

## DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

### Minute of Falkirk Countryside Access Forum Municipal Buildings, Falkirk Thursday 18 March 2010, 7pm

<b>Present</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
Mandy Brown, Outdoor Access Officer, Falkirk Council Angus Duncan, Outdoor Access Team Leader, Falkirk Council Jamie Smart, NFUS Sheila Hall, FARAG Horse group representative John Davidson, Scotways John Ferguson, Ramblers Association Dave Bennett, Lionthorn Community Woodland Group Dan Jackman, Lionthorn Community Woodland Group Ewan Grant, CTC Bob Smith, Airth Community Council	Mike Ewart, Central Scotland Forest Trust Colin Ward, Paths for All Partnership Maria Montinaro, Shieldhill and California Community Council Emma Stewart, Forestry Commission Chris Cutts, Forth Estuary Forum Guy Wedderburn, SRPBA and Callendar Estate Neville Makan, SNH Stuart McAllister, Bo'ness Community Council
<b>Also Attending</b>	<b>Not Present</b>
	George Callaghan, Cycling Officer, Falkirk Council Richard Millar, British Waterways Peter Rowe, Falkirk Access Assessment Group

Item	Heading	Discussion	Decision	By Whom
1.	<b>Present and Apologies</b>	Due to absence of GW, Angus Duncan acted as chair of this meeting.	Noted.	
2.	<b>Minutes of Last Meeting</b>	Agreed.	Put on Falkirk Council website.	<b>MB</b>
3.	<b>Matters Arising</b>	None.		
4.	<b>Round the table partner update</b>	<u>Ewan Grant, CTC</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing to report</li> </ul> <u>Dan Jackman / Dave Bennett, Lionthorn Community Woodland Group</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues with anti-social behaviour at Lionthorn. Is there an ASBO team within Falkirk Council?</li> </ul> <u>John Ferguson, Ramblers Association</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nothing to report</li> </ul>	Forward contacts for Community Wardens and contact Council's legal services	<b>MB</b>

Item	Heading	Discussion	Decision	By Whom
4.	<b>Round the table partner update (cont.)</b>	<p><u>John Davidson, Scotways</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing to report</li> </ul> <p><u>Angus Duncan, Falkirk Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update from CSFT to be circulated with minutes</li> <li>10 projects for 2009-2010 with a further 4 in development for next year</li> </ul> <p><u>Bob Smith, Airth Community Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Path from Lightbury's Corner to Bowtrees continues apace and is looking good. However, a missing link has been identified between the dual carriageway and the Skinflats path</li> <li>Smiddy Cottage – ongoing issues with blocked right of way. Council involved</li> <li>RSPB Skinflats – consultation regarding remedial works with reinstatement of access to the bank; project re-design ongoing. RSPB is investigating the possibility of a new access path from Kincardine Bridge to RSPB reserve</li> </ul>	<p>George Callaghan to check</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>	<b>GC</b>
		<p><u>Mandy Brown, Falkirk Council</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GW has raised concerns with horse rider use of some of the new BeSpoke paths that are not yet finished and therefore not in a suitable condition for horse use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SH agreed to contact liveryes and stables through FARAG on behalf of Callendar Estate and Falkirk Council to highlight these concerns</li> <li>Falkirk Council will provide temporary advisory signage</li> </ul> </li> <li>Works have begun at Binniehill old railway path to improve drainage.</li> <li>Health Walk Forum has been started in the Falkirk area. JS highlighted the importance of contacting landowners prior to organised health walk visits, and in decisions relating to route design and promotion</li> </ul>	<p>Contact liveryes/stables</p> <p>Provide signage</p> <p>Noted. Raise issue with Health Walk Forum</p>	<p><b>SH</b></p> <p><b>MB</b></p> <p><b>MB</b></p>
		<p><u>Sheila Hall, FARAG</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nothing to report</li> </ul>		
		<p><u>Jamie Smart, NFUS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please note that it is lambing time over the next two months – please raise awareness of this with your respective groups / organisations</li> </ul>	Noted	<b>All</b>

Item	Heading	Discussion	Decision	By Whom
4.	<b>Round the table partner update (cont.)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential conflicts between cattle and access takers – advice for dog walkers is to let go of your dog. SRPBA website has some guidance regarding this, available at: <a href="http://srpba.com/view_item.aspx?item_id=2176&amp;list_id=search1-search_page&amp;list_index=0&amp;is_search_result=true">http://srpba.com/view_item.aspx?item_id=2176&amp;list_id=search1-search_page&amp;list_index=0&amp;is_search_result=true</a></li> <li>• JS raised concerns regarding potential Council funding cuts and consequent impacts on the path network, especially where these cross privately owned ground</li> </ul>	Noted	
5.	<b>South Lodge site visit – access and privacy issues</b>	<p>The owners of South Lodge have highlighted issues with increased public use of the track past their house, with concerns regarding loss of privacy, anti-social behaviour and dog fouling. Forum suggests that the dog warden team and police may be able to help.</p> <p>General discussion took place regarding curtilage and the right of public access. Forum members felt that access rights probably do apply here, but it may help resolve some of the issues raised if an alternative route were promoted.</p>	<p>Forum to respond to complainant with details of discussion / decision</p> <p>Investigate possible alternative route with relevant landowner</p>	<p><b>GW</b></p> <p><b>MB/AD</b></p>
6.	<b>Core Paths Planning Update:</b>	<p>Core Paths Plan Inquiry process is now completed. Scottish Ministers have directed Falkirk Council to adopt the Core Paths Plan subject to one modification (removal of Bensfield Farm track from Core Paths Plan, though people still have a right of access along this track). The report is available on the Scottish Government website at: <a href="http://www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/CaseDetails.aspx?id=qJ10066">www.dpea.scotland.gov.uk/CaseDetails.aspx?id=qJ10066</a></p> <p>The Core Paths Plan will now be sent to the relevant council committees to adopt as directed by Scottish Ministers.</p> <p>A query was raised regarding how Falkirk Council intends to review the CPP in the future. This is open for discussion in liaison with Falkirk Access Forum.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Discuss at future Forum meeting.</p>	<b>All</b>
7.	<b>Outdoor Access Strategy Review</b>	2 workshops were held in March at Callendar House to review the current Access Strategy and action plan for the new one. This generated good debate and attendees found it useful to hear other viewpoints. Forum members suggested that the Core Paths Plan be fed into Access Strategy actions.	Noted	<b>All</b>

Item	Heading	Discussion	Decision	By Whom
7.	<b>Outdoor Access Strategy Review (cont.)</b>	<p>Falkirk Council will take on board comments for the new Outdoor Access Strategy. A draft strategy is likely in Autumn when there will be further opportunity for consultation.</p> <p>Falkirk Council aims to have completed / adopted Outdoor Access Strategy (2011 – 2016) by June 2011</p>	<p>Look out for additional opportunities for comment – autumn 2010</p> <p>Noted</p>	
8.	<b>Any Other Business:</b>	<p>Falkirk Access Forum structure was briefly discussed, with the need for balance of membership highlighted.</p> <p>It may be appropriate to raise awareness / profile of the forum with Community Council's. Falkirk Association of Community Councils may help pass on information</p> <p>There is also an opportunity to learn from other Local Access Forum's and perhaps hold a focus group to review the aims, objectives and membership of Falkirk's Access Forum.</p>	<p>Contact neighbouring authorities regarding joint forum meeting – perhaps as our summer meeting</p>	<b>MB</b>
9.	<b>DONM &amp; Venue</b>	<p><b>2pm, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010, Site Visit – Venue to be confirmed</b></p> <p><b>7pm, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2010, Committee Room, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk (tea, coffee and sandwiches provided)</b></p> <p><b>2pm, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010, Committee Room, Municipal Buildings, Falkirk (tea, coffee and biscuits provided)</b></p>		