



**Clackmannanshire
Council**

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The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

**Minute of meeting held on Tuesday, 31st May 2011
at Kilncraigs**

	<u>Action</u>
<u>Present</u>	
Landowners/Land Managers: James Cullens (Chair), John Wilson	
User group representatives: Linda Howson, Jane Preston, Colin Thomson	
Community group representatives: Caroline Crawford,	
Agency and advisory representatives: Tim Barratt, Alistair Lawson	
Council: Councillor McLaren, Martin Dean, Euan Hills	
<u>1.0 Apologies</u>	
1.1 Apologies were received from: - Gordon Durward - Jane Mcardle - Brian Poett - David Scott - Sir Robert Stewart - Niall Urquhart - Colin Ward	
<u>2.0 Approval of draft minute of meeting held on 18th January 2011</u>	

<p>2.1 Caroline proposed that the minutes of 18th January 2011 were approved. This was seconded by Jane P.</p>	
<p>3.0 Matters arising from meeting on 18th January 2011</p>	
<p>3.1 Devon Way Martin walked the Devon Way with Linda and Jane to look at what measures could be taken to address the issue of slipping that some horses shoes have had on tarmac. A strip of anti-skid surfacing is to be laid to the south of the bridge over the River Devon near Tillicoultry. Parallel paths of type 1/whin dust and woodchip have been/are to be laid adjacent to sections of tarmac path to the east and west of the anti-skid works.</p>	
<p>3.2 Gartmorn Dam Green Hub Gordon was invited to a workshop on the Green Hub, but was unable to attend. A report has now been produced and has been submitted to the Gartmorn Dam Advisory Group.</p>	
<p>3.3 Environment Partnership Team Martin has provided Jane M with the Greening Clackmannanshire document which provides information about the Environment Partnership Team.</p>	
<p>3.4 Representative on the Landowners/Land Managers group John Wilson has been elected to replace Jane Coull on the Landowners/Land Managers group.</p>	
<p>3.5 Diversion of core path 72 at Devon Village Martin reported that the remaining landowner and Scottish Natural Heritage are both supportive of the diversion, that the Scottish Government have been notified of it, that a notice advertising the diversion has been posted and that the Core Paths Plan has been updated.</p>	
<p>4.0 Update - Access and Countryside Projects Officer</p>	
<p>4.1 AGM Martin reported that the Forum's Annual General Meeting was held on 1st March at Lornshill Academy. James Cullens, a Land Managers' representative, was elected as Chair.</p> <p>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 (to replace Alan Hunt) and Alistair Lawson <p>Ian Newman of the Fieldfare Trust gave a presentation on disabled access and on Phototrails.</p> <p>Martin advised that the meeting was poorly attended, speculated that the 'out of town' venue might have been part of the reason for this and suggested that, prior to next years AGM, thought should be given by the Forum about ways to increase attendance.</p> <p>Alistair suggested 3 ways of boosting attendance at the AGM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regular newspaper articles on what the Forum is doing 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using an inspiring speaker as a 'carrot' • holding the AGM alongside an ordinary meeting <p>It was agreed to revisit the matter at the November meeting of the Forum.</p>	MD
<p>4.2 Upholding access rights Martin reported that a householder in Tullibody had requested that a gap adjacent to their house be blocked because of anti-social behaviour. Legal opinion was that doing this wouldn't contravene the Council's duty, under the Land Reform Act, to uphold access rights.</p>	
<p>4.3 Inclusive networks + phototrails Martin reported that the Inclusive Networks project with Fieldfare, Stirling, Falkirk and Fife Councils had now completed 2 of its 3 years, and that Phototrails had been produced for a number of paths in Clackmannanshire.</p>	
<p>4.4 Health Walks Martin advised that he sits on the Strategic Group for Wee County Walkers, who organise several health walks in Clackmannanshire each week.</p>	
<p>4.5 Tourism Martin reported that he had contributed to the Clackmannanshire and the Ochils Outdoor Guide for 2011 and advised that it advertised several walks, promoted a number of outdoor activities in the area and publicised the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.</p> <p>Questions were asked over how the Guide was distributed which Martin agreed to find out about and report back on.</p>	MD
<p>4.6 Awareness raising Martin reported that awareness raising of outdoor access had taken place with talks given to Braveheart groups and press releases and events organised for Walk To Work Week (9th -13th May) and Bike week (18th - 26th June).</p>	
<p>4.7 Strategy and SEA Martin reported that he had not made any progress with Access Strategy and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment, and that a new deadline, of December, had been set for its completion.</p>	
<p>4.8 Planning responses Martin reported that core path 44 at Glenochil had, as a result of planning gain, been improved on the north side of the prison.</p>	
<p>4.9 Agenda items Martin advised that other works that he has been involved in are addressed elsewhere in the agenda.</p>	
<p><u>5.0 Update - Core Paths Plan implementation</u></p>	
<p>5.1 Martin reported that signs continue to be installed on core paths. Metal signs are installed where paths leave roads and plastic waymarking posts are installed at strategic locations along the route. He also advised that signage had been installed on core paths which are on roads without a footway and that these advise drivers that walkers, cyclists and horse riders also use the road.</p>	
<p>5.2 Martin advised that labels detailing the destination and distance were being added to the metal (roadside) signs.</p>	

5.3 Martin advised that gates were continuing to be installed on core paths.	
6.0 Advice required - Core path 40 diversion	
6.1 Martin presented a paper on the diversion of core path 40.	
6.2 Diversion of core path 40 at Alva: i. The diversion is 90m longer and so is not substantially longer than the original. The affected core path is 810m and the proposed diversion route, including the road link, is 900m. ii. Surface of original is track and field margin. The proposed diversion route is a worn earth path. Minor surface improvements and clearance of overgrowth are proposed. iii. The proposed diversion route is narrower than the track, but is ample width for access takers and will be wider once overgrowth is cleared. iv. There are no barriers or gradients on the proposed diversion route. It does however, have some sections of uneven ground which it is proposed will be improved. v. Enjoyment may be enhanced because the proposed diversion route gives views of the River Devon. vi. I am assured this condition will be met.	
6.3 Linda and Jane P voiced some reservations about the suitability of the alternative route, stating that it was narrow and overgrown.	
6.4 Alistair said that he thought that, subject to improvement works being done, the route would be a satisfactory alternative.	
6.5 It was agreed that a site meeting involving Martin, Linda, Clackmannanshire Riders Access Group and Criminal Justice be set up to look at the issues in more detail and to discuss whether undertaking improvements could make the alternative route acceptable to equestrian users.	MD
7.0 Update - Devon Way and other path improvement projects	
7.1 Devon Way (core paths 70, 78 and 134) Martin reported that core paths 70 and 78 form the Demonstration Project funded by Cycling Scotland, Sustrans and Paths For All, and that they are currently being improved. He also reported that core path 134 (the Devon Way) is currently being upgraded.	
7.2 Cambus (core path 28) Martin reported that core path 28, which is part of the National Cycle Network, is currently being improved with financial support from Sustrans.	
7.3 Coalsnaughton (core path 76) Martin reported that core path 76 had received some upgrading by Criminal Justice personnel.	
7.4 Hamilton Wood Martin advised that a path constructed by the Forestry Commission in Hamilton Wood, stopped short of linking	

with a track and that Criminal Justice were connecting the two.	
7.5 Cats Close (core path 89) Martin reported that Criminal Justice had cut back overgrowth on core path 89.	
7.6 There followed some debate about where the funding for the path improvements had come from. Martin reported that monies had come from Sustrans and Cycling Scotland. Tim advised that Scottish Rural Development Programme monies might be also be available.	
8.0 Update - Ochils Landscape Partnership	
8.1 Clackmannanshire Council has agreed to signing the relevant documentation, Stirling Council are seeking agreement to sign the Constitution and interviews have been held for the Scheme Coordinator post.	
8.2 The Partners will be asked to sign the Constitution in the near future. Two community representatives for the Executive Committee will then be elected, and a Chair and Vice-Chair appointed.	
9.0 Inner Forth Landscape Partnership	
9.1 The RSPB, with support from a number of partners, has appointed a Project Officer to take forward an Inner Forth Project.	
9.2 The Firth of Forth's intertidal habitats, including mudflat and saltmarsh, are protected under national and European law through designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest and a Special Protection Area.	
9.3 Large-scale habitat restoration, with a focus on intertidal and wetland habitats, holds huge potential to address flood management and climate change adaptation. Alongside creation and management of native woodland and farmland, the project will generate opportunities for public access, education and engagement with wildlife.	
9.4 The project officer will be responsible for compiling information on the project area and investigating the feasibility of carrying out habitat creation and management on specific sites. This will include discussion with landowners, managers and local communities.	
9.5 The initial project is for one year.	
9.6 A possible source of funding is the Heritage Lottery Fund's Landscape Partnership scheme. An application was submitted in February 2011 and the outcome will be known in July.	
9.7 The draft programme is to carry out work on each of the four Landscape Partnership Programmes (Conserving and Restoring, Increasing Community Participation, Access and Learning, and Training and Skills) and some of the proposed projects are likely to be included in the Landscape Conservation Action Plan. This initial list of suggestions will be subject to significant levels of review and amendment during the development year.	

<p>9.8 Access and Learning programme</p> <p>Under this programme, the intention is to deliver the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design an interpretation strategy for the Landscape Partnership area that integrates existing interpretation and delivers new ways for local people to learn about the area's heritage • Deliver the suite of new interpretation measures that gives people new and innovative ways to explore and learn about the area • Plan and deliver path network improvements that allow people to access more of the area by foot, bicycle or wheelchair • Create a viewpoint at King's Seat Hill that provides an overview of the Landscape Partnership area and sets the historical and natural heritage features in a landscape context • Establish an Inner Forth Gateway point where visitors can find information and start their visit or journey around the area • Deliver improvements to the access network in and around Gartmorn Dam Country Park 	
<p>10.0 Update - Tillicoultry Glen (Euan Hills)</p>	
<p>10.1 Euan reported that there had been a number of minor rockfalls in the glen throughout the winter.</p>	
<p>10.2 GeoRope had been engaged to undertake rock scaling works in the vicinity of the crag and elsewhere, and to assess the condition of the abutments supporting the uppermost aluminium bridge. They reported that the abutments should be given priority.=</p>	
<p>10.3 Euan reported that GeoRope had estimated the cost for making the crag safe to be £33.5k and the cost for making the bridge abutments safe to be £23.5k.=</p>	
<p>10.4 Euan also reported that Legal Services had instructed that the path through the glen be closed.</p>	
<p>10.5 Signage advising of the closure is now in place in the glen and is inspected at regular intervals. More permanent signage is to be ordered.=</p>	
<p>10.6 Euan advised that the possibility of the Council funding the crag and bridge works was being explored. Tim suggested that the Ochils Landscape Partnership might be able to help fund the works and Caroline suggested that the works might be eligible for Aggregate Tax monies.</p>	
<p>11.0 Feedback - Forum members</p>	

11.1 Tim reported that the deadline for Central Scotland Green Network applications was imminent and that some applications had already been received for Clackmannanshire.	
11.2 Alistair reported that the Woodland Trust's Reservoirs Trail was to commence it's phase two with partners ScotWays and Perth and Kinross Council, and that loops off the main trail were to be created, including a loop near Muckhart.	
11.3 Linda reported that the British Horse Society Scotland had recently launched a new website and that it gave equestrian users an opportunity to report incidents etc.	
12.0 Any other business	
12.1 Wind turbine on Blairhill Colin had requested that the planning application for the wind turbine be raised with the Forum. It was reported that the application has recently been withdrawn.	
13.0 Time and date of next meeting	
13.1 The next meeting of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum will be at 2:00pm on Tuesday, 6th September 2011 at Kilncraigs - please note change of date!	