

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Minute of Falkirk Countryside Access Forum

Thursday 22 March 2007

<p>Present</p> <p>Lisa Duggan, SNH Shelia Hall, BHS, FARAG Horse group representative Stuart McAllister, Bo'ness Community Council Jamie Smart, NFUS PC Jim Bell, Community Safety Officer, Central Scotland Police John Ferguson, Ramblers Association Bob Smith, Airth Community Council Gillian Barrie, CSFT Mandy Brown, Access Officer, Falkirk Council John Angell, TPU, Falkirk Council</p>	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Guy Wedderburn, SRPBA & Callendar Estate Hugh Lyons, CTC Helen Rowbotham, British Waterways Mike Ewart, CSFT Angus Duncan, Outdoor Access Team Leader, Falkirk Council Richard Millar, British Waterways Maria Montinaro, Shieldhill/California Comm Council Julie Cole, TPU, Falkirk Council Craig Dinwoodie, Forestry Commission Colin Ward, Paths for All Partnership John Davidson, Scotways</p>
<p>Also Attending</p> <p>Penny Lothead, PMR Leisure Alan Millar, PMR Leisure Frank McChord, Community Planning, Falkirk Council</p>	<p>Not Present</p>

Item	Heading	Discussion	Decision	By Whom
1.	Present and Apologies	Noted.		
2.	Minutes of Last Meeting	Approved.	Put on Council website	MB
3.	Matters Arising	<p>Missing bridge between Wester Pirleyhill path and Shieldhill: MB will get quotes for supply and installation of a steel bridge. The previous wooden kit bridges were burnt out.</p> <p>CSFT Access improvements – Banknock, quarry, Tak-ma-doon Road and between canal and A803</p> <p>Larbert to Denovan path: Phase I works – drainage and surfacing done, Phase II drainage, scrape and resurfacing due to take place next year</p>	<p>Get quotes</p> <p>ME to find out if CSFT has any plans for works here</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>ME</p>

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		<p>Ramblers Association maintenance – apologies for not getting back to JF with possible dates. It is now too late for current programme. JF will remind AD/MB when next programme is being developed.</p> <p>Joint British Waterways/Falkirk Council Ranger Service events: Rangers met with British Waterways to discuss. Several Ranger-led walks are planned at Falkirk Wheel.</p> <p>CSFT/Ironside Farrar report – access links to and from canal.</p> <p>Airth Banks overgrown vegetation: There is a problem with the sea wall collapsing. The Outdoor Access Team is looking at various options for this to try and maintain safe access.</p>	ME to provide copy	<p>JF</p> <p>ME</p>
4.	The Helix Project – access	<p>Presentation and Q & A session on the Helix Project by Penny Lohead & Alan Millar from PMR Leisure Consultants, and Frank McChord, Falkirk Council Community Planning Partnership. Helix Masterplan to be circulated with minutes.</p> <p>Police will need to be consulted with regards to designing out crime and community safety concerns.</p> <p>Letters of support from individual groups represented by the Access Forum, as well as from the Access Forum itself would be helpful to the Helix bid. If the Access Forum agrees ‘in principle’ to this project a letter of support from the Forum should be sent to the consultants. Please respond by mid May.</p>	<p>Circulate with minutes</p> <p>Send letters of support by May</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>All/GW</p>
5.	Partner update	<p><u>Sheila Hall, FARAG</u> Access improvements at the Loan: Barriers/kissing gates have been replaced with self closing gates.</p> <p>Standburn to Candie Right of Way: FARAG is working with the Access Officer to gain agreement for replacing existing kissing gates with self-closer gates.</p> <p>Muiravonside/Avon Gorge road works: Will the roadworks affect the crossing? JA will double check but the underpass is likely but it may have to be a dismount underpass.</p>	JA to check with Roads Dept	JA

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5.	Partner update	<p><u>Lisa Duggan, SNH</u> SNH Outdoor Access Festival – April 2007</p> <p>A planning meeting is required to discuss SNH Grant programme 2007-2008 for the Falkirk Council area.</p> <p>LD requested a copy of Falkirk Council's map showing the proposed Core Paths network.</p> <p><u>Gillian Barrie, CSFT</u> Handout circulated detailing projects undertaken by CSFT in the Falkirk area. The main access projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helix Stage 2 bid • Mill Lade: Survey is completed and the report is being written. Wider community consultation will take place in the spring • Dawson River Carron link: Delivery expected summer 2007 • Bo'ness/Kinneil foreshore: Contractors appointed and site works have recently started <p><u>Bob Smith, Airth Community Council</u> Airth is still a popular walking spot with Airth Castle woodland walk being very well used.</p> <p>Dunmore access: The proposed development at Dunmore is likely to be approved in the next couple of months. Will access be maintained whilst the development is taking place? MB to speak to Development Control Officers to establish if a diversion will be put in place during the development phase.</p> <p>The community would like to see gates at the end of tracks at Dunmore Wood instead of the logs.</p> <p>Winter wind blow has been bad this year but trees have been cut/moved to retain access</p> <p>Dog/deer issues: There have been issues with dogs not being kept under control</p>	<p>Arrange meeting to discuss</p> <p>Send map to LD</p> <p>MB to check plans and discuss with Dev Control</p> <p>Discuss with landowners</p>	<p>LD/MB/AD</p> <p>MB</p> <p>MB</p> <p>MB</p>

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5.	Partner update	<p><u>John Ferguson, Ramblers Association</u> JF raised the issue of a Beware of the Bull sign at a farm in Airth where a Right of Way crosses the field. The bull in the field is thought to be a beef bull and not a dairy-type bull. Better signs are therefore required at each end of the path. MB to discuss replacements with farmer. These should be covered or removed when the bull is not in the field.</p> <p>River Avon Heritage Trail: This is an excellent walk, however the Ramblers group found the path was obstructed by slurry at one point. MB reported this to SEPA in case of contamination in the river. There was no contamination and the slurry was cleared within a couple of days of being reported. Car parking facilities on the trail are limited and may need to be looked at. Also perhaps public transport should be better promoted.</p> <p>JF thanked Falkirk Council's Access Team for their prompt response to these issues.</p> <p><u>Jamie Smart, NFUS</u> There will be no new funding under the Land Management Contracts this year. Existing contracts will continue because they are under a 5 year agreement.</p> <p>There have been several problems relating to irresponsible access by horse riders recently. This may be because of the recent wet weather. SNH, FARAG and Falkirk Council could run a joint campaign targeting livery yards with responsible riding information.</p> <p>Bio-security is a major concern for farmers due to problems with dog fouling. This is again a matter of education for access takers. Targeted signage and dog warden patrols at known black spots has helped in other areas. Farmers will need to let Falkirk Council know where there are particular problems so that this targeted approach can be instigated.</p> <p><u>Jim Bell, Community Safety Officer, Central Scotland Police</u> No issues.</p> <p><u>Stuart McAllister, Bo'ness Community Council</u> Bo'ness Community Council is keen to arrange a meeting to look at path networks, the Helix project and the pond at Kinneil Estate. MB will attend with information relating to Falkirk Council's Core Paths Planning Consultation.</p>	<p>Check that this is the case and discuss signage with farmer</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Arrange joint meeting to discuss methods for tackling this issue</p> <p>Ask farmers to contact Falkirk Council with particular problem areas.</p> <p>Contact Falkirk Council with details of this meeting</p>	<p>MB</p> <p>MB/LD/SH</p> <p>JS</p> <p>SM</p>

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5.	Partner update	<p><u>John Angell, TPU, Falkirk Council</u> March 2008 is the end of the current 3 year government spending round. At present there is no indication of what will happen next.</p> <p>George Callaghan is now in post as Falkirk Council's Cycling Officer. Amongst other things, he will be working with schools to progress Cycling Proficiency programme to on-road cycling.</p> <p>School Travel Plan Officer (Lynn Slavin) has been undertaking an assessment of children's travel to school. This work is nearing completion.</p> <p>Sustrans Denny to Falkirk cycle path bid is now looking unlikely due to funding issues. However there is scope for a scaled-down version of the scheme linking Bonnybridge to Falkirk Wheel over the next 5 years with 2 new bridges (over Bonny Water, and at Roughmote).</p> <p>Round the Forth Route – funding now coming into this route through sustrans and sestrans funding package. Feasibility work is now underway and the whole project is gathering momentum.</p> <p>New copies of the District Map were handed out to members of the forum. If anyone spots any errors in this map, please contact Falkirk Council's Transport Planning Unit. This map will be reprinted in 1-1½ years.</p> <p><u>Mandy Brown, Falkirk Council</u> Path improvements underway at Winchester Avenue and Kirkland Farm, Denny; Banknock Old Railway; Fishers Brae and West Lothian Golf Club, Bo'ness; Hallglen Haven and Wester Pirleyhill WIAT path. In addition access has been improved at The Loan with fencing and removal of barriers/installation of self closing gates along the old railway.</p> <p>Falkirk Council's Rangers have been continuing to carry out path audits and CAMS surveys across the district. They have also been preparing Falkirk Council's events diary for 2007. This will promote a range of events being organised by the Ranger Service as well as other organisations and groups. Events include pond dipping, bug hunts, orienteering, walks, and cycling.</p>	<p>Pass any comments to Transport Planning Unit</p>	<p>All</p> <p>MB</p>

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5.	Partner update	Falkirk Council is currently working up displays and a programme of consultation venues for our 2 nd round of informal consultations for the Core Paths Planning process. The consultation will take place during May, June and July.	Send copy of finalised consultation timetable to LD	
6.	Core Path Planning	<p>Liability – MB has spoken to Falkirk Council’s insurance division and Law and Administration Department. Awaiting a final decision on how we deal with liability on core paths in private ownership.</p> <p>Falkirk Council would like all user groups to take part in the Core Paths Planning Consultation. This can either be done through members of these groups attending consultations due to take place in their area, or MB can attend their group meetings to discuss the proposed network.</p> <p>Land managers – initial views have been sought from land managers across the district at a series of workshops in July 2006. This was followed by letters and maps being sent to affected land managers between August and October. It is important that the Access Team get back out to visit those with concerns.</p> <p>Facilities such as car parking, public toilets, etc could be marked up on a map to identify where there are gaps in facilities in the network. This could be done with CAMS data.</p>	<p>Access Team reps to attend FARAG AGM in May.</p> <p>Other groups to contact MB if interested.</p> <p>Arrange to visit all land managers with concerns</p> <p>Undertake facility mapping exercise.</p>	<p>MB/AD</p> <p>All</p> <p>MB</p> <p>MB/AD</p>
7.	Joint meeting with West Lothian Access Forum	<p>MB has met with Dave Oldham, West Lothian Access Officer to discuss the joint meeting with West Lothian Access Forum.</p> <p>Cladhan Hotel has been booked for afternoon of 25th April for the Joint meeting.</p> <p>Draft Timetable: 12.30pm Buffet lunch at Cladhan Hotel 1.15-1.30pm Introductions by West Lothian and Falkirk Forum chairs 1.30-3.30pm Site Visits 3.45pm Tea/Coffee and cakes at Cladhan Hotel 4-5pm Discussion/Core Paths Planning 5pm Finish</p> <p>Everyone needs to confirm numbers for catering/bus. Please let MB know if you are attending this joint meeting by Fri 13th April.</p>	Let MB know if you are attending.	All

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8.	AOB	Land Management Contracts: Scottish Executive launch date is October 2007. Regional Advisory Panels to be put together – adverts should be coming out shortly – keep an eye out if interested, particularly those with in the access, biodiversity or land managing sector.	Keep an eye out for adverts if interested.	All
9.	DONM & Venue	<p>21 June 2007, 2pm, Site Visit – venue to be confirmed</p> <p>20 September 2007, 7pm, Municipal Buildings – Tea/Coffee and sandwiches will be provided</p> <p>13 December 2007, 2pm, Municipal Buildings – Tea/Coffee and biscuits will be provided</p>	Any ideas for venue – let MB know	All