

## MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

### 41st MEETING

Tuesday March 15<sup>th</sup> 2016 at 4:00p.m.

The Gallery – Elgin Library

### MINUTES

**Members Present:** Michelle Gillibrand, (Chair), Janet Trythall. Clive Roberts, Jean Oliver, Pat Carroll, Ian Cowe, Wilson Metcalfe, Mary Stelmach, Thomas Anderson, Fiona Murdoch, Rebecca Russell.

**Present:** Ian Douglas, Moray Council Outdoor Access Manager

**Non Attendees:** Fay Gonzalez, Gilbert Bain, Ian Green, NHS rep

**Guests:** James McKay, Tim Hurst, (see Item 11 b)

Item		Action
1	All present were welcomed by Michelle Gillibrand	
2	<b>Apologies;</b> Angus Dixon, Gilbert Bain, Shirley Reid, Ed Dunbar	
3	<b>Accuracy of previous minutes</b>	
	Item 9, Line 1, delete Angus Dixon and replace with Janet Trythall. Approved Clive Roberts, Seconded Mary Stelmach.	
4	<b>Membership Review</b>	
	There were two applications for the vacant position. After consideration Dr Terence Dennis Ballard was selected to join the Forum. IMD to contact him and the unsuccessful candidate Ms Sheena Nicolson. No NHS replacement candidate has come forward. It is considered appropriate for the role to be met by a member of the Integration Joint Board. FM to pursue. Non-attendance - Fay Gonzalez and Alistair Sutherland have not attended for the last 3 meetings. IMD to check contact details for A Sutherland and determine whether he wishes to continue as a member. MG to contact F Gonzalez to determine her interest in continuing.	IMD  FM  IMD MG
5	<b>Matter Arising</b>	
	<b>Item 4</b> - Dorenell Access Management Strategy – Sub Group (JO,AD,IC with IMD) meeting on 16 <sup>th</sup> March with windfarm developers EDF and consultants to discuss working up the details of the Plan. Notes from this meeting to be circulated for next Forum meeting with a verbal update from the sub group. <b>Item 5</b> – GB to supply contact details for Murray White as possible replacement for NFU rep I Green. <b>Item 6</b> 1. Elgin Cycle Path - Moray Roads Section agree to Forum being involved in signage design. IMD to pursue. 2. Council Legal representative to be invited to June meeting with request to give clarity on legislation on 'Sufficient Adjacent Land'. 3. Meeting of Moray and Aberdeenshire Forum Chairs to take place re development of Deveron Way and related locked gates. 4. Giants Chair path – Letters still to be sent to Diageo and Moray Roads section to seek tree management works and path repairs to be carried out. 5. Fishwives Path – Signage to deter motorcycles now in place. ID to pursue with farmer re removal of locked gate.	IMD/Dorenell Sub Group  GB  IMD  MG  MG  MG  IMD

	<p><b>Item 12</b> Gedloch blocked track: Contact made with local riding stables reps (Sarah Morris/Karen Thomson) re. alternative route. No response as yet. IMD to pursue. Track at Cabrach House: Access still obstructed with sign and locked gate. No response received from landowner re letter. JO advised an attempt had been made to stop her using the path which is outside the curtilage of the house. No action recommended presently but situation to be monitored.</p> <p>Glenrinnies Estate: Relevant online advice from the Access Code re. how to direct dog users appropriate for landowners and gamekeepers to be sourced by FM and given to Estate employees. No Meeting now required.</p> <p><b>Item 13</b> Dyke - Burnie Path: Inspected and no problems found. Footfall Counter - on MCT in Findhorn dunes: counter unit stolen will not be replaced with budget cuts.</p>	<p><b>IMD</b></p> <p><b>IMD/JO</b></p> <p><b>FM</b></p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Review of Constitution /Policy Documents</b>	
	There are 3 documents other than the Communications Plan .It is at least two years since these documents were last reviewed so updating is needed. Sub Group set up (MG, CR, IC) to review and report back to the next Forum meeting.	<b>Policy Group</b> <b>Sub</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Budget Savings 2016/2017</b>	
	Forum advised that Council budget cuts of £20K imposed on Core Paths and Woodland Maintenance for the next financial year. This represents a reduction for Core Paths from £15k to £8k. This will result in less work on the upkeep of the Speyside Way, no new/replacement signs and no new or repaired footfall counters. It is important that funding is restored the following year. Letter to be sent to the Council from the Forum voicing disappointment at budget reduction and need for re instatement. Any observed problems on paths to be reported to IMD to support the need for restored budget.	<b>MG</b> <b>ALL</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Business Plan</b>	
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Core Paths Plan Review: IMD to produce maps of Candidate routes for discussion at a future Forum meeting. IMD to commission draft of 'Core Paths in Moray' leaflet and Forum logo design options for discussion at next meeting.</li> <li>2. Rothes Forum still to feed back with evidence of demand for old railway cycle route proposal.MG to pursue.</li> <li>8. Signage reduction. Letter to be sent to the Council as per Item 7 above should include reference to possible damage to tourism.</li> </ol>	<b>IMD</b> <b>IMD</b> <b>MG</b> <b>MG</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Communications Plan</b>	
	Sub Group (MG, CR, AD) meeting arranged for 23 <sup>rd</sup> March which will report to June Forum meeting.	<b>Communications</b> <b>Sub</b> <b>Group</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Joint Forum Event</b>	
	Aberdeenshire Forum have indicated preference for an event on	

	27 <sup>th</sup> June focussing on horse access issues as opposed to the MCT. All agreed this was acceptable given they are hosting event. IMD will issue detailed arrangement for event once supplied by Aberdeenshire Access Officer.	<b>IMD</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Access Issues</b>	
	<p>a) Landowner at Duffus/Hopeman has objected to Core Path signage being erected on his land. Council will store signs meantime. MG to ask Ed Dunbar to approach landowner D Anderson to see if he can be persuaded.</p> <p>b) Blervie House Fence: Forum meeting attended by James McKay and Tim Hurst who at the start of the meeting gave a short presentation outlining why they are still dissatisfied with the compromise position reached with the owner. They consider the fence still obstructs public access and the Council should serve enforcement on the owner. They accept it is reasonable for the owner to have a privacy area around his house but that this is not defined by the current fence position. IMD had been in discussion with landowner, Mr Thompson, to seek the best possible solution to limit the reduced public access through re positioning the fence and path restoration. A group of Forum members, TA, WM, JO, FM, PC, TA and JT will visit on 29<sup>th</sup> March, meeting at the Community Hall at 11:00 a.m. PC to act as chair and feed back opinion of group to MG who will then advise Council and objectors by letter.</p> <p>c) Garmouth Viaduct: Now fully re-opened but still awaits full structural survey. No date set for this.</p> <p>d) Proposed development work by Network Rail to upgrade the railway at Forres and Elgin Stations would affect Core Paths FR31 (would be extinguished by removal of Waterford level crossing) and EG39 (would be extinguished if third railway line was added).The Forum consider the alternatives offered for both routes are circuitous and not fit for purpose. MG to contact network Rail seeking resolution without removal of the Core Paths which if removed would adversely affect the connectivity of the Core Paths network.</p>	<p><b>MG/ED</b></p> <p><b>PC/MG</b></p> <p><b>MG</b></p>
<b>12</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	
	<p>The Forum will attend the Fochabers Highland Games on 15<sup>th</sup> May. This will be in association with the Moray Way Association to man a stand at the event. FM, JO, CR, JT, IMD agreed to attend. FM to liase with MWA and organise.</p> <p>Paths for All Partnership Community Grants Scheme – details distributed for information.</p> <p>Moray Walking Festival 2016 – Members invited to promote this as widely as possible and direct people to the website <a href="http://www.moraywalkingfestival.co.uk">www.moraywalkingfestival.co.uk</a></p> <p>Enzie Crossroads Community Woodland proposal - Request received for letter of support from the Forum. Proposal includes</p>	<p><b>FM</b></p> <p><b>ALL</b></p>

	<p>public access enhancements.MG to send letter by 21<sup>st</sup> March.  Dava Way – WM asked Forum to contact Robert Grant of Springfield who are seeking to develop houses to the south of Elgin. Letter to request the development incorporate linkage to and surface upgrade of the Dava Way to address the increased footfall that will inevitably result.</p>	<p><b>MG</b></p> <p><b>MG</b></p>
	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting 2016</b></p>	
	<p>Mon (Not Tues) 13<sup>th</sup> June, 4;00 p.m. Elgin Town Hall, Lounge Room.  Tues 13<sup>th</sup> September 4;00 p.m. Elgin Town Hall, Lounge Room.  Tues 29<sup>th</sup> November 4;00 p.m. Elgin Town Hall, Lounge Room.</p>	