

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Minute of Falkirk Countryside Access Forum

Thursday 14 December 2006

<p>Present</p> <p>Guy Wedderburn, SRPBA & Callendar Estate John Ferguson, Ramblers Association Hugh Lyons, CTC Helen Rowbotham, British Waterways Allie Graham, Outdoor Ranger, Falkirk Council (attended part of meeting) Fiona Wishart, Outdoor Ranger, Falkirk Council Lesley Sweeney, Outdoor Ranger, Falkirk Council Tom Gardener, Community Safety Officer, Central Scotland Police Shelia Hall, BHS, FARAG Horse group representative Jamie Smart, NFUS Diana Holt, Forestry Commission Colin Peacock, Forestry Commission Mike Ewart, CSFT Angus Duncan, Outdoor Access Team Leader, Falkirk Council Mandy Brown, Access Officer, Falkirk Council</p>	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Bob Smith, Airth Community Council Richard Millar, British Waterways Lisa Duggan, SNH Maria Montinaro, Shieldhill/California Comm Council Julie Cole, TPU, Falkirk Council Craig Dinwoodie, Forestry Commission Colin Ward, Paths for All Partnership John Davidson, Scotways Stuart McAllister, Bo'ness Community Council</p>
<p>Also Attending</p>	<p>Not Present</p>

Item	Heading	Discussion	Decision	By Whom
1.	Present and Apologies	Noted.		
2.	Minutes of Last Meeting	Agreed.	Put on Council website	MB
3.	Falkirk Council Access Team – staffing update	<p>The Outdoor Access Team is now at full strength. The team were introduced to the forum. Contact details as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angus Duncan, Outdoor Access Team Leader, 01324 504928, angus.duncan@falkirk.gov.uk • Mandy Brown, Outdoor Access Officer, 01324 504721, mandy.brown@falkirk.gov.uk • Allie Graham, Biodiversity Ranger, 01324 501018 or 07738 143605, allie.graham@falkirk.gov.uk 		

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4.	Partner update	<p><u>Tom Gardener, Police</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No comments <p><u>John Ferguson, Ramblers Association</u> JF has received a query regarding the state of the path from Larbert to Denovan which is badly rutted and unusable in places. This may have been caused by heavy vehicles due to Scottish Power engineering works in the area. Proposed works by Falkirk Council on the Right of Way at Kirkland Farm should improve drainage and make the path useable again.</p> <p>Ramblers volunteer group do a couple of days path maintenance work each year. The summer programme is being arranged now. Falkirk Council would need to provide job details and also tools.</p> <p><u>Mandy Brown, Access Officer, Falkirk Council</u> Transport Planning Unit update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants have been submitted to Sustrans: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To encourage cycleway/footway use by schools To install cycle storage at some schools Denny/Falkirk Cycleway bid – the bid was circulated for forum members to look through. More copies are available from Julie Cole, TPU, Falkirk Council <p>The Outdoor Access Team has been working on the following projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working up project delivery of paths in Bo'ness, the Braes and Denny Bridge installation at Bantaskine CAMS (Countryside Access Management System) path surveys Signage installation Almond Bing fencing, replacement of kissing gate with self-closing gate ETU Maintenance – completed strimming for this year; from January the team will be working on path works/drainage at Kirkland Farm BTCV has been undertaking minor path maintenance and improvement works across Falkirk Council area for 1 day per month Social Services Unpaid Work Team – strimming of the Bo'ness foreshore path is complete. The team will also be undertaking minor path repairs and will be making bird/bat boxes and kits. The team has recently met with British Waterways regarding Core Paths Planning and events planning. 	<p>Site visit to investigate this complaint</p> <p>Contact JF with possible dates if there is anything suitable in the pipeline</p> <p>Contact JC for a copy of the bid</p>	<p>MB/FW/LS</p> <p>AD/MB</p> <p>All</p>

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4.	Partner update	<p><u>Angus Duncan, Outdoor Access Team Leader, Falkirk Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Falkirk Council has asked CSFT's Estates Team to complete path upgrade works at Winchester Ave, Denny and Hallglen Haven • Flood defence works at Bo'ness may provide an opportunity to improve the foreshore path. <p><u>Colin Peacock, Forestry Commission</u> Limerigg Community Association/FET project in the woodland opposite the community hall. Phase 1 woodland improvements to take place in the New Year. Phase 2 will take place once felling works are completed and will involve path network development.</p> <p>Callendar Wood – visitor surveys carried out over past couple of years have shown there are approx. 168,000 visitors per year.</p> <p>CP has been promoted and will now be based at Lanark. Diana Holt will take over day-to-day operations in Falkirk and Fife areas.</p> <p><u>Jamie Smart, NFUS</u> NFU and SNH have produced a leaflet providing access guidance for land managers. This will be distributed to NFUS members with the in-house magazine in February.</p> <p>Liability is the main worry for farmers as it appears that insurance companies are loading premiums according to the amount of access taken on farms. There is the additional worry that in the long term people may expect more from core paths than 'other' paths.</p> <p><u>Sheila Hall, FARAG</u> FARAG has been working on 3 projects – 2 are ready to go out to tender, 1 with the lawyers due to a dispute over ownership of the track.</p> <p>Limerigg woods small project – FET bid has been submitted for drainage works</p> <p>FARAG has developed an on-line survey to gauge people's views about paths in the Falkirk area</p>		

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		<p><u>Helen Rowbotham, British Waterways</u> British Waterways is keen to support access to and from towpaths and expects these to be identified as core paths in most local authority Core Paths Plans. As a result BW is looking for funding to ensure adequate links/maintenance and to encourage circular routes. BW is keen to work with Falkirk Council on this.</p> <p>Opportunities now exist for BW to work with Falkirk Council Ranger Services to promote towpaths and links on/off canal. Events such as guided walks will help promote these. There is also an opportunity to attract Falkirk Wheel visitors to other canals and other parts of Falkirk area.</p> <p>Chicane gates – works are ongoing to increase access round existing chicanes.</p> <p>Ironside Farrar undertook a report for CSFT in 1998/9 regarding access links to and from the canals – this work should be revisited.</p> <p><u>Hugh Lyons, CTC</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing to report <p>Email updates were received from Paths for All Partnership and Airth Community Council:</p> <p><u>Paths for All update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New website has been launched. Please check it out: www.pathsforall.org.uk • Path bridges guide now published. Distribution to take place early January <p><u>Airth Community Council update</u> BS has raised the issue of keeping horse riders off some tracks for the time being whilst they are too wet and muddy to use. SH suggested the use of a notice at the beginning of the path to inform users that the path is very muddy and suggesting they take an alternative route. This also provides an opportunity for 'know the code' education work with local riders.</p> <p>A longer term option would be to upgrade the paths to a standard suitable for all users.</p>	<p>Rangers to meet HR to discuss</p> <p>CSFT to provide a copy of this</p> <p>Incorporate into Rangers programme</p>	<p>AG/FW/LS/ HR</p> <p>ME</p> <p>AD/FW/LS</p>

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		<p>Barrier logs to prevent 'joy rider' access have been replaced, but wheelchairs and bicycles can pass.</p> <p>Vegetation has been cut on the banking between Airth and Dunmore making it much easier to walk this stretch. Can something similar be done on the banking at Airth from the sewage plant round to the A905 opposite the road to the Pineapple?</p>	Investigate if this is possible	MB
5.	Core Path Planning	<p>The 2nd round of informal consultation is underway.</p> <p>Land manager consultations took place over the summer. Some individual follow-up meetings are now required.</p> <p>Falkirk Council has also attended 4 Area Forum meetings and 3 community council meetings. All local councillors have also had the opportunity to comment on the proposed core paths network.</p> <p>A wider community and user group consultation will take place between January and June 2007.</p> <p>Agreed that appropriate representatives from the Access Forum would attend consultation meetings. Once the meetings have been set up, forum members will be advised and can choose most appropriate ones to attend.</p> <p>Several land managers have expressed concerns over liability on core paths. Legal advice required regarding this as there is a fear that increased promotion of core paths could result in increased liability.</p> <p>Regular inspections being set up by the Ranger team who will work with farmers to ensure paths are inspected</p>	Speak to Law and Admin, Falkirk Council	MB
6.	AOB	<p>Falkirk Access Forum has been approached by West Lothian Access Forum regarding the possibility of holding a joint meeting. Agreed this will take place on Wednesday 25 April 2007:</p> <p>WL and Falkirk Forum members to meet for buffet lunch followed by site visits. Suggestions included Shieldhill, Lionthorn, Callendar Woods. Possible venues were discussed, e.g. Salvation Army Hall or Cladder Hotel. The forum would like to use this meeting to discuss cross-border issues.</p>	Discuss format of day with West Lothian Access Officer	MB

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7.	DONM & Venue	22 March 2007, 7pm, Municipal Buildings – Tea/Coffee and sandwiches will be provided 21 June 2007, 2pm, Site Visit – venue to be confirmed 20 September 2007, 7pm, Municipal Buildings – Tea/Coffee and sandwiches will be provided 13 December 2007, 2pm, Municipal Buildings – Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be provided		