

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Minute of Falkirk Countryside Access Forum

Thursday 15th January 2009

Present	Apologies
<p>Guy Wedderburn, SRPBA & Callendar Estate Mike Ewart, CSFT Colin Ward, Paths for All Partnership Jamie Smart, NFUS Peter Rowe, Falkirk Access Assessment Group John Ferguson, Ramblers Association Shelia Hall, BHS, FARAG Horse group representative John O'Keefe, SNH Alasdair Finlayson, British Waterways Emma Stewart, Forestry Commission Amy Stewart, Forestry Commission Scotland Lynn Slavin, Transport Planning Co-ordinator, Falkirk Council Mandy Brown, Access Officer, Falkirk Council Angus Duncan, Access Team Leader, Falkirk Council</p>	<p>Bob Smith, Airth Community Council Craig Dinwoodie, Forestry Commission Dave Bennett, Lionthorn Community Woodland Group</p>

Item	Heading	Discussion	Decision	By Whom
1.	Present and Apologies	Noted		
2.	Minutes of Last Meeting	Approved	Put on Falkirk Council website.	MB
3.	Matters Arising	None		
4.	Round Table Partner Update	<p><u>Mike Ewart, CSFT</u> Papers circulated detailing current CSFT access-related projects, and projects under development during 2008-2009: Kinneil – upgrades expected to be completed by September River Avon Heritage Trail upgrade of muddy section to be delivered by end March 2009 Hallglen Haven – DDA compliant path link</p>		

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		<p>Forthcoming projects</p> <p>Denny Safer Routes to School – tenders due back Friday 23 Jan</p> <p>River Avon Heritage Trail extension (Linlithgow Bridge to Grangemouth) – preferred route identified and cost estimates prepared. Landowner negotiations underway. JS raised an issue that landowners were not informed about project prior to surveyors going on site</p> <p>River Avon Heritage Trail (Avonbridge to Slamannan) – additional landowner negotiation required.</p> <p>HELIX – consultation with Access Forum expected. Project provides an opportunity for provision of accessible route from Grangemouth to Falkirk. Helix project area includes Westquarter Glen but does not extend to Callendar Park/Woods</p>	<p>ME to investigate and will ask consultants to let landowners know when they are surveying on their land</p>	<p>ME</p>
		<p><u>Lynn Slavin, Falkirk Council</u> No issues to report</p> <p><u>Peter Rowe, Shopmobility</u> Group is generally less active during the winter due to the weather Keen to get out and about to test paths</p>		
		<p><u>John Ferguson, Ramblers Association</u> No concerns / issues to report</p>		
		<p><u>Sheila Hall, FARAG</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Horse rider access on towpaths – horse riders are allowed on towpaths provided they ride responsibly: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BHS guidance is being prepared and advice for riders has been issued BHS guidance leaflet is being produced for riders and the general public regarding horse droppings ▪ Burnside Community Woodland – there is an ongoing issue between the landowner and horse riders, police have been involved. Proposal for an equestrian track through the woodland being pursued with Falkirk Council, FARAG and others 		

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		<p><u>Emma Stewart, Forestry Commission</u> Limerigg will be one of Forestry Commissions Homecoming 2009 sites because of its industrial heritage.</p> <p>Reviews underway for Management Plans and Callendar Wood paths. Consultation to be carried out soon regarding the design of woodland at Limerigg. This will include consultation about replanting/ access</p> <p>New paths / access projects to be delivered on Forestry Commission land in the area: Slamannan - path from water tank to ruined steading in the woodland New forest road Barns Forest to link B825 to adjacent public road Meeting in Hallglen Community Hall with Wraight Shepherd re upgrade of path link in Callendar Woods chicane installed at Black Loch to prevent vehicular access – now ready for Falkirk Council to tarmac path</p> <p>Health Walk forum meeting 18 Feb 2009 at Falkirk Stadium</p>		
		<p><u>John O’Keefe, SNH</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Staffing changes within SNH as follows: Lisa Duggan has taken up a new post with Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Katrina Marshall has taken up Fife Area Officer role Neville Mackin will take on KM role for Falkirk area ▪ Future Access Forum meetings will be attended by either Neville or John ▪ SNH funding will be reallocated direct to local authorities as of 1/4/09 although funding will still be available for demonstration projects and community groups 		
		<p><u>Angus Duncan, Falkirk Council</u> Denny area path improvement/feasibility study Core Paths Planning – representations and objections are all in. Forum feedback received and officer recommendations will go to committee in April. (Post meeting note: Due to go to committee in June 2009) Specifications being drawn up for 2 access projects with FARAG Tenders for Laughin’-Greetin’ bridge path link due back Fri 23rd Jan</p>		

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		<p><u>Amy Stewart, Forestry Commission</u> Scottish Rural Development Programme – little take up of woodland creation Challenge Fund deadline – end of March 2009 Climate Change consultation launched Nov 2008 with closing date for responses 27 January 2009</p>		
		<p><u>Jamie Smart, NFUS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NFUS no longer has a dedicated Access Officer. The role will be taken up by Regional Policy Managers from March 2009. Falkirk area contact will be Christine Cuthbertson 	Forward contact details	JS
		<p><u>Colin Ward, Paths for All Partnership</u> (update provided by email) Signage Guidance - due for publication Spring 2009 Web upgrade – new sections on website for Local Access Forum's and Active Travel Reminder that Paths for All Partnership has 2 demonstration sites (Oatridge Agricultural College and SNH Battleby). Forum agreed a site visit in June would be beneficial. Right Track newsletter out now</p>	Contact Kevin Fairclough to arrange for June Access Forum meeting	MB
		<p><u>Guy Wedderburn, Callendar Estate</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GW gave a presentation about proposals for an Activity Centre on Callendar Estate land ▪ LEADER Feasibility Study completed which investigated a number of blue / red level single track trails in the area ▪ Looking for opportunities for economic development to tap into demand for off road cycling in the area. ▪ Proposals include a Visitor Centre with car parking, shop, café, farm shop, toilets/shower facilities, cycle hire, play park, etc. ▪ Partnership required to deliver this scale of project 		
5.	Core Paths Planning	JF thanked GW for organisation and materials for Access Forum site visits to assess a number of objections during summer 2008. This had been well organised and the information put together made it easier for forum members to assess the sites.	Noted	

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6.	AOB	<p>Open invite extended by ES for Night Skies event on Wednesday 28 Jan, 4-7pm at Hallglen Primary School. This is a joint event with Forestry Commission and Royal Observatory.</p> <p>Callendar Estate has a new website – this has an area for promoting forthcoming events, e.g. consultation events. Contact GW with details of these for inclusion on the website.</p> <p>Access Rangers – AD working hard to get Lesley Sweeney and Fiona Wishart permanent contracts</p> <p>Events Diary in preparation, but will depend on Ranger's contracts</p> <p>Fieldfare Trust – Fife, Falkirk and Stirling Council's are working together with Fieldfare Trust to assess accessibility of Core Path Networks.</p>	Noted	
8.	DONM & Venue	<p>Thursday 16th April 2009, 7pm, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk (sandwiches, teas and coffees provided)</p> <p>Thursday 18th June 2009, lunch followed by site visit to Demonstration Site at Oatridge Agricultural College. Meet at Abbotsford House 12.30pm. Minibus provided.</p> <p>Tuesday 17th September 2009, 7pm, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk (sandwiches, teas and coffees provided)</p> <p>Thursday 10th December, 2pm, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk (teas, coffees and biscuits provided)</p>		