

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Minute of Falkirk Countryside Access Forum

Thursday 25 August 2005

Present	Apologies
Guy Wedderburn, Chair, SRPBA & Callendar Estate. Tim Lucey, BHS, FARAG Horse group representative John Ferguson, Ramblers Association Maria Montinaro, Shieldhill and California Community Council John Davidson, SCOTWAYS, Mandy Brown, Access Officer, Falkirk Council Martin Nunn, Access Officer, Falkirk Council	Peter Rowe, Shopmobility Richard Wilson, NFU Lisa Duggan, SNH Hugh Lyons, CTC Colin Peacock, FCS Rona Gibb, Paths for All Partnership Julie Cole, Transport Planning, Falkirk Council Angus Duncan, CSFT Ian Warburton, Community Services, Falkirk Council
Also Attending	Not Present

Item	Heading	Discussion	Decision	Action
1.	Present and Apologies	Noted		
2.	Minutes of Last Meeting (15th June 2005)	Minutes agreed.	Put on Council website	MB
3.	Matters Arising	Review of Access Forum – community representation: MB contacted 3 community groups to gauge their interest in attending future Access Forum meetings. In principle they were all keen to be part of the Access Forum, however the current arrangement of holding meetings during the day made it difficult to attend. This is also the case for Richard Wilson the forums NFU rep. Existing agency members have been contacted. British Waterways and Forth Estuary Forum have not responded as yet. Trevor Blackburn, Forestry Commission will shortly be changing jobs – Forestry Commission is keen to be kept updated with minutes but is unlikely to send representatives to future meetings. All the other agencies still wish to be on Falkirk's Local Access Forum.	The next meeting will be arranged for an evening. Future meetings will alternate between daytime and evening meetings.	

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4.	Auchengean Farm	<p>MB and GW visited Auchengean Farm at the request of the farmer (tenant of Callendar Estate) to help resolve a conflict between the farmers and a local horse rider wishing to use one of the tracks on the farm.</p> <p>The original path works were undertaken by Callendar Estate working with land managers to design and implement the network on Callendar Estate land.</p> <p>2 issues for forum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. control of access through farm 2. how does the forum deal with irresponsible access? <p>In the first instance TL will speak to the farm where the rider in question is from, and will arrange a site visit with MB, GW, TL and the rider.</p>	Arrange site meeting with horse rider	TL
5.	Partner update	<p><u>Julie Cole, Transport Planning, Falkirk Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bid has been submitted to Sustrans (for Scottish Executive funding) for 3 cycle ways. <p><u>Tim Lucey, BHS and FARAG</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No issues. • Encouraged to see an increase in the numbers of horses using the Forth/Clyde Canal towpath. • MN received an enquiry about horse riding around Candie. The caller has been put in touch with FARAG. <p><u>John Ferguson, Ramblers Association</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report. <p><u>Maria Montinaro, Shieldhill and California Community Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Council recently raised the issue of horses riding on the pavement in Shieldhill and the resulting mess from horses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TL pointed out that horses should not be using the pavements, unless for safety, e.g. to avoid oncoming HGVs. ○ British Horse Society good practice guidelines encourage riders to clean up after their horse. • Local path network round Shieldhill and California – there will be a community meeting/workshop on Wednesday 31 August at 7.30pm at Shieldhill Primary School. 		

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community Council is hopeful that new paths will be implemented over winter 2005. <p><u>John Davidson, Scotways</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praised the good job done on the new path at Maddiston High Road. • On behalf of Scotways JD has been walking many paths and tracks to check their state: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some of the routes that existed on the last surveys a few years ago have disappeared. ○ Several paths/tracks in the Avonbridge area have been blocked by fences, and in some cases garages have been built over paths marked on the CROW map as registered rights of way. <p><u>Mandy Brown, Access Officers, Falkirk Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FARAG path network survey contract has been awarded. • Avonbridge path network brief will be sent out shortly. • Bo'ness/Blackness path network consultation – tenders due back 26 August 2005. <p><u>Martin Nunn, Access Officer, Falkirk Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New machinery has been bought for grass cutting/path maintenance. • River Avon Heritage Trail update: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Path works have been completed. ○ Works started this week on the bridge at Carriber Mill – this is estimated to take 6 weeks. ○ There will be a 3 year maintenance contract with CSFT with the paths getting cut 3 times per year. ○ Official launch event will take place in Spring/Summer 06. • As of 1 October MN will be working reduced hours (Tues-Fri only). <p><u>Guy Wedderburn, Chair, SRPBA & Callendar Estate</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Callendar Estate/Falkirk Council Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT) Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 10 management plans were submitted at the end of July. ○ There will be consultation with local people, with their comments incorporated into the bid for assessment in October. ○ Potential for bringing in a Woodland Ranger post through WIAT who would have responsibility for management tasks, 	<p>JD will send details of garage site to MN/MB for action</p>	<p>JD/MB</p>

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		<p>community involvement and local use of the woods.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ WIAT Officer at Falkirk Council (2.5 days per week) is Ian Edwards <p><u>Angus Duncan, CSFT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Update circulated. ● Maddiston/Blackbraes will be added to schedule. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CSFT will arrange a meeting with SNH, FARAG and Falkirk Council followed by a public meeting for local residents. 		
7	Countryside Access Strategy – joint Forum response discussion	Notes from today's discussion will be circulated to all Forum members. Comments should be sent to GW by 9 September 2005. GW will then generate a joint Forum response.		MB All GW
5	AOB	<p>MN forwarded information to all members about the joint National Access Forum/Local Access Forum event on 21 September in Pitlochry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● GW and MN will be attending. If anyone else from the Forum would like to go let MN know by Monday 29 August. ● MN will be speaking at the event about the links between the Access Strategy and Core Path Planning. 		
6	DONM & Venue	Thursday 1 December, 7.30pm, Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk		