

MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM
38th MEETING
Monday 15th June 2015 4:00pm - Elgin Community Centre

MINUTES

Members Present: Michelle Gillibrand (Chair), Gilbert Bain, Clive Roberts, Ed Dunbar
 Pat Carroll, Jean Oliver, Wilson Metcalfe, Angus Dixon, Ian Cowe

Present: Ian Douglas, Moray Council Outdoor Access Manager

Non Attendees: Ian Green, Alistair Sutherland, Stewart Evans

Resigned: Gareth Jenkins

Item	Welcome	Action
1	All were welcomed by Michelle Gillibrand	
2	Apologies	
	Apologies received from, Fiona Murdoch, Rebecca Russell, Thomas Anderson, Shirley Reid, Mary Stelmach, Janet Trythall, Faye Gonzalez	
3	Accuracy of previous minutes	
	Minutes approved. Proposed: Wilson Metcalfe, Seconded: Jean Oliver subject to the following changes: Item 7 second paragraph - should read Covesea not Coversea Item 12 third paragraph - should be changed to read, 'IMD and JO have visited 3 sites demonstrating access issues, (farmyards, presence of livestock, linking paths) to be overcome in developing a route called the Deveron Way between Huntly and Strathdon via the Cabrach'.	IMD
4	Membership Review	
	MG gave a specific welcome to new members Pat Carroll (user), Ed Dunbar (Land Manager) and Alistair Sutherland (user). Each member then gave a brief description of their interests and activities. All were asked to note the resignation of Gareth Jenkins representing NHS Grampian who has a guaranteed ongoing position. IMD to pursue with NHS Grampian to secure a suitable replacement.	IMD
5	Appointment of Vice-Chair	
	Clive Roberts was agreed to fill the position as no other nominations were received. MG proposed with WM as a seconder.	

6	Matters Arising	
	<p>Item 6:5 – No final design for signage on the Elgin Flood Alleviation Cycle Path has been agreed. IMD still to pursue Forum input.</p> <p>Item 6:5 – GB to contact Ian Green to determine if he wants to continue as a Forum member or can suggest a suitable replacement.</p> <p>Item 6:10 – Dorenell Wind Farm site visit – JO to pursue at the time of the expected planning re-submission.</p> <p>Item 6:11 – Ben Rinnes car park meeting – FM still to feed back to the Forum.</p> <p>Item 6:12 – MG still to pursue Moray Council legal representative to attend a future Forum meeting.</p> <p>Item 15 – Moray Tourism Summit 31st March – MG attended and represented the Forum. She outlined that the summit was well attended with lots of interest represented. It was good to see so many people coming together and linkages being made. There was consensus in promoting Moray as a visitor destination. It would be useful for the Forum to be represented at the summit next year.</p>	<p>IMD</p> <p>GB</p> <p>JO</p> <p>FM</p> <p>MG</p>
7	Business Plan	
	<p>Items 2, 5 and 6 from the business plan were discussed and the actions will be updated for the next meeting. Items 1 and 4 were separate agenda items.</p>	
8	Communications Plan	
	<p>Copies of the plan are to be sent to all new Forum members.</p> <p>MG reported on Forum website hits and reported mostly there was an increase in interest. Future reports will be submitted to the Forum.</p> <p>The forum agreed there were no current publicity requirements.</p> <p>Liaising with neighbouring forums - email of 27th March from Rob Garner, Secretary of the National Access Forum, confirmed David Clyne of Cairngorm National Park would organise a meeting of the neighbouring Forums and Moray Forum would be invited to attend.</p> <p>Communications sub-group to be reconvened. Sub-group members are MG, RR and AD. MG to organise meeting before the next full Forum. Sub-group to take the Communications Plan forward and to implement identified actions.</p>	<p>IMD</p> <p>MG</p> <p>DC</p> <p>MG</p>

9	Fochabers Highland Games	
	MG reported that the Forum presence was successful and about 200 people came to our stand but that members were down on last year. Lots of interest in route leaflets and the walking festival brochures. All agreed the event is worth repeating next year.	
10	Pitgaveney Estate Open Day	
	MG reported the event was very busy with lots of young families. All agreed Forum presence at the event was worth repeating next year but that we need to develop interactive activities that will engage people of all ages.	
11	Joint site event with Aberdeenshire LAF 25th May 2015	
	<p>Six members from Moray Forum and 5 from Aberdeenshire Forum along with the 2 Council Access Officers attended, starting and finishing at Huntly. Four locations were visited looking at issues that would need to be resolved in developing the Deveron Way Path between Huntly and Donside via the Cabrach, i.e. farmyards, managing livestock, fences, linking paths, dynamic river paths. Weather stayed dry and visits involved much discussion and debate. Excellent refreshments were provided at the Grouse Inn.</p> <p>All agreed to repeat a joint Forums event next year focussing on the Moray Coast Trail. IMD to liaise with Aberdeenshire Access Officers.</p> <p>MG to approach Aberdeenshire Forum about locked gate across right-of-way section of proposed Deveron Way route and to ask how development of the route should be taken forward.</p> <p>ED suggested 'looking at gate issues' would be a good subject for a future field visit for a joint Forums event.</p>	<p>IMD</p> <p>MG</p>
12	Core Paths Plan Review	
	<p>Sub-group was reconvened involving JT, JO and CR. IMD to organise meeting before the next Forum.</p> <p>Sub-group to work on developing database of candidate Core Paths and other required changes to the current plan. No date set for formal plan review as not considered necessary at the moment.</p>	IMD
13	Path Volunteering	
	All referred to letter of 26 th March from MG to Roddy Burns, Chief Executive of the Moray Council. In response, MG and IMD met with various council officials and Fabio Villani of TSi Moray to discuss setting up a support structure for ad-hoc path volunteers. Council stated they do not have resources to offer support under their current volunteering scheme. Any scheme would need to stand alone. Forum members agreed that this was worth exploring but the Forum should not take the lead.	

	MG to discuss with Fabio Villani re TSi Moray being the main agency to take any proposal forward supported by the Forum.	MG
14	Access Issues	
	<p>a) Gedloch Email of 2nd June from the Council's Planning Enforcement Officer, clarifies the Council are trying to regularise the planning anomaly and are pursuing submission of a retrospective planning application; the deadline for which is 1st July. IMD to make representation on any planning submission on the basis of ensuring access track is free from obstruction.</p> <p>b) Garmouth Viaduct Bridge IMD confirmed bridge is now fully open but the Council still intend to commission a full structural survey.</p> <p>c) MCT Erosion – Kinloss Barracks IMD still pursuing MOD response seeking resolution likely to involve moving the fence further back.</p> <p>d) Cabrach House All referred to letter of 26th March sent by MG to Elaine Gutcher, Legal Officer at Moray Council. Response received confirming that the Council position is being re-assessed regarding extent of 'sufficient adjacent land'. In relation to the access track MG to pursue final Council position.</p>	<p>IMD</p> <p>IMD</p> <p>MG</p>
15	AOCB	
	<p>a) Giants Chair Path - Dufftown Meeting to be organised with local resident Dennis Delgano to assess issues with the path. MG, JO and IMD to organise. Thereafter, MG to correspond with owners Diageo highlighting duty of care obligations in terms of public safety and responsibilities to manage public access under the LR(S)A. Also to appeal that Diageo put something back into the community helping to keep the path useable and safe.</p> <p>b) National Walking and Cycling Network IMD explained background to handout. He also confirmed a bid is being assembled by SNH to the Scottish Government to seek finance for development and management of paths in the network which is a National Planning Outcome. Three routes in Moray which are included are the Moray Coast Trail, Speyside Way and the Dava Way. IMD and the Dava Way association supplied information on these routes to assist the bid.</p> <p>c) SRDP Improving Public Access Option IMD explained background to handout. SRDP budget specifically for access is only £6m for next 5 years. Expected to be over subscribed. Available to communities and councils as well as farmers.</p>	<p>IMD</p> <p>MG</p>

	<p>d) Lossie Bridge/Kirkhill Bridge AD raised these bridges as an issue as they are not being maintained and are deteriorating. MG said moves were afoot in the community to address the Lossie Bridge issue.</p> <p>e) Forum Policy Documents PC asked for copies of documentation. IMD to action.</p>	IMD
16	Date of Next Meeting	
	Monday 14 th September 2015, 4.00pm at Elgin Town Hall in the Lounge Room.	