

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

### Minute of Falkirk Countryside Access Forum Municipal Buildings, Falkirk Thursday 16 April 2009, 7pm

Present	Apologies
<p>Guy Wedderburn, SRPBA &amp; Callendar Estate                  Shelia Hall, BHS, FARAG Horse group representative                  Peter Rowe, Falkirk Access Assessment Group                  Ewan Grant, CTC                  John Ferguson, Ramblers Association                  Neville Mackan, SNH                  Stuart McAllister, Bo'ness Community Council                  Chris Cutts, Forth Estuary Forum                  Mandy Brown, Access Officer, Falkirk Council                  Angus Duncan, Access Team Leader, Falkirk Council</p>	<p>Alasdair Finlayson, British Waterways                  Maria Montinaro, Shieldhill and California Community Council                  Mike Ewart, CSFT                  Jamie Smart, NFUS                  Colin Ward, Paths for All Partnership                  Alasdair Finlayson, British Waterways                  Emma Stewart, Forestry Commission                  Amy Stewart, Forestry Commission Scotland                  Bob Smith, Airth 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>	Agreed.	Put on Falkirk Council website.	<b>MB</b>
3.	<b>Matters Arising</b>	ME has passed on concerns raised at the last meeting relating to consultants taking access on land without informing the landowners		
4.	<b>Partner update</b>	<p><u>Sheila Hall, FARAG</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Horse rider access on towpaths – BHS guidance is being prepared with advice for riders to be issued</li> <li>▪ Limerigg drainage project is underway along with other path works at Limerigg</li> <li>▪ Update requested regarding Bonnybridge blocked access. MB reported that this project is currently being drawn up by Bell Ingram. In-principle agreement has been obtained from the landowner, with negotiation underway to determine full scope of works required.</li> </ul>		

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4.	<b>Partner update</b>	<p><u>Angus Duncan, Falkirk Council</u> CSFT update circulated:</p> <p>Denny Safe Routes to School – Land Use Consultants are developing this project with options for improved access to and from new High School, and in and around Denny. Funding options are being considered.</p> <p>Burnside Community Woodland – final costs and designs are being put together by CSFT. Legal agreement between Council and landowner being drawn up</p> <p>Laughin-Greetin Bridge path and bridge works – project nearly complete</p> <p>Antonine Wall leaflet – an updated leaflet has been printed and is being distributed.</p> <p>Signage audit in Larbert and Stenhousemuir being undertaken by Sustrans on behalf of Falkirk Council’s Transport Planning Unit.</p> <p>RSNH Masterplan for wider access – we are awaiting details of this.</p> <p>Disability Access audit on Core Paths Plans with Fife, Clacks and Falkirk Councils and Fieldfare Trust</p>		
		<p><u>Guy Wedderburn, Callendar Estate, SRPB</u> Drum Wood – hope to begin work on the paths at Drum Wood this year.</p> <p>Feasibility Study – Callendar Estate Trustees have decided to run with the Countryside Activity Centre (Bespoke) project provided external funding and grant aid is secured. However, 2009 SRDP budget has already been allocated.</p> <p>There is a requirement for generating income</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This could be through “pay as you go” recreational activity such as aerial walkway, paintballing, etc</li> <li>• Effective partnership / community association including FARAG, farming interests, etc as a future funding vehicle?</li> </ul> <p>Discussions have taken place with Falkirk Council’s Transport Planning and Sustrans regarding a strategic cycle route</p>		

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		<u>Peter Rowe, Shopmobility</u> PR has been involved with various consultations with organisations Keen to go out and audit paths		
		<u>Ewan Grant, CTC</u> Nothing to report		
		<u>John Ferguson, Ramblers Association</u> Nothing to report		
		<u>Neville Mackin, SNH</u> Nothing to report		
		<u>Stuart McAllister, Bo'ness Community Council</u> Bonny Bo'ness, Friends of Kinneil and Bo'ness Community Council are carrying out a litter pick in Kinneil on Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> April.  Improvements to Bo'ness Foreshore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awaiting completion of flood alleviation works</li> <li>• Action required to remove overhanging trees / vegetation</li> </ul> Request for update regarding the foreshore path upgrade	Falkirk Council will look at vegetation removal in Autumn/Winter 2009  George Callaghan, Cycling Officer to update	<b>MB/AD</b>  <b>GC</b>
		<u>Chris Cutts, Forth Estuary Forum</u> Nothing to report		
		<b>Partner updates received by Falkirk Council prior to the meeting:</b> <u>Colin Ward, Paths for All Partnership</u> Signage Guidance – final draft stage, due for publication late May 2009 Web upgrade – new Active Travel section on website  <u>Jamie Smart, NFUS</u> Query regarding effect of Council budget cuts on path maintenance. AD confirmed that Falkirk Council has no plans for cut-backs to its path maintenance programme during 2009-2010 and contracts are already in place for 2010-2011.		

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5.	<b>Core Path Planning</b>	<p>Report detailing Officer and Access Forum recommendations is due to go to Falkirk Council's Leisure, Tourism and Community Committee on June 9<sup>th</sup> 2009</p> <p>Following this, Officers will seek to resolve outstanding objections. However, where objections are not withdrawn, objectors will have an opportunity to make their case at a public inquiry.</p>		
6.	<b>Public Access – Balancing Recreation and Economics</b>	<p>JS reported an issue raised by an NFUS member about the presence of paths, and their affect on planning decisions and impact on development.</p> <p>Access Forum members discussed the effect of paths and access on development and agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Forum could take a more active role in debating public access in relation to development</li> <li>• The Forum would welcome the opportunity to comment on planning applications where the “right of access” is impacted</li> <li>• It may prove useful to have a representative from Planning attend the forum</li> </ul> <p>Access Team to vet the weekly planning list for pertinent applications relating to outdoor access</p> <p>Forum will write to Falkirk Council seeking clarification regarding the rationale behind planning decisions and implementation of policies.</p>	<p>Speak to policy planners</p> <p>Send relevant applications to chair</p>	<p><b>MB/AD</b></p> <p><b>AD</b></p> <p><b>GW/JS</b></p>
7.	<b>AOB</b>	No other matters raised.		
8.	<b>DONM &amp; Venue</b>	<p>Forum visit to Demonstration Site at Oatridge Agricultural College: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2009</p> <p><u>Suggested Timetable</u></p> <p>12.30pm Meet at Abbotsford House - Minibus to Oatridge</p> <p>1pm Buffet Lunch at Oatridge</p> <p>1.30pm Visit Path Demonstration Site – Kevin Fairclough, Paths for All Partnership</p> <p>3.30pm Teas and coffees at Oatridge</p> <p>4pm Return to Abbotsford House</p>		