive Networks Project which is a partnership project between Fieldfare Trust and Clackmannanshire, Fife, Falkirk and Stirling Councils; funded by Leader and Scottish Natural Heritage. It aims to assess the suitability of core paths for people with disabilities. • Phototrails http://www.phototrails.org/ which is a database of trails which use photographs to illustrate what a path is like, so that potential users can be make informed decisions about whether a route is suitable for them in advance of their visit. Phototrails have been created for a number of core paths in Clackmannanshire. | |
| <p>2.3 Ian invited questions and was then thanked for his presentation by Martin.</p> | |
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| <p><u>3.0 Election of Forum members to stakeholder groups</u></p> | |
| <p>3.1 Martin identified that vacancies existed in each of the four stakeholder groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners/Land managers - 1 vacancy | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • User groups - 1 (Linda Howson stood down, but stood for re-election) • Community groups - 1 vacancy • Agency and advisory groups - 2 (Alan Hunt stood down and Alistair Lawson stood down, but stood for re-election) | |
| <p>3.2 He then highlighted how these would be filled and elections took place.</p> | |
| <p>3.3 The following were elected/re-elected to the Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners/Land managers - John Wilson • User groups - Linda Howson • Community groups - 1 vacancy remains • Agency and advisory - Tim Barratt and Alistair Lawson | |
| <p>3.4 Martin then highlighted that there was a vacancy for the Chair.</p> | |
| <p>3.5 He reminded those present that the last Chair was from the Community Group and asked if any members from that group wished to serve out the balance of the 2 years appointment. Nobody did.</p> | |
| <p>3.6 He then, in keeping with the order detailed in the Partnership Agreement, offered the Chair to a Land Managers' representative and James Cullens was elected.</p> | |
| <p>3.7 The Vice Chair vacancy was the discussed and, at Sir Robert's suggestion, it was agreed that the Vice Chair should be appointed from the Users since they were the group that would appoint the next Chair, after the Land Managers. It was also agreed that the Vice Chair would be appointed at the next meeting of the Forum.</p> | |
| <p>3.8 Current members of the Forum are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners/land managers - Sir Robert Stewart, James Cullens (Chair), Brian Poett and John Wilson. • Agency and advisory - Tim Barratt, Alistair Lawson, Jane McArdle, Colin Ward • Community groups - Caroline Crawford, David Scott, Enid Trevett, 1 vacancy • Users - Gordon Durward, Linda Howson, Nan Preston and Colin Thomson • Council - Councillor Walter McAdam, Councillor Harry McLaren, Martin Dean, Euan Hills and Niall Urquhart | |
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| <p><u>4.0 Questions and discussion</u></p> | |
| <p>4.1 Martin invited questions, after which he thanked people for attending and concluded the meeting.</p> | |
| <p>4.2 James thanked Martin for organising the evening and looked forward to future meetings of the Forum.</p> | |