

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Minute of Falkirk Countryside Access Forum

Thursday 30 March 2006

Present Guy Wedderburn, Chair, SRPBA & Callendar Estate. Lisa Duggan, SNH Angus Duncan, CSFT Shelia Hall, BHS, FARAG Horse group representative John Ferguson, Ramblers Association Euan Grant, CTC Dave Bennett, Lionthorn Community Woodland Rona Gibb, Paths for All Partnership Bob Smith, Airth Community Council David Robertson, Forestry Commission Stuart McAllister, Bo'ness Community Council Julie Cole, Transport Planning, Falkirk Council Martin Nunn, Access Officer, Falkirk Council Mandy Brown, Access Officer, Falkirk Council	Apologies Jamie Smart, NFU Peter Rowe, Shopmobility Hugh Lyons, CTC Maria Montinaro, Shieldhill and California Community Council John Davidson, Scotways
Also Attending	Not Present

Item	Heading	Discussion	Decision	Action
1.	Present and Apologies	Noted.		
2.	Minutes of Last Meeting	Minutes of last meeting (1 December 2005) agreed.	Put on Council website	MB
3.	Matters Arising	Outdoor Access Strategy – final version has been formally approved by Falkirk Council's Policy & Resources Committee. This is due to be printed in April and will be put on the website.		
4.	Partner update	<u>Angus Duncan, CSFT</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paper circulated detailing CSFT projects in the Falkirk Council area. • Opening of Carriber Bridge/new section of the River Avon Heritage Trail expected to take place May/June 2006, with official opening by Rhona Brankin. 		

Item	Heading	Discussion	Decision	Action
4.	Partner update (cont)	<p><u>Lisa Duggan, SNH</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage Guidance for landowners – free packs available from SNH. • Doggy code leaflet – will be distributed over the next couple of weeks. <p><u>Julie Cole, Transport Planning, Falkirk Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Transport Strategy to be completed by summer 2006. • Round the Forth cycle route – new member of staff will be recruited to liaise with other local authorities and partners in the project and will help put together a funding package for the project. • Cycle park facilities – 15 new cycle lockers to be installed at Larbert Station car park • Community Guide – rough draft on the way showing local facilities in Larbert/Stenhousemuir. • Cycle Counters and 1 pedestrian counter installed. <p><u>Rona Gibb, Paths for All Partnership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phil Clarke has been appointed as PFAP Technical Officer to look at the gap between lowland and upland path construction methods. • 2 vacant Development Officer posts to be filled. • Bridges Guide – due to be printed soon. • 2nd Edition of the Local Access Forum Guide to be printed in June • Shared Use Signage Project – interim consultants report due at the end of April. • PFAP has had a lot of input in Land Management Contracts, Tiers 2 and 3. • Awareness raising exercise has been undertaken with Police Architectural Liaison Officers and Community Officers regarding Land Reform Act (LRA). Hopeful that this will involve specific LRA training at Tullieallan. <p><u>Mandy Brown, Countryside Access, Falkirk Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Braes consultations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shieldhill and FARAG projects – priority projects to be developed with groups for implementation during 2006/07. - Avonbridge, Standburn and Slamannan projects – surveys of community wish list paths complete. Prioritisation exercises to take place with local communities. • Bo'ness and Blackness Access Improvements: initial surveys completed. 		

Item	Heading	Discussion	Decision	Action
4.	Partner update (cont.)	<p><u>Sheila Hall, FARAG</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FARAG has been working closely with Falkirk Council to prioritise and develop path improvements on priority routes for horse riders in the area. Two of these projects are being developed. • Horse riders are now using the towpath between Falkirk Wheel and Kilsyth. • There has recently been an accident at the gate on the route near Muiravonside/Candie. <p><u>Guy Wedderburn, Chair, SRPBA & Callendar Estate</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woodlands in and around Towns (WIAT): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contracts on the 7 projects awarded WIAT funding (Roughcastle, Carron Glen, Bo'ness, Abbotshaugh, Lionthorn, Westquarter Glen, Polmont Woods) will be signed shortly. - Still seeking remaining funding. - Additional bids were submitted at the January round for Bonnyfield and Chacefield Wood, along with a proposal for a Woodland Ranger. The ranger would focus on community engagement and urban woodlands. • GW will be speaking at the forthcoming SRPBA/NFUS meeting. This is a gathering of landowner reps on local access forums across the country. • Document about WIAT strategy to prioritise spending is coming out shortly. Forum input will be required for this. <p><u>Martin Nunn, Countryside Access, Falkirk Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finances <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Falkirk Council's 2006/07 Countryside Access budget has still not been confirmed. However, there is funding available for 2 path maintenance teams for another 12 months, and 3 years path maintenance by CSFT at 10 sites. This will include 3 cuts per year on the Falkirk side of the River Avon Heritage Trail. - There will also be a secure capital budget over the next couple of years. - Over £1M has gone into access projects in Falkirk Council area during 2005-06. <p><u>Bob Smith, Airth Community Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been several problems in Airth recently with unauthorised vehicular access to paths/tracks and theft. This has led to landowners placing logs across path entrances to block vehicular access. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BS was asked to encourage the landowner to contact Falkirk Council to see if vehicle barriers could be installed to help deter vehicular access 	Arrange removal of faulty gate.	MB

Item	Heading	Discussion	Decision	Action
		<p>Discussions are taking place between SNH and Falkirk Council regarding these issues at Skinflats and Slamannan to clarify the position.</p> <p>GW thanked MN for all his work with the Forum and with access in Falkirk over the last 2 years.</p>		
11.	DONM & Venue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 15 June 2006, 2pm, Site Visit – Skinflats. Meet at Abbotsford House, David’s Loan, Falkirk. • Thursday 21 September 2006, 6.30pm, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk (sandwiches will be available) • Thursday 14 December 2006, 2pm, venue to be confirmed 		