

**Falkirk Draft Core Paths Plan Informal Consultation
Falkirk Access Forum Meeting
20 September 2007**

Access Forum Response to Development Services Comments:

Attended by (Name and Organisation):

Guy Wedderburn, SRPBA & Callendar Estate
Shelia Hall, BHS, FARAG Horse group representative
Jamie Smart, NFUS
John Ferguson, Ramblers Association
Bob Smith, Airth Community Council
Mike Ewart, CSFT
Fiona Wishart, Ranger, Falkirk Council
John Angell, TPU, Falkirk Council
Peter Rowe, Falkirk Access Assessment Group
Maria Montinaro, Shieldhill and California Community Council
John O'Keefe, SNH
Colin Ward, Paths for All Partnership

Signed: _____ on behalf of Falkirk Access Forum

Date: _____

Comment no:	Route No.	Consultation Comment	Council Response	Comments/notes of Access Forum discussion:
85		Lack of connectivity around the towns of Slamannan, Avonbridge and Shieldhill	Limited by nature conservation issues in particular restrictions from Bean Geese. Access Forum suggests undertaking feasibility study into a link to Avonbridge from Slamannan following the River Avon (Heritage Trail extension). Additional links have been identified as additions to the proposed Core Paths Network which will help address these issues.	(a) do feasibility study of River Avon path (b) support current proposals in area (c) recognise that some improvements may be difficult on farmland
420	all paths	There is insufficient information on these routes for responsible judgement to be made.	Sufficient information provision to determine whether a path is a suitable Core Path candidate route.	No comment
129	767	Problems with vandalism, litter, dog fouling, motorbikes and graffiti. Level of Agreement: Against	Antisocial behaviour issues. However, meeting with Farmer required to establish what help we can provide.	Support Falkirk Council comments Consider joining 767 to 766
130	766	Problems with vandalism, litter, dog fouling, motorbikes and graffiti. Level of Agreement: Against	Antisocial behaviour issues. However, meeting with Farmer required to establish what help we can provide.	See above
410		<p>1. Prepared to work with Councils on enhancing local path networks as and when these networks tie in with land under the Company's control or ownership. Path improvements can emerge as part of a restoration strategy or through a planning gain requirement.</p> <p>2. Established footpath network to the north-west of Airth and south of Dunmore Wood may be affected by future developments and could involve significant resources to deal with issues. Therefore wish to lodge an objection to the proposed network within this area as they affect our interests. The basis of the objection is the potential impact on the efficient and effective working of coal as a nationally safeguarded resource.</p> <p>3. However, we would be willing to work with Falkirk Council on a restoration strategy that could give a high priority to the related path network, so as to improve accessibility and potential usage.</p> <p>4. Would therefore seek to have the paths identified as 'Opportunities Subject to Future Development Proposals'.</p>	Comments noted. However, the paths already exist and are in use and access rights apply. Issues raised can be dealt with as and when planning permissions are sought.	Support Falkirk Council comments

Comment no:	Route No.	Consultation Comment	Council Response	Comments/notes of Access Forum discussion:
11	470	Bridge required to access falls woods and paths leading tot waterfalls and path leading downstream on West Lothian side of water. Protect and maintain existing path/track downstream of the burn and protect and maintain existing path downstream and beyond village boundary.	Doesn't meet Core Paths criteria so reclassify as "other path". Future aspiration to formalise path between Falkirk and West Lothian Council subject to landowner agreements and WLC support.	Disagree with Falkirk Council, although understand difficulties
12	470	Access from the Hillhead area which was promised at a regulatory committeee meeting in Livingston to the Falls area and path.	West Lothian issue. Pass to West Lothian Council	Support Falkirk Council comments. Falkirk Council to work with West Lothian Council
15	469	Track or path connecting this one to picnic area locally know as memoria	Access rights apply. Does not meet Core Paths criteria. Possible future aspiration subject to landowner agreements.	Unsure
82	327	The circular route used before the bridleway was created along the dismantled railway goes all the way round the road to the other side of the dismantled railway.	Comments noted.	Unsure - suggest council get it up to core path standard. If not, noted as desirable for future
92		Avonbridge has little or no core path provision and no interconnecting links to any other community or part of the county.	Extension to River Avon Heritage Trail and additional quiet road links identified and added to Core Paths network.	Suggest feasibility study of paths linking Slamannan to Avonbridge
139	347	Proposed diversion to avoid future development	Comments noted. Issues to be addressed through planning permission at time of application.	Support Falkirk Council comments
190	330	Path is not suitable for horses, fails on the multi use criteria. No objections to walkers. Level of Agreement: against	Works are being delivered to address these issues.	We believe resolved. If so, support Falkirk Council comments
234	464	Concerns about biosecurity, liability, horses and dogs and the maintenance responsibility. Level of Agreement: unsure	Planned future extension to the River Avon Heritage Trail with control measures installed.	Noted
210	767	Vandalism, dog fouling, mainenance of the road. Level of Agreement: against	Comments noted. Antisocial behaviour issues. However, meeting with Farmer required to establish what help we can provide.	See comment 129 overleaf
91		Lack of connectivity between some of the towns, such as between Banknock and Bonnybridge, and Denny and Bonnybridge	Investigate the possibility of adding at least one route linking these settlements for possible inclusion in the Core Paths Plan.	Agree
409		Used by walkers from Haggs, Longcroft to access the canal path.	Route 963 provides for Longcroft to Canal Route. Check suggested route.	Agree with Council comment. Off road route is desirable but not practical
166		Not willing to agree to the path being constructed on Burnshot land. Level of agreement: against	Route on Falkirk Council Road and not Burnshot land. Sustrans route 76.	Agree with Council
49	86	Contours round steep slope which, while an acceptable footpath, is too narrow to count as a Core Path	Although the route is narrow it meets 4 of the Core Paths criteria so should remain identified as a core path.	Agree with Council

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59	910, 915	Historic Scotland may be able to suggest a better route that does not cross the boggy section of the ditch.	Historic Scotland have not asked for any changes in Core Path designation of these routes	Ask Council to check Historic Scotland's view, but good quality alternatives available
125	1063	Promoted path through fields. Has had problems with gates being left open. Level of Agreement: Unsure	Route currently "other path" but to be reclassified as core path as improvement works being undertaken to help manage access mean the route will meet core paths criteria.	Support Falkirk Council
38	14	Letter received from Wellsfield Farm indicating intention to remove public paths at Wellsfield Farm (zig-zag path adjacent to A872 leading to Thornydyke Road via Quarter pit.	Routes 1003 and 1002 curtilage issues should be changed to "other" paths. Route 14 could be reclassified as Core Path Route and route 1001 remain unchanged.	Don't understand "reasons". Curtilage issue. Seek 'Round the Farm' alternative route.
39	1001	Letter received from Wellsfield Farm indicating intention to remove public paths at Wellsfield Farm (zig-zag path adjacent to A872 leading to Thornydyke Road via Quarter pit.	Routes 1003 and 1002 curtilage issues should be changed to "other" paths. Route 14 could be reclassified as Core Path Route and route 1001 remain unchanged.	Agree with Council
88		General lack of paths west of Denny and in particular around Drumbowie Reservoir	Comments noted. However there is very limited opportunity to link Denny to Banknock due to the restrictions of the M80/M876 motorways. Officers will investigate quiet road link to address this.	Council to be more proactive
235	1002	Concerned about conflict between walkers and farm's equestrian clients.	Routes 1003 and 1002 curtilage issues should be changed to "other" paths. Route 14 could be reclassified as Core Path Route and route 1001 remain unchanged.	See comment no. 38
236	1004	Concerned about conflict between walkers and farm's equestrian clients. Affects curtilage of the farmhouse and steading	Routes 1003 and 1002 curtilage issues should be changed to "other" paths. Route 14 could be reclassified as Core Path Route and route 1001 remain unchanged.	Ditto
237	1003	Concerned about conflict between walkers and farm's equestrian clients. Exact route unclear.	Routes 1003 and 1002 curtilage issues should be changed to "other" paths. Route 14 could be reclassified as Core Path Route and route 1001 remain unchanged.	Ditto
238	14	Better promotion of this path would avoid potential conflicts. Level of Agreement: supportive	Routes 1003 and 1002 curtilage issues should be changed to "other" paths. Route 14 could be reclassified as Core Path Route and route 1001 remain unchanged.	Ditto
246	86	The route shown is incorrect. The path runs down field edge to the east as agreed with Council Access Officer. Level of Agreement: unsure	Re-Digitisation of route required to reflect changes.	Agree with Council
32	898	This is a very small, difficult steep path very muddy all winter	Comments noted. However, the route meets core paths criteria so should remain as Core Path but may require additional maintenance.	Agree with Council

Comment no:	Route No.	Consultation Comment	Council Response	Comments/notes of Access Forum discussion:
96		Core paths to the Falkirk Wheel lack connectivity. No proposed core paths link directly south or effectively directly north from the Wheel to adjoining settlements or other core paths. This is an area where hand holding and signposting are needed probably more than others.	Reclassify route 151 as a Core Path linking to the north. A considerable number of Core Paths have been identified to the South, West and East of Falkirk Wheel including the Canal Towpaths. Also, the South Falkirk Environmental Action Plan will further expand and enhance this network.	Want path from Shieldhill to Canal
97		Falkirk itself has a tendency to an east-west bias of routes; whilst connections, particularly to the south, to adjoining settlements and the wider countryside are less comprehensive.	The network which has been developed over the last 10+ years is one which has been delivered following extensive public consultation meeting local demands. South Falkirk Environmental Action Plan will deliver additional links to the south. Further potential for core path routes have been identified round Slamannan, Avonbridge and Standburn.	Appreciate the Council's investment but not designated as core paths
478		Important lanes for people in Town Centre should possibly be added to Core Paths Plan	Routes to be added to Core Paths network.	Agree with respondent
479		Should this be marked as a core path? Tourist potential	Site visit required.	Agree with respondent
62		The site is criss-crossed with very strong desire connecting Bellsdyke Road, Falcon Road, Broomage Crescent and the playing fields. Access would also be provided to other nearby core path links in the Stenhousemuir area.	Paths to be added as Core paths for the area and are being upgraded as part of a CSFT led project.	Unsure
95		Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Bo'ness have a patchy coverage that does not form a 'network', and is therefore unlikely to fully meet the needs of the community.	Public consultation in these areas has highlighted the desire for the level of path provision as has been indicated on the draft Core Paths maps. Some changes and additions to core path network have been identified which should take account of local needs and aspirations.	Agree with respondent
186	814	Recognised right of way but concerned if promoted for cycling as it will also get used by motorbikes	Comments noted. Rights of responsible access already apply to cyclists as well as walkers and horse riders under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.	Agree – note that this applies to all routes
187	17	Recognised right of way but concerned if promoted for cycling as it will also get used by motorbikes	Comments noted. Rights of responsible access already apply to cyclists as well as walkers and horse riders under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.	Agree – note that this applies to all routes

Comment no:	Route No.	Consultation Comment	Council Response	Comments/notes of Access Forum discussion:
188	822	Does not meet the Core Path criteria and path lies within the curtilage of property. Level of Agreement: against	Meets the criteria relating to Core Paths set by Falkirk Access Forum. No Curtilage issues as security wall creates barrier between house and path	Agree – note that this applies to all routes
465	847	The road is used by a significant amount of heavy goods vehicles during normal operating hours of 7am to 7pm and, in addition, is used outside those hours both by cars and commercial vehicles. There is no proper footpath provision on this road and, indeed, there is a major health and safety risk posed by the presence of pedestrians on this route.	Note concerns raised. Future aspiration to upgrade the route and look at possible traffic management solutions. Route meets core path criteria and provides important links within the local and wider network.	Unsure – recognise concerns of the commentator. Could council put in traffic management? Possibly private, seek alternatives? How much public support?
466	848	845 and 848 immediately adjacent to the weighbridge and vehicle compound for the West Carron Landfill Site. On health and safety grounds alone we strongly objected to this proposal and we trust that this proposal will no longer be considered. Your confirmation of this point would be appreciated.	Comments noted. The route meets the Core Paths criteria set by Falkirk Access Forum.	unsure – recognise concerns of the commentator. Could council put in traffic management? Possibly private, seek alternatives? How much public support?
66	716	Does not meet criteria 1, 2 and 5 due to unsuitability of the crossing of the A9 Laurieston Bypass. 2 crossing places - both are very dangerous due to traffic speed. No central refuge at either crossing, and at Icehouse Brae vehicles use the white cross-hatched area of the intersection for overtaking. As far as pedestrians and cyclists are concerned, the A9 is an accident waiting to happen.	Comments noted, however the Helix project will deal with the issues raised relating to pedestrian crossings / cycle crossings and access points listed.	Recognise the safety issue but keep as core path
284	920	Promoted path but only for pedestrians. Agreeable in principle but not as a Core Path. Level of Agreement: supportive	Access Forum notes that the route meets their core path criteria. Route being upgraded as part of South Falkirk Environmental Action Plan.	Support Council
330	904	Promoted path but not suitable for horses. Agreeable in principle but question status as a Core Path. Level of Agreement: supportive	The path will be upgraded as part of the South Falkirk Environmental Action Plan so it will meet the core path criteria.	Support Council comments
337		Three promoted paths through Drum Wood should be included as 'other path'. Level of Agreement: agreeable	Should be added to network. However these would form Core Paths as part of the South Falkirk Environmental Action Plan	Agree with respondent
338		Path into Auchengean is not signed but on the South Falkirk path map. Possible inclusion as 'other path'. Level of Agreement: supportive	This could form a Core Path as part of the South Falkirk Action Plan project.	Agree with respondent
140	448	Dog fouling, fly tipping, cars blocking access, anti social behaviour, vandalism. Level of Agreement: against	Comments noted. However disagree with this as the route meets the Core Paths criteria. Assistance with issues has been offered.	Support Council comments
141	456	Access through quarry with health and safety issues and similar problems as with 448. Level of Agreement: against	Comments noted however disagree with this as the route meets the Core Paths criteria. Assistance with issues has been offered.	Support Council comments

Comment no:	Route No.	Consultation Comment	Council Response	Comments/notes of Access Forum discussion:
142	454	Access through quarry with health and safety issues and similar problems as with 448. Level of Agreement: against	Comments noted however disagree with this as the route meets the Core Paths criteria. Assistance with issues has been offered.	Support Council comments
143	455	Access through quarry with health and safety issues and similar problems as with 448. Level of Agreement: against	Comments noted however disagree with this as the route meets the Core Paths criteria. Assistance with issues has been offered.	Support Council comments
229	450	Impacts on curtilage of house with privacy and safety issues. Should be designated as 'other' path, rather than core path. Level of Agreement: unsure	Site visit required. Site visited 14/9/2007. Farm track but route does not go through steading therefore no curtilage issues, responsible access rights apply.	Unsure – Site visit by Forum is suggested if required
423	448	This is marked as a potential core path, however this is the access to a field, not a path. Respondent detailed a range of anti-social behaviour problems they experience.	Comments noted. However, these are antisocial behaviour issues which do not relate to Core Paths Planning.	Support Council views
424	456	These are marked as a potential core path but this is a private access road. This does not pertain to the criteria put forward for a path by the Scottish Executive's document and a range of anti-social behaviour problems experienced here.	Comments noted. However, these are antisocial behaviour issues which do not relate to Core Paths Planning. Paths meet core path criteria	Support Council views
424	454	These are marked as a potential core path but this is a private access road. This does not pertain to the criteria put forward for a path by the Scottish Executive's document and a range of anti-social behaviour problems experienced here.	Comments noted. However, these are antisocial behaviour issues which do not relate to Core Paths Planning. Paths meet core path criteria	Support Council views
424	455	These are marked as a potential core path but this is a private access road. This does not pertain to the criteria put forward for a path by the Scottish Executive's document and a range of anti-social behaviour problems experienced here.	Comments noted. However, these are antisocial behaviour issues which do not relate to Core Paths Planning. Paths meet core path criteria	Support Council views
93		The Slamannan proposals are rather fragmented and do not offer a viable 'network' in their own right. Additionally, there are no interconnecting links to any other settlement.	Largely limited by Bean Geese issues. However, link to Avonbridge extending the River Avon Heritage Trail West being proposed. Officers have identified additional linking routes on the Consultative Draft Core Paths Plan which will address these issues	Agree with respondent
551	516	No connection or continuation because of stopped up Right of Way eg house	Route 516 should be removed. Routes 517 & 518 to be retained as Core Paths.	Agree with Council
551	517	No connection or continuation because of stopped up Right of Way eg house	Route 516 should be removed. Routes 517 & 518 to be retained as Core Paths.	Agree with Council
551	518	No connection or continuation because of stopped up Right of Way eg house	Route 516 should be removed. Routes 517 & 518 to be retained as Core Paths.	Agree with Council

Comment no:	Route No.	Consultation Comment	Council Response	Comments/notes of Access Forum discussion:
552	516	Could conflict with SNH objectives ie Bean Geese would merit further discussion	Comments noted. All part from 515 are identified as "other" paths.	Agree that 516 should not be core path Probably no point in 515 being a core path if 513 is not a core path
552	513	Could conflict with SNH objectives ie Bean Geese would merit further discussion	Comments noted. All part from 515 are identified as "other" paths.	
552	512	Could conflict with SNH objectives ie Bean Geese would merit further discussion	Comments noted. All part from 515 are identified as "other" paths.	
552	5(515?)	Could conflict with SNH objectives ie Bean Geese would merit further discussion	Comments noted. All part from 515 are identified as "other" paths.	
553	530-522	Logical continuation of pathway. May satisfy SNH objections, if any? would help in regeneration of community.	Comments noted. Route 522 is proposed as an extension to the River Avon Heritage Trail and as a future Core Paths route. Route 530 does not meet core paths criteria so has been reclassified as 'other' path at this stage.	Agree with comment and Council
554	530 via 529	Would lead to proposed leisure area at 523 and 530. A parking area could be located in this area.	Comments noted. Creating this route would eliminate gaps in the Core Paths Network in this area and provide an extension to the River Avon Heritage Trail between Slamannan and Avonbridge.	Agree with respondent

General Comments: Falkirk Council to take overview not just look at individual routes or comments
New path from Shieldhill to canal should be core path