

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Minute of Falkirk Countryside Access Forum Municipal Buildings, Falkirk Thursday 17 September 2009, 7pm

Present	Apologies
<p>Guy Wedderburn, SRPBA & Callendar Estate Shelia Hall, BHS, FARAG Horse group representative Peter Rowe, Falkirk Access Assessment Group Ewan Grant, CTC Neville Mackan, SNH Stuart McAllister, Bo'ness Community Council Bob Smith, Airth Community Council Aileen Amos, Airth Community Council Liz Poulson, Woodland Officer, Forestry Commission Scotland Mike Ewart, CSFT Mandy Brown, Access Officer, Falkirk Council Lesley Sweeney, Ranger, Falkirk Council George Callaghan, Cycling Officer, Falkirk Council</p>	<p>John Ferguson, Ramblers Association Chris Cutts, Forth Estuary Forum Jamie Smart, NFUS Colin Ward, Paths for All Partnership Dave Bennett, Lionthorn Community Woodland Group Angus Duncan, Access Team Leader, Falkirk Council</p>
Also Attending	Not Present

Item	Heading	Discussion	Decision	By Whom
1.	Present and Apologies	Noted.		
2.	Minutes of Last Meeting	Agreed.	Put on Falkirk Council website.	MB
3.	Matters Arising	<p>Planning applications affecting access. A system is required whereby the Access Forum can be involved in the consultation process. BS suggested that as Community Council's are statutory consultees, the Forum could consider writing to all Community Council's asking that they highlight access issues to the Forum.</p> <p>PR agreed to keep an eye out and pass on any relevant applications from forthcoming planning lists that may be of interest from an access point of view.</p>		

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3.	Matters Arising (cont.)	Draft letter to Falkirk Council (item 6 from Access Forum meeting of 16 April 2009). Issue to be revisited.		GW / JS / SH
4.	Core Paths Planning Update:	<p>Falkirk Council received 36 formal objections to its Core Paths Plan.</p> <p>On 13 August 2009 following the 3 rounds of consultation, a number of Access Forum visits and advice from the Access Forum, Falkirk Council sent its official response to all those who submitted objections and comments. Objectors were asked if they wished to maintain or withdraw their objections.</p> <p>Where an objection is maintained, Falkirk Council must notify Scottish Ministers who will inform Inquiry Reporters Unit of the need for a Local Inquiry into the Core Paths Plan. Only valid objections will be forwarded to Scottish Ministers.</p> <p>To be valid an objection must have been submitted in writing within the time period (i.e. during the 12 week formal consultation period) and it must require a change to the Core Paths Plan.</p> <p>Following a re-examination of all the objections and responses received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 objections were considered 'not valid' by Falkirk Council • 23 valid objections have been withdrawn • 6 valid objections have been maintained <p>Falkirk Council is currently working up its 'Council Statement' which will detail why an objection cannot be accepted or resolved. This will be sent along with original objections and supporting evidence to Scottish Ministers to consider at the Public Inquiry.</p>		
5.	Access Issues: Cattle Access Issues: Privacy	<p>There is concern from NFU regarding potential issues with cattle and dogs. Agreed to defer discussion until JS is in attendance.</p> <p>Falkirk Access Forum has received a letter regarding access past a Lodge House where there are a number of anti-social behaviour issues occurring.</p> <p>Discussion included possible curtilage issues and two relevant recent legal cases: Snowie case, Stirling which set a privacy zone round the house; and Tulley case where a concern regarding possible irresponsible use allowed the landowner to prevent horse access to prevent damage to the land.</p>		

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5.	<p>Access Issues: Privacy (cont.)</p> <p>Access Issues: Public Right of Way, Dunmore</p> <p>Access Issues: Camping</p>	<p>Agreed that a site visit is required. EG, PR, JD and GW volunteered to attend this and will report back at next meeting.</p> <p>The landowner has asked Falkirk Council to consider a formal diversion of a right of way at Dunmore. This issue has been passed to Falkirk Council's legal services to progress the formal procedure.</p> <p>The public right of way between Airth and Dunmore is effectively obstructed by a burn, where a bridge crossing is required. There are issues regarding SSSI status of the land, but Falkirk Council has been asked to look into this issue.</p> <p>There are issues of irresponsible camping at Lionthorn Community Woodland. There has been community police officer involvement but the problem is still going on. DB to pass more details on to Falkirk Council who will then take up the issues raised with the community police</p>	<p>Arrange site visit</p> <p>Contact relevant landowners and Crown Estate to discuss</p> <p>Pass additional details of problems to Falkirk Council</p>	<p>GW</p> <p>MB/AD</p> <p>DB</p>
6.	Partner Update	<p><u>Bob Smith, Airth Parish Community Council</u> GC provided an update for the A905 Airth to Bowtrees cycleway project: Detailed design and tender preparation by 27th Nov 2009 Tender period: 30th November to 11th Dec 2009 Tender award and contractor mobilisation: 14th Dec to 15th Jan 2010 Site construction: 18th Jan to 26th Feb 2010 Mares Tail treatment on Airth to Dunmore pavement appears to have worked Invasive Species – information on Falkirk Council website. It is the landowner's responsibility to deal with these.</p>		
		<p><u>Mike Ewart, Central Scotland Forest Trust</u> 2008/2009 programme circulated</p>		
		<p><u>Guy Wedderburn, Callendar Estate</u> Successful SRDP bid has secured £703,000 to spend on path works as part of the Bespoke Project. This will deliver 17km paths, (11km single track mountain bike trail and 6km multi-use paths). Future phase of the project will involve visitor management with an orientation centre, bike hire and café.</p> <p>Forest Plan to be reviewed: scoping document to be agreed with Forestry Commission will involve consultation with stakeholders. This will focus on the harvesting programme over the next 10 years which will help prevent future conflicts between recreational users.</p>		

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6.	Partner Update (cont.)	Helix project: Grace McDonald, Community Engagement for Helix is looking at path network development within the site, with the possibility of a small steering group from the Access Forum getting involved. Grace will attend the next forum meeting to give a presentation about the project.		
		<u>Liz Poulson, Forestry Commission Scotland</u> Deadline for WIAT applications is 30 September 2009. Project proposals should incorporate access and woodland management.		
		<u>Neville Makan, Scottish Natural Heritage</u> Signage guidance is available on the Paths for All Partnership website. Education programme within outdoor access will focus on campaigns, e.g. recent dog fouling and camping campaigns.		
		<u>Ewan Grant, Cyclists Touring Club</u> Nothing to report		
		<u>Peter Rowe, Shopmobility</u> Nothing to report		
		<u>Sheila Hall, Falkirk Area Riders Access Group</u> Leaflets are now available providing information / advice about towpath riding Specifications have been drawn up for 3 routes: Bonnybridge paths project will be included on CSFT's work programme; Bell Ingram will project manage (fundraise and deliver) the Banknock and Slamannan routes. FARAG is keen that these be progressed as soon as possible as there has been a long development time for these projects. There is an issue with horses crossing a main road by a livery yard. FARAG advised to speak with North Lanarkshire Council's roads department.		
7.	Any Other Business:	<u>Forth Sight Magazine</u> There is an article regarding wildlife on the forth floodbanks in the current issue of this magazine which may be of interest to Forum members.		
8.	DONM & Venue	Thursday 10th December at 2pm, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk (Tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided)	Any items for agenda to MB by 3 Dec 2009	ALL