

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Minute of Falkirk Countryside Access Forum

Wednesday 15 June 2005

Present	Apologies
Guy Wedderburn, Chair, SRPBA & Callendar Estate. Hugh Lyons, Cyclists Touring Club John Davidson, SCOTWAYS Tim Lucey, BHS and FARAG Horse group Rep John Ferguson, Ramblers Association Rona Gibb, Paths for All Partnership Julie Cole, Transport Planning, Falkirk Council Martin Nunn, Access Officer, Falkirk Council Mandy Brown, Access Officer, Falkirk Council	Peter Rowe, Shopmobility Richard Wilson, NFU Helen Rowbotham, British Waterways Ronnie Simpson, British Waterways Ian Warburton, Community Services, Falkirk Council Lisa Duggan, SNH Angus Duncan, CSFT
Also Attending	Not Present

Item	Heading	Discussion	Decision	Action
1.	Present and Apologies			
2.	Minutes of Last Meeting (29th March 2005)	Minutes agreed.	Noted.	
3.	Review of Access Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is it representative? • Do we need a shake up? • Expenses 	Discussion took place regarding the make-up of Falkirk's Access Forum and how representative it is. RG explained the statutory requirements of Local Access Forums: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • interpretation of Land Reform Act and Scottish Outdoor Access Code • guidance about core path planning and access strategies, with potential links to Community Planning. Local Authority Access Officers attend in a support role rather than as members of the forum. Similarly Paths for All is there to provide an advisory and support role and is not a member of the forum. Paths for All website has a directory of resources for forum members	Forward with minutes	MB

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3.	Review of Access Forum	<p>There was a general concern regarding the lack of community group representation on Falkirk's Access Forum. Discussions took place about how to fill the gap in community representation on the forum.</p> <p>Minutes of the Access Forum could also be circulated more widely, e.g. to community councils for information, or minutes could be posted on website once they have been approved at the following Access Forum meeting.</p> <p>This could be followed by open meetings further down the line to encourage others onto forum, and to inform interested parties about what has been done, LRA and SOAC, etc.</p> <p>Re affirm new role of LAF with agencies currently on forum.</p> <p>Expenses – Local Authorities can pay expenses to volunteer attendees to cover mileage, etc.</p>	<p>Invite 3 or 4 community reps to sit on forum</p> <p>Post minutes on Forum page of FkC website (once approved)</p> <p>Check existing member agencies wish to remain on forum.</p> <p>Produce form for expense claims</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>MB</p> <p>MB</p> <p>MB</p>
4.	Partner update	<p><u>Tim Lucey, BHS and FARAG</u> FARAG AGM takes place 15 June 2005. The FARAG path network development project will be discussed after the AGM.</p> <p><u>Julie Cole, Transport Planning, Falkirk Council</u> Scottish Executive has confirmed 50% funding for the Round the Forth Strategy through SESTRAN (Total cost = £150K over 3 years). This project will look at all cycle and walk route connections round the forth.</p> <p>SUSTRANS has requested 2 year bids for local authority projects. These will be for cycle projects (e.g. new cycle tracks) with funding from Scottish Exec.</p> <p><u>John Davidson, Scotways</u> Minor concern regarding NFU rep being unable to attend LAF meetings but continued general optimism re LRA. JD would encourage people to attend the Training Day in September, as those held earlier in the year were useful.</p> <p>Post meeting Note: Richard Wilson, NFU rep, has explained that due to work commitments his availability to attend meetings is restricted to evenings.</p>		

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4.	Partner update	<p><u>Hugh Lyons, CTC</u> CTC has highlighted the change in access law in its magazine, with merit in particular awarded to John Taylor, Scottish rep for CTC for his input in discussions about LRA and SOAC.</p> <p>Unaware of any problems with access recently but feels that the public at large is not aware of the change in access legislation.</p> <p>Green Travel Map – shared use paths in purple may infer that ‘paths’ (marked in red) are not shared use. JC explained this is to distinguish between different path surfaces.</p> <p><u>Guy Wedderburn, Chair, SLF & Callendar Estate</u> Has noticed little difference in the levels of access taken since LRA.</p> <p>Callendar Estate Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT) Strategy – management of urban woodlands (within km distance of populations). This will involve Audit/Management Plans for selected priority woodlands.</p> <p>There may be an opportunity for finding a community representative for the Access Forum through WIAT consultations.</p> <p><u>Rona Gibb, Paths for All Partnership</u> Core Path Planning publication – text distributed. Glossy version should be completed by end July.</p> <p>Bridges Guide review (originally by Countryside Commission for Scotland) – big partnership project to rewrite. Hoping for publication in autumn.</p> <p>Local Access Forum Guide review – updating required</p> <p>NFUS Access Officer recruitment ongoing</p> <p>Pedometer Pack Pilot – distribution through GP’s</p> <p><u>John Ferguson, Ramblers Association</u> Aware of a couple of access disputes that have arisen, but none in Falkirk area.</p>		

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		<p><u>Martin Nunn/Mandy Brown, Access Officers, Falkirk Council</u> Community consultations in Braes area are ongoing in partnership with community groups. Shieldhill and California path network consultant interviews taking place 16 June 2005.</p> <p>This process will be rolled out to other areas of the Braes – Avonbridge, FARAG, Slamannan and Standburn.</p> <p>RAHT extension – this route is not likely to be a high priority, whereas the Core Path Planning is.</p> <p>A very positive meeting took place between British Waterways, SNH and the 7 Local Authorities that have a lowland canal running through them. Customer Services Manager John Black (new Access Forum contact for BW) is looking at access barrier removal where possible and at signage improvements. There appears also to be acceptance that horses can use the towpaths where safe.</p>		
5	Countryside Access Strategy consultation	<p>Draft for consultation went to committee on 14 June. This can now go out for consultation – copies available, including through the website. All Falkirk Access Forum members will receive a copy for comment.</p> <p>Draft to be read and individual responses prepared by members. Draft will be discussed at next meeting, so Falkirk Area Forum can also provide a unified response.</p> <p>The revised Strategy will be used as a bidding document for additional resources for access works.</p> <p>Access Rangers bid for SNH – hoping to bid for 2 rangers plus there will be a WIAT ranger to cover woodland areas.</p>	<p>Copies of strategy to all LAF members</p> <p>Responses required at next meeting</p>	<p>MN</p> <p>All</p>
6	AOB	<p>Countryside Access Management System (CAMS) – a new version has been purchased for surveying paths and data capture</p> <p>HL pointed out that many of the cycling routes will be public roads and therefore not surveyed – need to ensure routes that link up the network of paths are shown.</p>		

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		<p>CAMS should help management of the path network, e.g. signage, etc.</p> <p>Communities Scotland – National Guidelines for Community Engagement – provides a framework to help people influence the planning and delivery of services in their local area. Available through Communities Scotland website.</p> <p>Ramblers Association event on 10 September.</p> <p>National Access Forum – see SNH website for information</p>	Forward details with minutes	MB
7	DONM & Venue	Thursday 25 August, 2pm, Dawson Centre Committee Room, Davids Loan, Falkirk		