



# Clackmannanshire Council

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## The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

### Minute of meeting held on Tuesday, 29th November 2016 at Kilncraigs, Alloa

	<u>Action</u>
<b><u>Present</u></b>	
<b>Landowners/Land Managers:</b> Ian McFarlane,	
<b>User group representatives:</b> Eric Davidson, Linda Howson, John Hutcheson, Barbara Maddox	
<b>Community group representatives:</b> Dick Clark (Chair), Caroline Crawford, David Scott	
<b>Council:</b> Martin Dean	
<b><u>1.0 Apologies</u></b>	
1.1 Apologies were received from: - Alison Fox, Brian Poett, Sir Robert Stewart	
<b><u>2.0 Approval of draft minute of meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016</u></b>	
2.1 Caroline proposed that the minutes were approved. This was seconded by Barbara.	
<b><u>3.0 Matters arising from meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016</u></b>	
3.1 <b>Sign duplication</b> Martin reported that he had informed Donald Forbes that some people are finding it difficult to follow the Hillfoots Diamond Jubilee Way westwards from Tillicoultry and that Donald had agreed to investigate the matter.	
3.2 <b>Canyoning</b> Martin reported that he had contacted both Scottish Natural Heritage and the British Canyoning Association about canyoning in Clackmannanshire. SNH had commented that canyoning is an activity that is within access rights and the BCA had commented that they see it as their role to provide guidance on responsible canyoning and that they would be developing	

<p>this advice.</p>	
<p><b>3.3 Gartmorn Dam Country Park</b> It was reported that the Development Trust had held an Open Day at the Visitor Centre in October. Barbara advised that the Trust is due to meet again on 5<sup>th</sup> December at Sauchie Hall. Dick advised that he would attend the meeting as an “observer”.</p>	<p><b>DC</b></p>
<p><b>3.4 Dog walkers sign</b> Martin produced a draft sign promoting responsible access by dog walkers. It was agreed that the sign was quite wordy and that it should be shortened. Caroline asked for a copy of the finalised sign so that she could post it in the Community Newsletter.</p>	<p><b>MD</b></p>
<p><b>3.5 National Cycle Network</b> Martin reported that Community Payback personnel had cut back vegetation to improve visibility and so address a safety concern, at the junction of National Cycle Network 76 and National Cycle Network 768, to the west of Tullibody.</p>	
<p><b>3.6 Mine</b> John reported that he had forwarded the location of the mine in the Glen of Sorrow to Brian.</p>	
<p><b>4.0 Site visit on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016</b></p>	
<p><b>4.1</b> Martin reported that several members of the Access Forum had visited the Black Devon Wetland where they were shown newly constructed paths and advised of future works.</p>	
<p><b>4.2</b> Lord Mar led the group around 1600m of new path on land he owns, described some of the issues the contractors faced undertaking the works and highlighted some of the challenges of managing access on the urban fringe, which included motorbikes.</p>	
<p><b>4.3</b> Yvonne Boles described the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds’ aims for their site, which included new paths and an observation platform.</p>	
<p><b>4.4</b> It was agreed by those present that the visit was extremely useful in gaining insight into developing and managing access routes which are close to communities.</p>	
<p><b>5.0 Core path diversion - Midtown</b></p>	
<p><b>5.1</b> Martin reminded the Forum that in September 2012 the Forum had advised the Council that the diversion of core path 26 should be progressed subject to the views of Scottish Natural Heritage and Tullibody, Cambus and Glenochil Community Council.</p>	
<p><b>5.2</b> Martin reported that the views of Scottish Natural Heritage and Tullibody, Cambus and Glenochil Community Council had not been sought because the landowner had not confirmed that they wanted to progress the diversion.</p>	
<p><b>5.3</b> Martin reported that he had recently been in discussions with the landowner, who has a new manager, over the diversion and that they had concluded that the diversion was no longer appropriate - cost and technical issues surrounding constructing a new path around a pond being the main reasons for a change of mind.</p>	
<p><b>6.0 Muckhart Cemetery</b></p>	
<p><b>6.1</b> Martin reported that a gate on the perimeter wall of Muckhart Cemetery had</p>	

been locked shut by person(s) unknown and that some access takers had complained that their access rights were being obstructed because of this.	
<b>6.2</b> Martin reported that the Council's Legal Services had advised that access rights do extend to cemeteries and that the locked gate amounted to an obstruction.	
<b>6.3</b> Martin further advised that, following consultation with Muckhart Kirk representatives, the gate was opened, a return spring attached to help keep it shut and a sign displayed which encourages access takers passing through the cemetery, to do so responsibly and in a manner which respects the surroundings.	
<b>7.0 Horse sense – BHSS/CRAG</b>	
<b>7.1</b> Martin reported that he had attended an event on equestrian and multi use access in Scotland organised by the British Horse Society Scotland.	
<b>7.2</b> Martin advised the Forum that the BHSS had updated their advice on responsible equestrian access and had produced a leaflet entitled Horse Sense. Copies were made available for Forum members to look at.	
<b>7.3</b> Linda then gave a presentation (that she had previously given at the BHSS event) on path improvements that Clackmannanshire Riders Access Group have been responsible for at Gartmorn Dam and its surroundings. She advised that CRAG had obtained monies from a variety of sources and had undertaken several projects, including replacing the bridge over The Lade, by-passing a bing on the south shore of the Dam and improving the path through Gartmornhill Wood. Linda also highlighted that these works had benefited a range of other users, including people with disabilities and cyclists.	
<b>7.4</b> There then followed some discussion about equestrian access. Ian informed Forum members that he manages some ground on field margins for wildlife and, that to comply with grant conditions, he isn't allowed on these. He asked whether access rights extended to such margins. Martin advised that he thought they did, but that he would check with Scottish Natural Heritage and report back.	<b>MD</b>
<b>8.0 Update (including Ochils Landscape Partnership, Inner Forth Landscape Initiative, Tillicoultry Glen etc) - Access and Countryside Projects Officer</b>	
<b>8.1 Ochils Landscape Partnership/Enabling Projects In Clackmannanshire</b> Martin reported that the Ochils Landscape Partnership had now finished and that Enabling Projects In Clackmannanshire had been formed on the back of it. He advised that EPIC is a constituted charity and its aims are to maintain the OLP projects for 10 years and to deliver new projects throughout Clackmannanshire.	
<b>8.2 Inner Forth Landscape Initiative</b> Martin reported that the Walk to The Wetland project is now completed and that 1600m of new path have been constructed. He advised that 2 new access projects are to be delivered in the fourth and final year of IFLI, which is 2017-18. The projects that are to be delivered are the Clackmannan and Alloa Park	

<p>Access Improvements and the Inner Forth Inches Trail. Funding for these projects is mostly in place, with Central Scotland Green Network Trust looking for the remainder.</p>	
<p><b>8.3 Tillicoultry Glen</b> Martin reported that the rock stabilisation and path remediation works were nearing completion, and that the glen path had been re-opened to the public.</p>	
<p><b>8.4 National Cycle Network/Greener Greenways</b> Martin reported that the National Cycle Network was being promoted for walking and cycling through the “Wee Walk, Wee Cycle” initiative. He reminded Forum members that biodiversity adjacent to the cycle paths between Alloa and Dollar, and Alva and Tillicoultry, continued to be enhanced as part of the Greener Greenways initiative.</p>	
<p><b>8.5 Gartmorn Dam Country Park – Development Trust</b> Martin reported that the Trust had been formed and that it’s objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “To work in collaboration with local landowners, support the protection, conservation and enhancement of the environment of the park and its environs.</li> <li>• Develop outdoor recreation, education and learning facilities which are consistent with and sensitive to the country park and its environs.</li> <li>• Promote the benefit of the Gartmorn Dam Country Park and environs for all sections of the local community and visitors to the park”.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8.6 Other works</b> Martin reported that Community Payback personnel continue to do a variety of works on paths including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• installing signs</li> <li>• cleaning signs and information boards</li> <li>• replacing vandalised posts</li> <li>• installing horse mounting blocks</li> <li>• litter picking etc</li> </ul> <p>He also reported that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mounting blocks had been installed to make it easier for horse riders to re-mount after clearing-up after their horses</li> <li>• signs had been produced which inform path users of a temporary closure to allow deer to be moved across a core path</li> <li>• a project is being developed with Paths For All and the Council’s Youth Services, which will train young people in path construction and involve path improvements on one or more paths in Clackmannanshire</li> </ul>	
<p><b>8.7 Events</b> Martin reported that events continue to use the path network. Recent events have included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Running – including a cross-country event at Lornshill which attracted over 800 runners</li> <li>• cani-cross</li> <li>• equestrian</li> </ul>	

<b>9.0 Feedback - Forum members</b>	
<p><b>9.1</b> John reported that some paths in the new Jerah Woodlands were difficult to follow because they were no longer grazed and because of encroaching vegetation such as bracken.</p> <p>He asked whether there were any conditions/obligations on the managers to manage the vegetation.</p> <p>Martin asked John to map the paths he was referring to and said that he would then discuss the matter with Forestry Commission Scotland and the land managers (UPM Tilhill).</p>	<b>JH MD</b>
<p><b>9.2</b> Caroline reported that some cars were getting onto the cycle path at Menstrie. There then followed some discussion about where they were getting onto the path. It was agreed to monitor the situation with a view to identifying where the access points are.</p>	
<p><b>9.3</b> Linda reported that she had encountered some motorbikes using the cycle path near Fishcross.</p>	
<p><b>9.4</b> Dick made reference to an approach from the Scottish Canoe Association enquiring whether the Forum has anyone specialising in water access on it. Martin had responded saying that the 4 members of the "users" group represent the interests of all access takers, including water access takers.</p> <p>He also advised that an AGM is held every February and that this provides an opportunity for new people to join the Forum.</p>	
<b>10.0 Any other business</b>	
<b>10.1</b> There was no other business.	
<b>11.0 Time and date of next meeting</b>	
<b>11.1</b> The next meeting of the Access Forum will be the AGM which will take place at the Dumyat Centre, Menstrie from 7.00-8.30pm on Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2017.	