

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

### Minute of Falkirk Countryside Access Forum

**Tuesday 18 December 2007**

Present	Apologies
<p>Guy Wedderburn, SRPBA &amp; Callendar Estate                  John Davidson, Scotways                  Shelia Hall, BHS, FARAG Horse group representative                  John Ferguson, Ramblers Association                  Bob Smith, Airth Community Council                  Mike Ewart, CSFT                  Gillian Barrie, CSFT                  Colin Ward, Paths for All Partnership                  Mandy Brown, Access Officer, Falkirk Council                  Angus Duncan, Access Team Leader, Falkirk Council</p>	<p>Neville Maken, SNH                  Lisa Duggan, SNH                  Maria Montinaro, Shieldhill and California Community Council                  Peter Rowe, Falkirk Access Assessment Group                  Jamie Smart, NFUS                  John Angell, TPU, Falkirk Council                  PC Jim Bell, Community Safety Officer, Central Scotland Police                  Craig Dinwoodie, Forestry Commission                  Stuart McAllister, Bo'ness Community Council                  Dave Bennett, Lionthorn Community Woodland Group</p>
Also Attending	Not Present

Item	Heading	Discussion	Decision	By Whom
1.	<b>Present and Apologies</b>	Noted.		
2.	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting</b>	Date of meeting recorded on minutes to be changed to 20 September 2007.  Wrong attachment sent with minutes.	Make changes and put on Council website Circulate correct attachment	<b>MB</b>  <b>MB</b>
3.	<b>Matters Arising</b>	Upsurge in ticks reported at last meeting. Further information indicates an increase in cases of Lyme Disease. Access takers should all be aware of this issue.	Consider signage and information as per Dunmore signs. Info available from <a href="http://www.bada-uk.org">www.bada-uk.org</a>	<b>All</b>
4.	<b>Round Table Partner Update</b>	<p><u>Angus Duncan, Falkirk Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Falkirk Environmental Action Plan project in partnership with Callendar Estate and others is now underway after successful bid to Forward Scotland. This project received the single largest award for this round of funding (£486000). Delivery of woodland and path works to be completed by end March 2008, along with involvement with school and youth groups</li> <li>Ranger Service – year 1 completed. Activities undertaken included:</li> </ul>		

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		<p>over 50 events (25 through the Events Diary, 25+ events with school and youth groups), path audits, dealing with complaints and overseeing maintenance team's work. 2008 diary currently under development. If anyone wants to add information or events for inclusion please send to team by mid January 2008</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blackness/Bo'ness path network leaflet under development</li> </ul> <p><u>Sheila Hall, FARAG</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Responsible Riding campaign carried out summer 2007 with 24 establishments visited, and posters and leaflets displayed</li> <li>• FARAG has received £28000 from Falkirk Environment Trust for the Roughcastle project</li> <li>• Fencing at Standburn to Candie ROW will open up route for horse access. Due to be completed mid January</li> <li>• Drainage project in Limerigg on hold because of tree felling</li> <li>• SH highlighted useful NFU leaflet – Access to Farmland</li> <li>• Horse access issues raised: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- lack of paths/tracks in places (mainly Slamannan and Avonbridge areas of the Braes)</li> <li>- barriers on canal at Bonnybridge</li> <li>- blocked access issue at Bonnybridge – track has been fenced off to prevent access. This is not in the spirit of the Land Reform Act legislation. Possibility of using Access Forum to assist negotiations if required</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>John Davidson, SCOTWAYS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walkers access remains good</li> <li>• Reminder that Scotways volunteers can help carry out path user audits</li> </ul>	<p>Circulate with minutes</p> <p>Take up issue with BW</p> <p>Meet to discuss options</p>	<p><b>MB</b></p> <p><b>MB/AD</b></p> <p><b>MB/SH</b></p>
		<p><u>Guy Wedderburn</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Callendar Estate currently implementing Chacefield Wood proposals</li> </ul>		

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		<p>with woodland regeneration and path creation/upgrade. FARAG has been involved and helped secure funding through FET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scottish Rural Development Programme is taking shape. Falkirk now falls within the LEADER funding area. GW is on the LEADER advisory group which decides who gets funding. There will be £5-6M over the next 5 years. Part of this is WIAT funding which will be spilt between woodland projects and community involvement projects</li> </ul> <p><u>John Ferguson, Ramblers Association</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ROW issue behind Falkirk Wheel on Lime Road. Trees are being felled and the path carved up by vehicles. GW informed forum that path is part of South Falkirk project and will be re-instated</li> <li>• Clarification required about ROW legislation relating to ploughed ROW's</li> </ul> <p><u>Mike Ewart and Gillian Barrie, CSFT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project update report circulated.</li> <li>• CSFT is developing an access strategy/policy and action plan for CSFT sites as well as access opportunities across the Forest area. This will be developed through partnership working. Access Forum keen to be involved in the development of this strategy.</li> </ul> <p><u>Colin Ward, Paths for All Partnership</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rewrite of the signage publication ongoing – this is looking at all aspects of signage (advisory, directional and code compliance). Will be free and available as hard copy and CD version</li> <li>• Training programme 2008-09 – any suggestions to CW as soon as possible for possible inclusion</li> <li>• Right Track publication due for circulation soon.</li> <li>• New planning guidance (SPP11 Open Space and Physical Activity) means that access rights and core paths are now material considerations for planning applications. This can be downloaded at: <a href="http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/12152424/0">www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2007/11/12152424/0</a></li> </ul>	Investigate and circulate	<b>MB</b>
5.	<b>Core Paths Planning</b>	Consultative Draft Core Paths Plan was circulated and the process to be undertaken for the formal consultation was outlined.		

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		<p>Falkirk Council's Environment and Heritage committee have referred the Draft Plan to the January meeting of the Policy &amp; Resources Committee with recommendations for approval for deposit and consultation. Provided the Policy and Resources committee approve this, the formal consultation on the Draft Falkirk Council Core Paths Plan will take place from 1 February to 30 April 2008.</p> <p>The chair acknowledged the Forum's appreciation of Falkirk Councils Access Team in developing the consultative draft Core Paths Plan and endorsed the formal consultation process outlined.</p> <p>Objection process outlined. Access Forum may be required to help negotiate and resolve objections.</p> <p>Plan will be circulated to all Access Forum members in early February. All to review and discuss at next meeting to agree a formal Access Forum response.</p>	<p>Forum endorsed formal consultation process outlined</p> <p>Review draft Core Paths Plan for discussion at March meeting</p>	<p><b>All</b></p>
8.	<b>AOB</b>	<p>Upsurge in fly tipping in Airth/Dunmore area – this may improve now Roughmote has reopened.</p> <p>Helix project successful in gaining £25M Big Lottery funding.</p> <p>Noted that although we have excellent representation on the forum for road cyclists, there is a gap in representation for mountain bikers.</p> <p>Members to consider if there are any other gaps in Forum membership so we can review at the Autumn 2008 meeting.</p>	<p>Invite mountain biker to attend forum meetings</p>	<p><b>GW</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p>
9.	<b>DONM &amp; Venue</b>	<p><b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2008, 7pm, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk (sandwiches, teas and coffees provided)</b></p> <p><b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June, 1pm, lunch (not provided) and site visit, venue to be confirmed</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 7pm, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk (sandwiches, teas and coffees provided)</b></p> <p><b>Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2pm, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk (teas, coffees and biscuits provided)</b></p>		