



**Clackmannanshire
Council**



The Clackmannanshire Access Forum

Draft note of Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday, 19th February 2019 at Alloa Academy

	<u>Action</u>
Present	
Members of the public: Callum Adam, Helen Christie, Ken Christie, Stuart Dean, Murray Dickie, Bob Dingwall, Doreen Gallagher, Karen Ramoo, Gabi Rice-Grunart, Brenda Roy, Rory Sandison, Margaret Schofield, Marion Scott, Wraight Shepherd, Elaine Stevenson, Denis Taylor, Josh Thornhill and Andrew Wood.	
Landowners/Land Managers representatives: John Wilson.	
User group representatives: Barbara Maddox	
Community group representatives: Dick Clark (Chair) and David Scott.	
Council officers: Martin Dean, Lawrence Hunter and Karen Yearsley.	
1.0 Welcome Dick welcomed everybody to the Annual General Meeting of the Clackmannanshire Access Forum.	
1.1 Apologies Martin reported that he had received apologies from Eric Davidson, Linda Howson, Helene Mauchlen, Brian Poett and Sir Robert Stewart.	
1.2 Approval of draft note from 2018 AGM John Wilson proposed that the note from last years AGM was	

approved. This was seconded by Stuart Dean.

1.3 Report on the work and achievements of the Forum

The Clackmannanshire Access Forum was formed in 2001 and in its 18 years of existence it has provided Clackmannanshire Council with advice relating to outdoor access and it has helped resolve a number of disputes.

It played a particularly important role in developing the Clackmannanshire Core Paths Plan, which was adopted in 2009, notably in helping define the criteria used to identify core paths and also in assisting at public consultations.

The Access Forum has provided advice to Clackmannanshire Council on a range of matters, including on privacy for householders and on locked gates. It has also assisted in resolving a number of disputes, which have been very variable and which have, for example, involved a bridge replacement project and equestrian access on the edge of a village.

2018 was another busy year for the Clackmannanshire Access Forum.

The Forum met on 2 occasions after last years AGM - in May and December.

It also had a site visit to Alva Glen in September.

At last years AGM, a vacancy existed in the Users Group, Caroline Crawford stood down from the Communities Group and Sir Robert Stewart stood down from the Land Managers Group. Both Caroline and Sir Robert were re-elected. The User Group vacancy was unfilled at the AGM. Very sadly, Alison Fox lost her life whilst walking in the Ochils in March, which means that there is also a vacancy in the Communities Group.

The Forum, in keeping with the functions detailed in section 25 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, provides the local authority with advice on matters having to do with the exercise of access rights, the existence and delineation of rights of way, and on core paths plans. It also assists in the resolution of disputes about the exercise of access rights, the existence and delineation of rights of way, the core paths plan and the use of core paths.

In 2018 the Forum provided the Council with advice on a locked gate above Alva.

The Forum has been provided with information on a variety of access matters that have occurred in Clackmannanshire, including:

- The Inner Forth Landscape Initiative – which delivered 3 further access projects in Clackmannanshire – the Inner Forth Inches Trail, the Clackmannan and Alloa Park Access Improvements and the Cambus Woods path improvements.
- Enabling Projects In Clackmannanshire - which will help to maintain the projects that were delivered by the Ochils Landscape Partnership.
- The Gartmorn Dam Country Park Development Trust – which aims to conserve and enhance the Country Park and which has undertaken some improvements to paths at the Country Park.
- The new management plan for Gartmorn Dam Country Park.
- The City Deal and the projects that are being developed for Clackmannanshire.
- The National Cycle Network.
- The Greener Greenways initiative - which has improved the biodiversity of cycle path verges between Alva and Tillicoultry and between Alloa and Dollar.
- The re-opening of the Tillicoultry Glen path following storm damage during the autumn.
- Inclusive Access and taking account of the needs of disabled access users.
- The measures to publicise responsible access and the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.
- The outdoor access events that take place in Clackmannanshire - these include cross-country and hill running events, cani-cross and equestrian events. Every effort is made to ensure that these events do not clash with land management operations, or with other events, and that participants comply with the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.
- The planning applications that have relevance to Outdoor Access.
- Rights of Way issues.
- The improvements to Core Paths, and
- The implementation of the Core Paths Plan - signs, way markers and access friendly gates continue to be installed on core paths.

Forum members have also been provided with updates from a variety of other organisations, including:

- The Central Scotland Green Network
- Greenspace Scotland
- The John Muir Trust

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paths For All • The Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society, and • The National Access Forum <p>My report illustrates that the Clackmannanshire Access Forum continues to play a key role in Outdoor Access provision in Clackmannanshire and is helping to influence the various new initiatives and developments that are taking place in the County.</p> <p>As Chair, I've met with Martin Dean on a monthly basis for updates and to discuss any emerging issues within Clackmannanshire. With all these new initiatives and issues, there is an ongoing need for the Access Forum to provide advice to Clackmannanshire Council and to assist with resolving access disputes in 2019 and beyond.</p> <p>My personal thanks to all Forum Members, corresponding partners and local groups for their courtesy and dedication over the past year.</p>	
<p><u>1.4 Election of Forum members to stakeholder groups</u></p> <p>Martin explained the election process, advising that the membership of the Access Forum was equally divided between 3 stakeholder groups (land managers, user groups and community groups), and that a Partnership Agreement gave the Forum direction.</p>	
<p>1.5 Martin then identified the vacancies in each of the 3 stakeholder groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners/Land managers - 0 vacancies, 1 current member (Sir Robert Stewart) is standing down • Users group - 1 vacancy, 0 current members to stand down • Community groups - 1 vacancy and 1 current member (Dick Clark) is standing down 	
<p>1.6 Elections then took place and the following were elected/re-elected to the Forum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners/Land managers – Jenny Ventham • Users group - Callum Adam • Community groups – Bob Dingwall and Josh Thornhill 	
<p>1.7 Current members of the Forum for 2019 are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landowners/land managers - Ian McFarlane, Brian Poett, Jenny Ventham and John Wilson. • Users – Callum Adam, Eric Davidson, Linda Howson and Barbara Maddox. • Community groups - Caroline Crawford, Bob Dingwall, David Scott and Josh Thornhill. • Council – To be decided. 	

1.8 Martin reported that Dick was standing down as Chair and that, in keeping with the Partnership Agreement, the new Chair would come from the Land Managers group. He further advised that Brian Poett had agreed to be Chair on a temporary basis.	
1.9 Martin thanked Dick for his 18 years service on the Access Forum and presented him with a framed picture of Gartmorn Dam.	
2.0 Presentation	
2.1 Karen Ramoo of Scottish Land and Estates gave a presentation on how access rights impact on farmers and estate managers.	
2.2 Karen Yearsley of Clackmannanshire Ranger Service gave a presentation on Gartmorn Dam Country Park.	
2.3 Dick thanked both Karens for their presentations.	
3.0 Close	
3.1 Dick thanked people for attending the AGM and concluded the meeting.	