



Clackmannanshire Council

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The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

Minute of meeting held on Tuesday, 26th May 2015 at Kilncraigs, Alloa

	Action
Present	
Landowners/Land Managers: Brian Poett, John Wilson	
User group representatives: John Hutcheson, Linda Howson	
Community group representatives: Dick Clark (Chair), Caroline Crawford, Alison Fox	
Agency and advisory representatives:	
Council: Martin Dean	
1.0 Apologies	
1.1 Apologies were received from: - David Anderson - James Cullens - Eric Davidson - Barbara Maddox - David Scott - Sir Robert Stewart	
2.0 Approval of draft minute of meeting held on 22nd September 2014	
2.1 Brian proposed that the minutes were approved. This was seconded by Dick.	
3.0 Matters arising from meeting held on 22nd September 2014	
3.1 Core path 133 diversion Martin reported that the new path is 2m wide and	

120m long, which allowing for a verge of 1m, means that the total m2 of the new path is 360m2.	
3.2 Ochils Landscape Partnership Martin advised that the Hillfoots Way runs between Logie Kirk and Muckhart. It was also pointed out the full title of the route is the Hillfoots Diamond Jubilee Way. Brian reported that the Ochils Landscape Partnership was also undertaking works on the River Devon between Tillicoultry and Dollar, and that these works would benefit biodiversity.	
3.3 SNH path grading workshop Martin reported that had sent out slides from the workshop to Forum members.	
3.4 Unauthorised vehicular access Martin reported that he had met with Nicholas Poett over unauthorised motor vehicles using paths on Harviestoun Estate and that signage discouraging such use had subsequently been placed on the tracks leading to Haugh Farm and to Wester Sheardale.	
3.5 Gartmorn Lade Brian raised concerns over Scottish Water not feeding water from the River Black Devon into Gartmorn Dam via the Lade, highlighting that the Dam is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and that SW actions were having an adverse impact on this. Dick agreed to raise the matter with Ian Doctor and with Scottish Natural Heritage, the organisation responsible for SSSI's.	DC
4.0 AGM/Forum membership	
4.1 Martin reported on the changes to Forum membership made at the recent AGM. He advised that the Forum had 3 new members - John Hutcheson and Barbara Maddox joined the Users Group and Alison Fox joined the Community group. He also advised that Brian had been re-elected to the Land Managers group.	
4.2 There then followed discussion over the fact that the Agency and advisory group only had one representative. The impact this has on whether meetings are quorate was highlighted. Questions were also raised over whether the Forum had to have an Agency and advisory group and whether agencies which had been involved in writing guidance linked to the Land Reform Act were obliged to serve on Local Access Forums.	
4.3 After further discussion, it was agreed that Scottish Natural Heritage and Paths for All would be approached about re-joining the Forum, and that if there future involvement does not happen, consideration be given to reducing the number of stakeholder groups to 3 and amending the Partnership Agreement accordingly.	DC/MD
5.0 Update (including Ochils Landscape Partnership, Inner Forth Landscape Initiative etc) - Access and Countryside Projects Officer	
5.1 Ochils Landscape Partnership Martin reported that the Ochils Landscape Partnership was due to finish in December 2014, but that it has been extended to summer 2015. He reported that recent works have taken place improving paths in Alva Glen and installing signs, and that further works are planned to improve a path	

<p>through Menstrie Wood, a section of path to the east of Alva Glen and to a boggy hollow west of Tillicoultry.</p> <p>He also advised that legacy negotiations are ongoing, with a group entitled EPIC (Enabling Projects in Clackmannanshire) covering the whole of Clackmannanshire and based at Gartmorn Dam Visitor Centre, being discussed.</p>	
<p>5.2. Inner Forth Landscape Initiative/Landscape management apprentices</p> <p>Martin advised that the Inner Forth Landscape Initiative are due to deliver 2 access projects this year (the Black Devon Wetland Trail and Cambus, Whisky, Wetland and Forth Wander) and that Central Scotland Green Network Trust will be managing the projects. He also reported that costs have risen and are more than originally anticipated. The shortfall has largely been addressed, with monies being sourced from Active Places, Clackmannanshire and Stirling Environment Trust and Sustrans.</p> <p>The Clackmannan and Alloa Park Access Improvements project is due to be delivered in year 3 (2016-17) and the Inner Forth Inches Trail is due to be delivered in year 4.</p> <p>Martin also reported that Inner Forth Landscape Management apprentices have undertaken minor access improvements at a number of sites in Clackmannanshire, including at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawkhill Wood • Marshalling Yard Wood • Cambus Wood • Clackmannan Back Wood • Woodlea • Pleasure Grounds 	
<p>5.3 Alva Glen</p> <p>Martin reported that Alva Glen Heritage Trust had raised safety concerns about rails, about chain link fencing and about an undermined walkway.</p> <p>A blacksmith has addressed the railing concerns and the Council's Land Contracts has undertaken repairs to the chain link fencing.</p> <p>Martin also reported that a Bridge Engineer was appointed to report on the undermined walkway, that the Council's Land Contracts were engaged to cut and treat tree stumps adjacent to the walkway, and that the Council's Ranger Service are monitoring the walkway every 3 months.</p>	
<p>5.4 NCN/Greening Greenways</p> <p>Martin reported that the National Cycleway Network has now been tarred from Tillicoultry to Dollar. He advised that he had produced signage to help manage access takers during the improvement works.</p>	
<p>5.5 Maintenance/Bridges</p> <p>Martin reported that the Council will undertake maintenance on Council owned sections of core paths and that the works will address litter, vegetation, drainage and structures:</p> <p>Litter - 3 picks a year, to coincide with vegetation (undergrowth and overgrowth) works below</p> <p>Vegetation - undergrowth to be cut twice (in late spring and late summer), overgrowth to be cut once (in winter) and storm damage to be dealt with as</p>	

<p>necessary (most likely to be autumn/winter)</p> <p>Drainage - pipes and culverts to be cleared of leaves etc in late autumn/winter</p> <p>Structures - minor safety works to be undertaken as and when required.</p> <p>Note: some works would require to be done to structures on private land, if installed by the Council!</p> <p>Martin also reported that there are 48 bridges which require inspections, of which 12 are on the National Cycle Network.</p> <p>Roads and Transportation will inspect all bridges on the National Cycle Network and fund any necessary works on them.</p> <p>Roads and Transportation will also fund principal (6 yearly) inspections of bridges on core paths (which are not part of the National Cycle Network) and which have a structural element. Note - the number that have a structural element will be determined once the register has been completed.</p> <p>The Ranger Service will carry out interim inspections of bridges on core paths (which are not part of the National Cycle Network) and all inspections of minor bridges.</p>	
<p>5.6 Disability Awareness Group</p> <p>Martin advised that the Group continues to meet and to discuss issues that impact upon people with disabilities.</p> <p>He also advised that liaison has taken place with Forestry Commission Scotland over new gates that were installed at Gartmornhill Wood to prevent unauthorised vehicular access, but which needed modified to better accommodate disabled access takers and equestrian users.</p>	
<p>5.7 SOAC - Menstrie</p> <p>Martin reported that signage to publicise the Scottish Outdoor Access Code and promote responsible behaviour has been produced and displayed at a number of locations, including at Menstrie and at Alloa Golf Course.</p>	
<p>5.8 Events - SERC event</p> <p>Martin reported that various events have taken/are to take place in Clackmannanshire. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross country race • Hill race • Cani cross event • Scottish Endurance Riding Club event <p>He commented that access rights do extend to events and referred to the good practice shown by one event organiser who had undertaken event planning and risk assessments, and taken out insurance cover.</p>	
<p>5.9 Contractors/planning - Inglewood, Schawpark</p> <p>Martin reported that he had commented on 2 recent planning applications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inglewood - application for a hotel. Comments were made on privacy and of the importance of several informal paths. • Schawpark Golf Course - application for erection of 9 houses. Comments were made on the status of the right of way, on there being an opportunity to improve the right of way and to create/enhance links to the right of way and to the nearby National Cycle Network. 	

<p>5.10 NAF/LAF meeting Martin advised that he attended the joint National Access Forum and Local Access Forums meeting which took place on 4th November 2014 at Gleneagles. He commented that it gave useful insight into the issues that equestrian access takers face.</p>	
<p>5.11 RDP Martin reported that the Scottish Rural Development Programme will have £6 million for Improving Public Access. This will be available over a 5 year period commencing early 2016.</p>	
<p>6.0 Tillicoultry Glen</p>	
<p>6.1 Martin reported that 2 tenders had been put out for works in Tillicoultry Glen. The first was for rock stabilisation works, which is due to be completed by mid July. The second is for path remediation works, including bank stabilisation, concrete walkway repairs, footbridge installation and bridge extension/stabilisation works; which are due to be completed by early September. Martin also reported that he had submitted an application to the Clackmannanshire and Stirling environment Trust for some funding for the work.</p>	
<p>7.0 Feedback - Forum members</p>	
<p>7.1 Caroline commented that the new woodland at Jerah had created new access opportunities, whilst others commented that some of the routes were muddy and that the trees will impact on the view. Caroline also commented that the Back Road has a 30mph speed limit and that access takers would feel safer if it was reduced to 20mph. Martin said he would pass the comment on to colleagues in Roads and Transportation.</p>	<p>MD</p>
<p>7.2 Linda reported that Clackmannanshire Riders Access Group had installed a plaque on the new Lade Bridge and that they plan to officially open it later in the year.</p>	
<p>8.0 Any other business</p>	
<p>8.1 None.</p>	
<p>9.0 Time and date of next meeting</p>	
<p>9.1 It was agreed that the next meeting of the Access Forum will be from 2-4pm on Tuesday, 8th September 2015 in Room 1.01 Kilncraigs, Greenside Street, Alloa, FK10 1EB.</p>	<p>All</p>