



# Clackmannanshire Council

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## The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

### Minute of meeting held on Monday, 22nd September 2014 at Kilncraigs, Alloa

	<u>Action</u>
<b>Present</b>	
<b>Landowners/Land Managers:</b> Brian Poett	
<b>User group representatives:</b> Eric Davidson, Colin Thomson (Chair)	
<b>Community group representatives:</b> Dick Clark, David Scott	
<b>Agency and advisory representatives:</b> David Anderson	
<b>Council:</b> Martin Dean	
<b>1.0 Apologies</b>	
1.1 Apologies were received from: - Gordon Durward - Linda Howson - Sir Robert Stewart	
<b>2.0 Approval of draft minute of meeting held on 7th July 2014</b>	
2.1 Eric proposed that the minutes were approved. This was seconded by David A.	
<b>3.0 Matters arising from meeting held on 7th July 2014</b>	
3.1 <b>AGM/Forum membership</b> Dick reported that he had met Scottish Natural Heritage over their lack of representation on groups like the Access Forum and the Biodiversity Partnership, and that they are reconsidering their position.	
3.2 <b>National Cycle Network - Alva to Tillicoultry</b> Martin reported that he had	

raised Gordon's concerns that the ditch (next to the new cycle path) posed a risk to users with the Council's Roads Department.	
<b>4.0 Core path 133 diversion</b>	
<b>4.1</b> Martin reported that the proposed diversion of core path 133 had been discussed when the Forum last met on 7th July 2014, but that an attendee had left the meeting prior to the matter being discussed and that because of this, the Forum had not been quorate when it gave advice. In light of this, Martin felt there was a need to revisit the matter.	
<b>4.2</b> Martin reported on the 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.	
<b>4.3</b> 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.	
<b>4.4</b> The proposed diversion was assessed against a number of criteria: 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.	
<b>4.5</b> Martin reported that the views of the landowner (Harviestoun Estate), Scottish Natural Heritage and Dollar Community Council still required to be sought.	
<b>4.6</b> The Forum discussed the proposal and advised that they supported the proposed diversion to core path 133.	
<b>4.7</b> Brian requested that Martin provide him with details of the m2 of the new path.	<b>MD</b>
<b>5.0 Update (including Tillicoultry Glen, Ochils Landscape Partnership, Inner Forth Landscape Initiative etc) - Access and Countryside Projects Officer</b>	
<b>5.1 Tillicoultry Glen</b> Martin reported that the Council have committed additional funding for Tillicoultry Glen for this financial year and are currently progressing design proposals. He also reported that the option of running the path away from slopes (to avoid the possibility of rockfall) has been ruled out on cost grounds. Martin reported that the condition of 5 other bridges had recently been assessed and that this had identified a need for minor monitoring and for testing works.	
<b>5.2 Ochils Landscape Partnership</b> Martin advised that the OLP finishes this	

<p>December and provided an update on the projects that have an access component to them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The Hillfoots Way</b> - The path works are now complete and all interpretation boards are installed. Finger posts are being manufactured and waymarker posts have been delivered. These will be installed together with the finger posts as soon as they are available. All gates and benches have been installed.</li> <li>• <b>Dumyat Paths</b> - Improvements have been made to the paths leading towards the summit of Dumyat.</li> <li>• <b>Menstrie Glen</b> - Path improvements have been undertaken, a viewing platform installed and repairs made to some walls and a bridge.</li> <li>• <b>Alva Glen</b> - Lighting is being installed and some paths have been improved.</li> <li>• <b>Ochils Woodland Park</b> - Improvements have been made to the car park and paths. A new stepped path has been created providing a linked access to the Ice House and other step and path repairs are ongoing.</li> <li>• <b>Tillicoultry Glen</b> - The path works are complete, including replacement of steps, boardwalks, benches and Daiglen bridge.</li> <li>• <b>Devon Trail</b> - The pathworks are ongoing. It is hoped to carry out some drainage work to eliminate/reduce surface water. Bridges and gates have all been installed. New paths have been created in Tillicoultry linking the A91 with the Devon Way, adjacent to the driving range, and at Haugh Farm to bypass the farmyard. Finger posts are being manufactured and waymarker posts have been delivered. These will be installed together with the finger posts as soon as they are available. Discussions are ongoing with Sterling Mills regarding a small new section of path on their land.</li> <li>• <b>Ochils Orientation</b> - On site interpretive information is to be installed.</li> <li>• <b>Ochils Festival</b> - A festival was held in June with various events and walks.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.3 Inner Forth Landscape Initiative</b> Martin reported that the Black Devon Wetland Trail and the Cambus, Whisky, Wetland and Forth Wander are due to be delivered next year and that the Clackmannan and Alloa Park Access Improvements would be delivered in 2016-17.</p> <p>The other access project, the Inner Forth Inches Trail, is due to be delivered in 2017-18. Central Scotland Green Network Trust (formerly Central Scotland Forest Trust) will be managing delivery of the projects.</p>	
<p><b>5.4 Cycling</b> Martin reported that the Cycling in Clackmannanshire Forum had met recently and had discussed a range of topics which covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Roads and Transportation Update</li> <li>• Active Travel Plan</li> <li>• Tourism and Promotion</li> <li>• Events</li> <li>• Cycle Hire</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bike Shelters</li> <li>• Bikeability Training</li> <li>• Give Me Cycle Space 2014</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.5 Disability Awareness Group</b> Martin reported that some gates which no longer serve any purpose (because of changes in land management) had been removed to facilitate disabled access. He also reported that the Disability Awareness Group AGM is due to be held on 13th October.</p>	
<p><b>5.6 Events</b> Martin reported that events continued to use the path network and other sites in Clackmannanshire, and that recent events had varied in nature and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duathlons</li> <li>• Riding event</li> <li>• Sponsored walk</li> <li>• Sponsored cycles</li> <li>• Cross country race</li> <li>• Hill races</li> <li>• Cani cross</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.7 Contractors/planning</b> Martin reported that he had liaised with contractors over:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• fibre optic cable laying under core paths 22 and 23</li> <li>• retaining wall works on a path at Claremont</li> </ul> <p>He also reported that UPM Tilhill had recently consulted on their woodland creation proposals for Menstrie Glen.</p>	
<p><b>5.8 SNH path grading workshop</b> Martin reported that he had recently attended a workshop on the grading of paths. This advocates a 6 part system which provides information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• name</li> <li>• promotion</li> <li>• grade</li> <li>• terrain</li> <li>• distance</li> <li>• time</li> </ul> <p>He reported that the organisers of the workshop hope that the grading system will be adopted across the country and then showed some slides from the workshop. The Forum requested that the slides are sent out to them.</p>	<b>MD</b>
<p><b>6.0 NCN - Tillicoultry to Dollar</b></p>	
<p><b>6.1</b> Martin reported that the Devon Way (between Moss Road, Tillicoultry and Walton Crescent, Dollar) is due to be improved in the near future. He advised that the work is due to start on 29th September and that it will take approximately 8 weeks. The works will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• replacing/repairing broken culverts</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cutting back vegetation to allow plant and machinery access</li> <li>• scraping back weeds/vegetation</li> <li>• digging out and infilling soft spots</li> <li>• laying a weed guard</li> <li>• surfacing the path with type 1 hardcore and bitumen</li> <li>• forming ramped accesses to Walton Crescent, Dollar and to Dollar Station Platform</li> </ul> <p>The work is estimated to cost £300,000 - with Sustrans contributing 50% of the costs.</p>	
<b>7.0 Feedback - Forum members</b>	
7.1 No feedback was considered necessary by Forum members present.	
<b>8.0 Any other business</b>	
8.1 Brian reported that some people taking access on the Devon Way are parking on nearby access tracks which form part of Harviestoun Estate and that their vehicles are interfering with land management operations. It was agreed that Martin would arrange to meet Nicholas Poett to find out where the problem points are and advise on what measures can be taken to address the issue.	<b>MD</b>
8.2 Brian raised concerns that the decision by Scottish Water to stop drawing water off the River Black Devon and onto Gartmorn Dam by way of a lade, was having an adverse impact on the water quality of the Dam. Martin commented that Gartmorn Dam is owned by Scottish Water, that it is one of the few places where water based access can be undertaken in Clackmannanshire and that the water body is a Site of Special Scientific Interest. He commented that SNH are the body responsible for monitoring SSSI's. Dick (who is the Chair of the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Partnership) advised that he would write to SNH seeking clarification on whether the lack of water from the Black Devon is having an adverse impact on the SSSI at Gartmorn Dam.	<b>DC</b>
<b>9.0 Time and date of next meeting</b>	
9.1 It was agreed that the next meeting of the Access Forum will be the AGM and that Martin and Colin should liaise on the date - likely to be the end of February 2015.	<b>MD/CT</b>