



Clackmannanshire Council

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The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

Minute of meeting held on Monday, 7th July 2014 at Kilncraigs, Alloa

	<u>Action</u>
Present	
Landowners/Land Managers: Sir Robert Stewart	
User group representatives: Eric Davidson, Colin Thomson (Chair)	
Community group representatives: Dick Clark	
Agency and advisory representatives: David Anderson	
Council: Martin Dean	
1.0 Apologies	
1.1 Apologies were received from: - Caroline Crawford - Gordon Durward - Linda Howson - Brian Poett - David Scott - Enid Trevett	
2.0 Approval of draft minute of meeting held on 26th November 2014	
2.1 David proposed that the minutes were approved. This was seconded by Eric.	
3.0 Matters arising from meeting held on 26th November 2014	
3.1 Signage between Coalsnaughton and Gartmorn Dam Martin reported that he had still not looked at the adequacy of signage between Gartmorn Dam and	

Coalsnaughton.	
3.2 Partnership Agreement Martin reported that he had amended the Partnership Agreement using Track Changes and had circulated the amended document to Forum members.	
3.3 Shelterhall Bridge Martin reported that he and Linda had met with the equestrian user who had raised the concerns over the bridge. He advised that he had also visited the site with a bridge engineer who reported that the steel angles and mesh are not capable of supporting equestrian use and that adapting them, so they can cater for equestrian use, isn't a realistic option. In light of this, Martin enlisted, following consultation with the farmer, the assistance of Community Payback personnel to cut back branches etc to allow equestrian users to ford the burn instead.	
3.4 Trotting rig Martin informed the Forum that he had made contact with the driver of the trotting rig and had encouraged them to take responsible access. He also reported that the driver of the trotting rig had responded positively to his approach.	
4.0 AGM/Forum membership	
4.1 Martin reported that Colin had given a report on the work and achievements of the Forum in 2013.	
4.2 Martin also reported that the amendments to the Partnership Agreement had been approved at the AGM.	
4.3 Martin reported that the following were re-elected to the Forum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sir Robert Stewart • Gordon Durward • Caroline Crawford He also reported that there remained a vacancy on the Agency and advisory group. David suggested that this vacancy could be filled by Scottish Natural Heritage and queried why they aren't currently on the Forum. Martin advised that they had been previously, but had stood down. It was agreed that Martin and Dick should discuss whether SNH should be contacted over rejoining the Forum.	MD/DC
4.4 Martin reported that the members of the Forum for 2014 are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners/land managers - Sir Robert Stewart, James Cullens, Brian Poett and John Wilson. • Users - Eric Davidson, Gordon Durward, Linda Howson and Colin Thomson (Chair). • Community groups - Dick Clark, Caroline Crawford, David Scott and Enid Trevett. • Agency and advisory - David Anderson, Dorothy Breckenridge and Neil Ramsay. 1 vacancy. • Council - Councillor Donald Balsillie, Councillor Derek Stewart and Martin Dean. Martin also reported that Niall Urquhart had left the Council.	
4.5 Martin reported that the AGM had concluded with 2 informative and enjoyable presentations - one by Donald Forbes on the Ochils Landscape Partnership and the other by David Taylor on the wildlife that access takers	

might encounter in Clackmannanshire.	
<p>5.0 Update (including Tillicoultry Glen, Ochils Landscape Partnership, Inner Forth Landscape Initiative and Events - Access and Countryside Projects Officer)</p>	
<p>5.1 Tillicoultry Glen Martin reported that consultants had completed the designs and contract documents, but had been asked to investigate the option of moving the path away from the rock faces. This work is currently ongoing.</p>	
<p>5.2 Ochils Landscape Partnership Martin reported that the OLP is due to finish this December.</p> <p>He mentioned that that the OLP had undertaken a number of projects which improved access, including on/at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Hillfoots Way • Menstrie Glen • Alva Glen • the Ochils Woodland Park • Tillicoultry Glen (east side) • Mill Green, Dollar • the Devon Trail <p>Martin also mentioned that he had had discussions with Scottish Natural Heritage over the Hillfoots Way becoming a part of a longer distance route. He cited the example of the Three Lochs Way which goes from Balloch to Helensburgh (and then onto the north end of Loch Lomond) and which is a part of the newly created John Muir Way, which runs from Dunbar to Helensburgh. Should the Hillfoots Way become part of a longer distance route, links with Stirling to the west and Loch Leven to the east are possibilities.</p>	
<p>5.3 Inner Forth Landscape Initiative Martin reminded the Forum that the Initiative was in it's first of four years and that it would deliver 52 projects across coastal parts of Clackmannanshire, Stirling, Falkirk and West Fife. Four access projects are due to be delivered in Clackmannanshire. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black Devon Wetland Trail • Cambus, Whisky, Wetland and Forth Wander • Clackmannan and Alloa Park Access Improvements • Inner Forth Inches Trail <p>Three of the projects will be delivered in year 2 (2015-16) and one (Inner Forth Inches Trail) will be delivered in year 4 (2017-18)</p> <p>Martin also reported that Stirling Council hope, as part of IFLI, to improve the crossing of the Manor Powis roundabout using funding from the Beaully - Denny Mitigation Fund. This will make the route, between Alloa and Stirling, much safer and more appealing for people undertaking active travel journeys.</p> <p>Martin also reported that the IFLI Access Working Group had been established to coordinate the access projects and that he represented Clackmannanshire on that Group.</p>	
<p>5.4 Cycling Martin reported that the Give Me Cycle Space was running this</p>	

<p>summer term and that all Clackmannanshire's primary schools were participating in it. As well as being encouraged to cycle to school, the children's cycling skills are developed and their awareness raised of relevant issues such as the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.</p> <p>David commented that the space the adverts suggest is needed, isn't actually enough and comment was also made that the adverts were mounted very high and could easily be missed by passers-by.</p>	
<p>5.5 Disability Awareness Group Martin reported that the Group continued to meet at regular intervals and that they address access issues which affect people with disabilities.</p>	
<p>5.6 Events Martin reported that a wide range of events have recently taken place on the access network, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trail races • Cani cross events • Duathlons - involving running and cycling • Equestrian events <p>Martin commented that he liaised with event organisers over land ownership, on safety issues and on informing other access takers of the planned event.</p>	
<p>5.7 Contractors/planning Martin reported that he had liaised with contractors over diverting users and reinstating the path surface on core path 134 near Dollar.</p>	
<p>5.8 Community payback Martin reported that Community Payback personnel had undertaken a number of improvements to core paths and right of way. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • installing a gate on core path 64 at Tillicoultry. • installing a handrail on a link path between the National Cycle. Network and core path 110 near Clackmannan. • cutting back vegetation to improve safety at a crossing of the path on the former railway at Menstrie. • undertaking minor surface and drainage repairs to core path 65 in Tillicoultry. • boardwalk repairs on core path 95 near Gartmorn Dam. 	
<p>5.9 Other Martin reported that he had undertaken a number of other tasks including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assisting Wee County Walkers map their walks. • engaging contractors to improve the access road to Gartmorn Dam Country Park. • liaising with Muckhart Golf Club over repairs to a bridge on core path 158. • arranging for the Scottish Outdoor Access Code to be promoted to school children (many of whom were from Clackmannanshire) at an event at Argaty. 	
<p>6.0 NCN - Alva to Tillicoultry</p>	
<p>6.1 Martin reported that a new section of National Cycle Network had, thanks to funding from Sustrans, recently been opened between Alva and Tillicoultry.</p>	

<p>6.2 Sir Robert asked whether carriage drivers would be able to use the new route. Martin reported that the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 gave a right of access for recreational purposes and that whilst this isn't defined in the legislation, the Scottish Outdoor Access Code makes reference to carriage driving under active pursuits. Mention was made of the fact that driving a carriage could be hazardous to other users of the path and Martin advised that in light of this, legal opinion had been sought (and is still awaited!) about whether carriage drivers have access rights to the new path.</p>	
<p>6.3 Martin reported that the intention is to improve the surface of the Devon Way (between Tillicoultry and Dollar) with tarmacadam this financial year.</p>	
<p>7.0 Core path 133 diversion - advice required</p>	
<p>7.1 Martin reported on a proposal to divert core path 133, which goes from core path 132, near Wester Sheardale in the west, to core path 134 (which follows the Devon Way) in the east.</p>	
<p>7.2 He advised that the proposed diversion route has recently been improved and skirts the northern side of the farm yard at Haugh Farm, near Dollar.</p>	
<p>7.3 The proposed diversion was assessed against a number of criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. The diversion is exactly the same distance as the original. The affected core path is 120m and the proposed diversion route is 120m. ii. Surface of original is a farm track. The proposed diversion route is type 1 and whin dust and so is as good as, or better, than the original iii. The proposed diversion route is narrower than the original, but will not be used by farm vehicles or livestock. iv. There are no barriers on the proposed diversion route. v. Enjoyment may be enhanced because the proposed diversion route has a better surface, avoids the farm yard and will give views of the Ochils to the north. vi. I am assured that access will not be obstructed or deterred before, during or after any diversion. 	
<p>7.4 Martin reported that the views of the landowner (Harviestoun Estate), Scottish Natural Heritage and Dollar Community Council still required to be sought.</p>	
<p>7.5 The Forum discussed the proposal and advised that they supported the proposed diversion to core path 133.</p>	
<p>8.0 Feedback - Forum members</p>	
<p>8.1 Colin raised (on Gordon Durward's behalf) concerns that the ditch adjacent to the new National Cycle Network path on the A91 between Alva and Tillicoultry poses a risk for users. Martin said he would pass on the concerns to colleagues in the Council's Roads Department who had designed the path.</p>	MD
<p>9.0 Any other business</p>	
<p>9.1 There was no other business.</p>	
<p>10.0 Time and date of next meeting</p>	

10.1 The next meeting of the Access Forum will be held from 2.00pm to 4.00pm on Monday, 22nd September 2014 at Kilncraigs in Alloa.	All