

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Minute of Falkirk Countryside Access Forum Municipal Buildings, Falkirk Thursday 10 December 2009, 2pm

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

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	None.		
4.	Helix	<p>CA explained the partnership, funding and 3 main components of the Helix project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • canal hub and Kelpies • central park • public art – Abbotshaugh Community Woodland sentinel project with local community and artist <p>Timescales: the first phase will be an access road to the Kelpie site due to commence spring 2010</p>		

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4.	Helix (cont.)	<p>Bulk of investment will take place 2011-2013 with the development of the central park.</p> <p>In terms of access – the project includes 12km path improvements to be integrated with the Round the Forth route through the site. There is also potential to create links with Callander Estate’s South Falkirk BeSpoke project, and overcome existing barriers to access, e.g. M9 motorway</p> <p>3 design reference groups have been set up to encourage community engagement, including a path reference group. This includes representatives for health walking, wheelchair users, etc and has identified requirements for new links, maintenance, upgrades / improvements within the site and access to the site.</p> <p>JF and SH expressed interest in being involved in the path ref group to ensure ramblers and horse riding interests are represented. GM will provide details of the next path ref group meeting for JF and SH.</p> <p>Access Forum members provided positive feedback regarding input from school groups.</p> <p>Helix path network – NM suggested that the project refer to the Paths for All Partnership Signage Guidance to ensure signs are Land Reform Act-compliant,</p> <p>This can be found at: www.pathsforall.org.uk/cms_uploads/PFASIGNGUIDANCEforOUTDOORACCESS.pdf</p> <p>There should also be consistency in terms of quality and specification of signage and paths between Helix network and links to wider path network.</p> <p>Maintenance of the project will be the long term responsibility of British Waterways and Falkirk Council, but in the stewardship of Helix Futures.</p> <p>Any further feedback or views regarding the access and the Helix project should be emailed / in writing to GM / CA by March 2010, through the sooner information is passed on to the team the better. Alternatively GM can be contacted on 01324 590718.</p>	Provide details of next path ref meeting	GM

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5.	South Lodge – access and privacy issues	Discussion regarding recent Forum site visit was postponed until next meeting.	Noted.	
6.	BeSpoke Project, South Falkirk path network	<p>GW gave a presentation to provide an update regarding the BeSpoke project.</p> <p>Works on site are ongoing, with many of the paths due for completion by the end of December 2009. Work on the cycle trail will continue into 2010 with the bulk of the trails built during summer and autumn 2010.</p>		
7.	Core Paths Planning update:	<p>Falkirk Council provided its written statement and additional background information to Scottish Ministers in relation to the 6 outstanding objections to the Core Paths Plan. These have been passed to the Reporters Inquiry Unit which is currently undertaking the Local Inquiry into Falkirk Council's Core Paths Plan. The Inquiry will be dealt with through written submissions.</p> <p>All 6 objectors have been asked to submit their response to the Council's written statement by 18th December 2009. The Reporter will then assess the evidence in February 2010. Hopefully Falkirk Council will be in a position to adopt the Core Paths Plan in Summer 2010.</p> <p>The Outdoor Access team Ranger Service is currently undertaking a signage audit of the core path network to identify those paths requiring signs.</p> <p>Falkirk Council is working with Fife Council, Clackmannanshire Council, Stirling Council and the Fieldfare Trust to carry out an accessibility audit of the core path network.</p> <p>Maintenance of the core path network – some core paths are maintained by Falkirk Council, some on behalf of the Council, and some by landowners. This arrangement will continue.</p>		
8.	Outdoor Access Strategy	Falkirk Council's Outdoor Access Strategy is due for review during 2010. The first stage will involve workshop sessions in Callendar House with partner organisations to review the 2005-2010 strategy. These will take place in early 2010 and will be followed up with discussions to determine the direction of the next strategy. It is likely that the focus will be on signage, interpretation and maintenance.		

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8.	Outdoor Access Strategy (cont.)	The new Outdoor Access Strategy is likely to be outcome-led rather than target-led and will link with other key strategy documents such as the Open Space Strategy, Local Transport Strategy (particularly Active Travel), and the new Development Plan.		
9.	Any Other Business:	<p>Paintball / Airsoft activities: the Rebellion Paintball application was refused. The operation has been relocated to a different site which has been approved and is now operating. The Airsoft operation hopes to use a shared access with the paintballing site, with the buffer zone increased to 100m from the adjacent core path. This application is still to go through the planning process but intends to operate for 50 days / year (approx. every 2nd Sunday) and will display advisory signage.</p> <p>The South Falkirk Environmental Action Plan project has been shortlisted for a Scottish Quality Award in Planning.</p> <p>The “<i>Discover the paths in and around Bo’ness and Blackness</i>” leaflet has been printed and is currently being distributed.</p> <p>South Falkirk leaflet – a revised leaflet is being produced to promote the path network around South Falkirk and the Falkirk Wheel. This will be the same booklet format as the rest of Falkirk Council’s suite of path leaflets.</p> <p>Crown Estate has a small grants scheme for community projects on the foreshore. Anyone with projects of interest should contact GW.</p>	<p>Circulate copies at next meeting</p> <p>Circulate draft for comments</p> <p>Noted</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>MB</p>
8.	DONM & Venue	<p>7pm, Thursday 18th March 2010, Committee Room, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk (tea, coffee and sandwiches provided)</p> <p>2pm, Thursday 17th June 2010, Site Visit – Venue to be confirmed</p> <p>7pm, Thursday 16th September 2010, Committee Room, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk (tea, coffee and sandwiches provided)</p> <p>2pm, Thursday 16th December 2010, Committee Room, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk (tea, coffee and biscuits provided)</p>		