



Clackmannanshire Council

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The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

Minute of meeting held on Monday, 27th November 2012 at Kilncraigs

	Action
Present	
Landowners/Land Managers: James Cullens (Chair)	
User group representatives: Linda Howson, Jane Preston, Colin Thomson	
Community group representatives: Dick Clark, Caroline Crawford, David Scott	
Agency and advisory representatives: David Anderson , Jane McArdle	
Council: Martin Dean	
1.0 Apologies	
1.1 Apologies were received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gordon Durward - Sarah Eaton - Euan Hills - Brian Poett - Sir Robert Stewart - Enid Trevett - Niall Urquhart - John Wilson 	
2.0 Approval of draft minute of meeting held on 4th September 2012	
2.1 Jane P proposed that the minutes were approved. This was seconded by Dick.	

3.0 Matters arising from meeting held on 4th September 2012	
3.1 Core path 59 Martin reported that the locked gates which had been obstructing the core path, had now been unlocked.	
3.2 Diageo, Menstrie Martin showed the Forum the finalised signs that will be displayed at the Diageo factory in Menstrie. He also reported that an article had been prepared for the November edition of Menstrie Matters, the community newsletter, which highlighted the difficulties that Diageo had experienced from some irresponsible access takers and which promoted responsible behaviour.	
3.3 Use of stiles adjacent to core path 157 Martin reported that he still had to arrange the installation of stiles (for dog walkers) and produce signage to advertise the alternative route.	MD
3.4 Access to Clackmannan Tower along core path 99 Martin reported that he had continued to liaise with all parties over removing barriers on the path for people with disabilities, whilst taking account of the concerns raised by the landowner and nearby residents. He advised that the farmer had agreed to access friendly gates replacing the existing kissing gates and that these would be wooden rather than metal in an effort to address concerns raised over noise. He also advised that he will approach Historic Scotland to see if they can contribute to the cost of installation.	MD
<p>3.5 National Access Forum/Local Access Forums annual joint meeting Martin reported that the annual joint meeting took place in Edinburgh on 2nd October. He commented that the Minister for Environment and Climate Change had given a keynote presentation and that other presentations had been given on a range of topics, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access in urban Scotland • Update from the National Access Forum • Update on SNH campaigns to promote responsible behaviour • Managing woodland access and forest operations in Scotland • Medal Routes <p>He advised that the day included a number of workshops and that he had attended one on access issues in urban Scotland.</p>	
3.6 Diversion of core path 26 Martin reported he still needed to obtain the views of Scottish Natural Heritage and Tullibody, Cambus and Glenochil Community Council.	MD
4.0 Update (including Tillicoultry Glen and Ochils Landscape Partnership) - Access and Countryside Projects Officer	
4.1 Tillicoultry Glen Martin reported that rock scaling and mapping work was due to be undertaken in December. Thereafter design work would take place to address the unsafe bridge, any unsafe rock and the eroded sections of path; followed by further liaison with the landowners and SNH, preparation of contract documents, awarding the contract and undertaking the safety works.	
<p>4.2 Ochils Landscape Partnership Martin reported that work was progressing on some of the projects with an access element. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1 The Hillfoots Diamond Jubilee Way • A5 Alva Glen 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A12 Muckhart Nature Park • A7 Tillicoultry Glen • B1 Devon Trail <p>Sir Robert advised that volunteers had been working to improve the Devon Trail where it passes through Damhead Wood near Rackmill.</p>	
<p>4.3 Open Space Strategy Martin reported that the strategy is progressing and that core paths are included in the Active Travel and Outdoor Access (Green Corridors) chapter. He advised that the Strategy is due to go to Committee in March 2013.</p>	
<p>4.4 Cycling - promotion and development meeting Martin reported that Councillor Balsillie had organised a Workshop on Cycling in Clackmannanshire. This looked at a number of things including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing links/safe routes to school • Promotion - leaflet, web, events etc • Cycle hire and bike shelters • Establishment of a cycling group that could apply for external funding • Bike training <p>He advised that Alva - Tillicoultry and Sauchie - Lornshill had been identified as missing links, that a map showing the National Cycle Network was considered necessary and that bike training was already taking place in schools.</p>	
<p>4.5 SOAC - Do the ride thing Martin reported that Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland had produced very comprehensive guidance on responsible mountain biking entitled Do The Ride Thing. This covers sections on route planning, on how to deal with some situations such as encountering other path users, on trail centres and on land management.</p> <p>Martin also reported that Scottish Land and Estates have produced 2 products which are aimed at assisting farmers, foresters and other land managers in telling people about accessing the countryside in a responsible way which respects the interests of those making a living there. The guidance is for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • school visits to farms and estates • visits to farms and estates by a range of groups 	
<p>4.6 Community Environmental Improvement Fund - Gartmorn Dam Country Park Martin reported that Clackmannanshire Riders Access Group had been successful in their bid to the CEIF for monies to replace the Hardy's Link bridge over the Lade. The existing bridge is showing signs of wear and tear, pre-dates the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 when use was limited to pedestrians and is no longer fit for purpose. The conditions of the CEIF grant requires works on the bridge to be completed by 15th March 2013.</p>	
<p>4.7 Core path 75 at Coalsnaughton Martin reported that this path is an important link between liveries in the Blackfaulds area and Gartmorn Dam Country Park. The north end of the path was poorly drained and muddy and, thanks to funding from Clackmannanshire Riders Access Group, has now seen drainage and surface improvements.</p>	
<p>4.8 Minor works - signs, gates, bollards etc Martin reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs have been installed near Clackmannan, Tillicoultry and Muckhart 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gates have been installed near Sauchie, Dollar and Muckhart • Bollards have been installed at Muckhart and existing bollards on the National Cycle Network at Cambus have received reflective markings 	
<p>4.9 Health Walks Martin advised that funding for the Health Walks Coordinator's post is due to terminate at the end of 2012. Jane advised that some members of the Wee County Walkers are considering establishing themselves as an independent group so that they can continue to deliver health walks in the Clackmannanshire area.</p>	
<p>4.10 Disability Awareness Group Martin reported that the DAG continues to meet regularly, that it produces a newsletter to highlight the access issues that people with disabilities face and that they had applied to the Community Environmental Improvement Fund for monies to improve the perimeter path around Gartmorn Dam and to improve paths at the Sunken Garden at the Country Park.</p>	
<p>4.11 Rights of Way Martin reported that the status of the route between Tullibody Road and West Lodge Gardens/Andrew Hardie Drive, Alloa, was the subject of ongoing discussion. He reported that his investigations of Council and Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society records showed that the route was not an asserted right of way or a core path and that there was nothing to suggest it was a claimed right of way. A Council Solicitor had also investigated the matter and found that there was some uncertainty about whether the route fulfilled the criteria necessary for a right of way. He had also discovered a title which showed a "right of access for pedestrian purposes" but advised that this title right has to be enforced by the title holder - which isn't the Council. Dick commented that there would be more claims like this one in the future and suggested that it would be helpful if the Forum or Scotways could identify where any claimed rights of way are.</p>	
<p>4.12 Events Martin reported that events continue to be a feature of outdoor access in Clackmannanshire. He reported that there was a hill race in the Ochils on 21st October and that another hill race is due to take place in the Ochils on 12th December. The Cyclathon, which takes place along the Devon Way, is due to take place on 21st April 2013.</p>	
<p>5.0 Advice required - Inner Forth Landscape Initiative projects</p>	
<p>5.1 Martin reported that the Initiative is a partnership of councils, charities and government agencies, led by RSPB Scotland; which will deliver projects which conserve, improve and celebrate the heritage of the Inner Forth Estuary between Stirling and Blackness.</p>	
<p>5.2 The Initiative aims to change perceptions of the area and rekindle local pride, connect disparate habitats, improve access to historical and natural features, support communities conserve their heritage and provide training opportunities.</p>	
<p>5.3 Martin reported that the Initiative is looking for project ideas and advised that successful project ideas would have to fulfil a number of essential criteria and will be scored against some subjective criteria.</p>	
<p>5.4 Essential criteria include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be a new project 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have landowner support • Must be completed within project period • Must fulfil Heritage Lottery Fund eligibility criteria 	
<p>5.5 Subjective criteria include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community support • Aligns with the vision and aims of the Initiative • Is affordable • Aligns with partners priorities • Improves the landscape • Is well developed • Will benefit the area after the end of the project • Provide opportunities for community participation • Will be maintained after the end of the project • Match funding 	
<p>5.6 Martin advised the Forum that the Initiative was looking for ideas of projects (in Clackmannanshire) which met its vision and aims. He advised that these ideas needed to be submitted by the end of the week (30th November) and that they could be made by individual Forum members, by the groups they represent, or by the Forum.</p>	
<p>5.7 Dick commented that he saw the Initiative as an opportunity for the Access Forum and the Biodiversity Partnership to work together and suggest projects which included elements of both access and biodiversity. He also reminded the Forum that there are very few places in Clackmannanshire where it is possible to get close to the Forth. Jane M commented that the Initiative had the potential to generate visitors to Clackmannanshire and to boost tourism.</p>	
<p>5.8 It was agreed that Dick would compile project ideas on behalf of the Forum.</p>	DC
<p>6.0 Advice required - Menstrie Glen</p>	
<p>6.1 Martin reported that UPM Tilhill had recently drawn-up proposals for creating 544 hectares of new woodland on the east side of Menstrie Glen. He commented that this was a sizable area of the western Ochils, with a significant part of it being in Clackmannanshire, and that it would impact on outdoor access. The area is currently used by hill walkers and runners, by mountain bikers and by paragliders. It is also used for some events, notably hill running events. It was noted that the proposals do recognise the existence of some access routes and that new access routes will be constructed to facilitate forestry operations. It was recognised that these new access routes could benefit access for some groups such as mountain bikers and equestrians.</p>	
<p>6.2 Martin commented that landowners have a duty (under Section 3 of the Land Reform Scotland Act 2003) to respect access rights when managing their land and that local authorities have a duty to uphold access rights.</p>	
<p>6.3 Martin advised that the public would have an opportunity to comment on any proposals and David A clarified that this would be when the case goes through the scoping process for the Environmental Impact Assessment, this will take the form of a meeting in the Menstrie area, all stakeholders will be informed of when</p>	

and where the meeting will take place. There will be the opportunity for further comment when a draft Environmental Statement has been prepared. Martin also advised that the Council is likely to comment on the proposals and, to inform these, invited comments from members of the Forum.	
6.4 Dick raised some concerns about the impact any planting might have on the archaeological interest of the area. This was reinforced by David S who commented that the setting of these sites in the landscape was also important.	
6.5 Colin highlighted the importance of keeping any planting back from existing and future paths to minimise obstruction from overgrowth.	
6.6 The need to safeguard existing access routes up Myreton and Colsnaur, and along the banks of the Menstrie Burn was also highlighted by Forum members. The creation of new paths to enhance access opportunities was also considered necessary.	
6.7 The impact that deer fencing can have on access was also raised, with David A stating that deer fencing was only proposed around the area of mixed/native woodland in the southern part of the area. The need for access gates at appropriate locations on any deer fencing was highlighted.	
7.0 Feedback - Forum members	
7.1 Colin asked (on Gordon's behalf) how members of the public could find out where the core paths are. Martin advised that they, together with the amendments that have been made, can be found on the Council website and that a hard copy of the plan can be viewed at the Council's Kilncraigs offices. =	
7.2 Linda reported that the British Horse Society have recently produced 2 advice notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Horse riding on headlands and field margins • Scottish Wind Farm Advice Note 	
8.0 Any other business	
8.1 Lack of time prevented any other business being raised.	
9.0 Time, date and format of AGM	
9.1 The AGM of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum will be held from 6.00pm - 7.30pm on Tuesday, 26th February 2013 in Alloa Town Hall.	All
9.2 It was agreed that the business of the AGM should be followed by 2 presentations.	MD
9.3 Martin reminded the Forum that James will have completed 2 years as Chair at the AGM and that the next Chair is due to come from the Users group.	Users
9.4 Martin also reminded the Forum that (in keeping with the Partnership Agreement) one member of each group needs to stand down at the AGM.	All