



**Clackmannanshire  
Council**

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**The Clackmannanshire Access Forum**

**Minute of meeting held on Tuesday, 8th September 2015  
at Kilncraigs, Alloa**

	<b><u>Action</u></b>
<b><u>Present</u></b>	
<b>Landowners/Land Managers:</b> John Wilson	
<b>User group representatives:</b> John Hutcheson, Barbara Maddox, Peter Munnoch (as substitute for Linda Howson)	
<b>Community group representatives:</b> Dick Clark (Chair), Alison Fox	
<b>Agency and advisory representatives:</b> David Anderson	
<b>Council:</b> Martin Dean	
<b><u>1.0 Apologies</u></b>	
<b>1.1</b> Apologies were received from: - Caroline Crawford - James Cullens - Eric Davidson - Linda Howson - Brian Poett - David Scott - Sir Robert Stewart	
<b><u>2.0 Approval of draft minute of meeting held on 26th May 2015</u></b>	
<b>2.1</b> John H proposed that the minutes were approved. This was seconded by John W.	

<b>3.0 Matters arising from meeting held on 26th May 2015</b>	
<b>3.1 Gartmorn Lade</b> Dick reported that he had discussed the matter with Ian Doctor and that he had raised it with Scottish Natural Heritage, and was awaiting their response. John H commented that he thought it was a matter for Scottish Natural Heritage, as they are the body who are responsible for Sites of Special Scientific Interest.	
<b>3.2 Forum membership</b> Dick reported that he had not managed to make any progress over Scottish Natural Heritage and Paths For All re-joining the Forum. It was agreed that in light of this, the Forum's Partnership Agreement should be amended to have 3 stakeholder groups and that this should be the subject of further discussion at the next meeting.	<b>MD/DC</b>
<b>3.3 Events</b> Barbara commented that it would be useful for horse riders to know in advance about cani cross events. Martin commented that he advised event organisers to post signs in advance of the event to inform other users of what is happening, when and where; so that they could avoid the area at the time of the event if they wished. He did say that he would endeavour to let British Horse Society Scotland and Clackmannanshire Riders Access Group representatives know of future cani cross events that he is aware of.	<b>MD</b>
<b>3.4 Back Road speed limit</b> Martin reported that he had spoken to Roads and Transportation colleagues, and that they had advised him that 20mph speed limits can only be introduced into urban areas and that the minimum speed limit they can have on the Back Road, which is considered to be a rural area, is 30mph.	
<b>4.0 Horse access</b>	
<b>4.1</b> Martin reported that he had investigated 2 complaints of obstructions at Coalpots Way in Fishcross. He advised that one concerned a stile and the other a locked gate, with both being on the boundary fence between Coalpots Way and Alloa Golf Course.	
<b>4.2</b> Martin reported that his initial investigation had focused on whether access rights were exercisable on the land either side of the obstructions. He concluded that access rights were exercisable along the road which runs to the east of Coalpots Way and is privately owned road. He also advised that access rights are exercisable over golf courses, but that cyclists and horse riders need to follow paths.	
<b>4.3</b> Martin advised that because there isn't a path to the east of the stile, access rights only applied (over that part of the golf course) to pedestrians. To the south of the locked gate, a long established track means that access rights extend to cyclists and horse riders, as well as pedestrians. In light of this, Martin reported that he had focused his investigation on the gate obstruction.	
<b>4.4</b> Martin reported that he then approached the Golf Club over the locked gate being an obstruction and that they agreed to create a gap in the gate to allow access takers to pass through.	
<b>4.5</b> Martin reported that he also wrote to residents of Coalpots Way to inform them that a gap was being created in the gate.	
<b>4.6</b> Shortly afterwards residents of Coalpots Way complained about horse	

<p>fouling. Signs, a mounting block and shovel were placed next to the road to encourage horse riders to clean up after their horses, and Clackmannanshire Riders Access Group used social media to advertise the message. Horse fouling was also reported as being an issue on the Devon Way and on Devon Valley Drive, Sauchie.</p>	
<p><b>4.7</b> Residents at Coalpots Way also raised concerns about muddying at the gap and a request was made by them for hardcore. This was accepted, but prior to being actioned, the request was withdrawn.</p>	
<p><b>4.8</b> Martin also reported that the residents had complained that their privacy was being impacted upon.</p>	
<p><b>4.9</b> Martin then drew the Forum's attention to the relevant parts of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, and showed photographs, including a number taken by Dick, to illustrate what the area looked like.</p>	
<p><b>4.10</b> Martin asked for the Forum's advice on whether access rights applied and whether the locked gate was an obstruction, and also on horse fouling, privacy and environmental impact.</p>	
<p><b>4.11</b> The Forum discussed the matter at length and felt they didn't have enough information to provide advice to the Council. They felt they needed to visit the site before being able to give any advice. A site visit was arranged for 10.30am on Wednesday, 23rd September.</p>	<b>All</b>
<p><b><u>5.0 Update (including Ochils Landscape Partnership, Inner Forth Landscape Initiative etc) - Access and Countryside Projects Officer</u></b></p>	
<p><b>5.1 Ochils Landscape Partnership</b> Martin reported that the Ochils Landscape Partnership had now finished and that all the projects had been completed, except the Reinstatement of Natural Wetlands. He also advised that the works are due to be maintained for 10 years.</p>	
<p><b>5.2 Inner Forth Landscape Initiative</b> Martin reported that 4 access projects are due to be delivered in Clackmannanshire and that they are a part of the Exploring and Learning theme. The Cambus Whisky and Wetland Wander and A Walk To The Wetland are due to be delivered this financial year. Martin advised that he had met with Scottish Wildlife Trust representatives to discuss minimising the impact on flora on the verge of the route of the Cambus Whisky and Wetland Wander. He also reported that Hawk Hill Wood Path Improvements had been proposed as a reserve project.</p>	
<p><b>5.3 Alva Glen</b> Martin referred to the recent tragedy in Dollar Glen and reported that, in light of this, the risk assessment for Alva Glen was being reviewed.</p>	
<p><b>5.4 Menstrie Glen</b> Martin reported that the path on the west side of the glen had been badly damaged by a flood during the summer and that it was closed temporarily for safety reasons. He advised that Community Payback personnel created an alternative path so that access takers could still climb Dumyat (from Menstrie) during the closure and that that the path has now reopened.</p>	
<p><b>5.5 NCN/Greening Greenways</b> Martin reported that Sustrans had prepared habitat management plans for the Alva - Tillicoultry and the Alloa - Dollar cycle</p>	

paths. Guided walks had taken place during the summer on both routes and training volunteers in grassland management is due to take place during September.	
<b>5.6 Bridges</b> Martin reported that a bridges register is being created and that general inspections will take place every 2 years and principal inspections will be undertaken every 6 years.	
<b>5.7 Events</b> Martin reported that a number of events had taken place in Clackmannanshire over the summer, including an equestrian event, an orienteering event and several hill races. He also commented that he had advised the event organisers to liaise with land owners and to use signs to give advance warning of the event to other access takers.	
<b>5.8 Contractors/planning</b> Martin reported that he had worked with UPM Tiilhill over minimising the impact of harvesting timber at Gloom Hill, Dollar on access takers. Alternative routes were agreed and signs advertising these, together with the timing of the works, were posted at entrances to the woodland.	
<b>5.9 Biodiversity walks</b> Martin reported that the Biodiversity Trails leaflet had been put onto Clacksweb where it has been re-named Biodiversity Walks. Print friendly pages have been produced for the walks and interactive mapping introduced to allow access takers to zoom in and out as necessary.	
<b>6.0 Tillicoultry Glen</b>	
<b>6.1</b> Martin reported that tenders for the rock stabilisation and path remediation works in the glen were more than budgeted and that, as a result, the works had not taken place. He informed the Forum that the Council would be making a decision at its October meeting over how to address the shortfall.	
<b>7.0 Feedback - Forum members</b>	
<b>7.1</b> John H reported that he leads guided walks for a ramblers club and was considering leading a walk in the area to the south of Clackmannan, and asked if there were any access issues he should be aware of. Martin advised that there weren't any core paths close to where the Black Devon meets the Forth, but did say that access rights would apply if exercised responsibly in keeping with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.	
<b>8.0 Any other business</b>	
<b>8.1</b> None.	
<b>9.0 Time and date of next meeting</b>	
<b>9.1</b> It was agreed that the next meeting of the Access Forum will be from 2-4pm on Tuesday, 8th December 2015 in Room 1.01 Kilncraigs, Greenside Street, Alloa, FK10 1EB.	<b>All</b>