

**MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM
FIFTH MEETING**

MINUTES

**Tuesday 29th December 2006 at Moray Resource Centre, Elgin
4.00pm- 6.00pm**

PRESENT

Ian Douglas (Moray Council- Moray Access Manager),
Claire Bell (Moray Council- Path Project Officer),

Members:

Peter Graham-SRPBA (Landowner)- Convener
Simon Jacyna- MEAG (Outdoor Access User)- Vice Convener
Janet Trythall,-(Outdoor Access User)
Rita Marks- Moray Tourism Forum (Outdoor Access User)
John Fleming- MALT (Community Groups)
Jean Oliver- Speyside Paths Network Group (Community Groups)
Ray Brumby- Speyside Paths Network Group (Community Groups)
Duncan McConnell- Dyke & Landward Community Council (Community Groups)
Jenny Gate- Glenlivet & Inveravon Community Association (Community Groups)
Iain Green-NFUS (Landowner)
John MacLean- Westfield Farms (Landowner)
Philip Whitefield- Forestry Commission Scotland (Public Agencies)
Iain Stephen - Moray Access Panel
Barbara Stearn- Moray Health & Social Care Partnership (Public Agencies)

Apologies

Ian Bruce (Moray Council- Environmental Services Manager), Honor Third – Moray Access Panel, Cath Clark -Paths for All Partnership, Watson Bell (Outdoor Access User), Alasdair Laing- Logie Estate (Landowner), Kelley Miller –SNH.

Non Attendees

Toby Metcalfe –Smiths Gore (Landowner), Franziska Smith- HIE Moray (Public Agencies)

Item		Action
1.0	Welcome The meeting was chaired by the Convener Peter Graham.	
1.1	<u>Non-Attendance of Meetings</u> Toby Metcalfe and Franziska Smith have now missed 3No meetings in a row. The Chairman is to write to these members and warn them, that in accordance with the Forum procedures, they will be struck off the Forum membership if they fail to attend the next meeting.	Peter Graham
1.2	Ian Douglas reported that Cllr Linda Gorn- Moray Council has informed him that she will be no longer able to attend due to other commitments. Although she is unable to formally resign, the Council will be appointing a new Member to the post following the Local Authority elections in May.	Council Committee
2.0	Accuracy of Previous Minutes	
2.1	The previous meetings were agreed as being true and accurate.	
3.0	Matters Arising	
3.1	<u>Item 3.5-Funding</u> Ian Douglas has still had no response from Cllr Bob Wilson regarding the matter of funding of Outdoor Access and the Forum at the Council.	

<p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p>	<p>Peter Graham noted that he has spoken to the Convener of the Moray Council and several other councillors, but did not have a good reaction; there is no chance of funding being available for Outdoor Access duties till 2008 through a bidding process.</p> <p>PG suggests that the Forum and its members lobby the Councillors now for an allocation of the 2008 budget for outdoor access and including the implementation of the Core Path Plan. Peter Graham to write formally to the Convener of Moray Council on the matter.</p> <p><u>Item 4.3: National Outdoor Access Forum AGM</u> Jean Oliver attended the National Forum's AGM on 20th September 2006. Copy of the minutes available on www.outdooraccess-scotland.com under 'meetings'. JO noted a specific issue raised, that there is concern that SNH does not currently have any members with access expertise on its board. A further 3No board members are to be appointed next year and it is hoped that this will provide an opportunity to fill the deficit.</p> <p><u>Item 5.3: Website Links</u> Cath Clark to advise Ian Douglas on what direct links to the Scottish Executive's outdoor leaflets to be included on the Council/ Forum website.</p> <p><u>Item 6.3: Wind Farm at Paul's Hill</u> Rita Marks to check whether the pedestrian restriction signs have been removed. And report to Peter Graham, who will contact the estate if there is still a problem.</p>	<p>Peter Graham</p> <p>Cath Clark</p> <p>Rita Marks</p>
<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p>	<p>Training</p> <p><u>Training Programme</u> Cath Clark had prepared a comprehensive training programme paper, which was distributed to Forum members prior to the meeting. This will be discussed at the next meeting with a view to establishing a detailed programme of events and dates.</p> <p>Cath Clark to bring copies of the new guidance document for Outdoor Access Forums to the next meeting.</p>	<p>Cath Clark</p>
<p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p>	<p>Core Paths Planning</p> <p><u>Draft Programme</u> A draft programme had been issued to Forum members prior to the meeting. Ian Douglas explained that items 1-4 on the programme have now been completed.</p> <p><u>Preliminary Community Meetings</u> Ian Douglas explained that he has now had a series of informal preliminary meetings with local groups from across Moray to discuss their initial thoughts on which paths might qualify as candidate Core Paths. The feedback is recorded in a schedule which was issued to the Forum members. ID noted that there has already been fairly extensive community consultation on outdoor access over the past 5-6 years, with a detailed record of existing paths in Moray. This information has been used as a basis for establishing what is important to local communities and which routes should be candidate Core Paths.</p> <p><u>Draft Core Path Maps</u> Initial Draft Core Path Maps were issued to Forum Members prior to the meeting. These illustrate the candidate Core Paths as agreed by the Core Path Planning Sub Group. The maps also show all other recorded paths (blue lines) and the Speyside Way Long Distance Footpath (red dashed line).</p>	

	<p>The draft plan was discussed strategically at some length and the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a/ the maps are to be updated to illustrate additional categories of path: Core Paths, Aspirational Core Paths, Existing Promoted Paths, Other Paths, and The Speyside Way. b/ The River Spey is to be included as a Core Path between the Highland Council Boundary and Aberlour. c/ It was agreed that the Criteria for Core Paths require to be tightened to make them more prescriptive. d/ Some of the existing Promoted Paths around settlements are to be dropped as Core Paths. These will be reviewed in relation to the updated criteria.. <p>The Core Path Planning Sub Group is to meet to review the Criteria and the Core Paths Maps. Meeting 10am on 23rd January at Moray Council's Ashgrove Offices.</p> <p>Further to this meeting, Ian Douglas is to update the plans accordingly and to distribute copies to the Forum members prior to the next Forum meeting, where it is hoped that the Core Path routes will be agreed by the Forum for inclusion in the Consultative Draft.</p> <p>5.4 <u>Landowners Sub Group</u> A landowner's subgroup will be formed to assist in identifying the land-owners of proposed Draft Core Paths, who will be contacted directly. This will include: Peter Graham, Watson Bell, Duncan McConnell, Ian Green, Toby Metcalfe, & John MacLean. A date for convening will be agreed at the next Forum meeting.</p> <p>5.5 <u>Open Day</u> It was agreed that arrangements for this will be discussed at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Core Path Plan. Sub Group</p> <p>Ian Douglas</p>
<p>6.0</p> <p>6.1</p>	<p>Communications</p> <p><u>Media Liaison Officer</u> Rita Marks agreed to act in this capacity for sending the press release for the next meeting. The post has still to be filled by a Forum member on a more permanent basis or an alternative system agreed.</p>	<p>Rita Marks</p> <p>The Forum</p>
<p>7.0</p> <p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p>	<p>Dufftown Spur</p> <p><u>Risk Assessment Report</u> Ian Douglas reported that the Council have still to produce a Risk Assessment Report. The Forum noted their displeasure with this delay.</p> <p>Kelly Miller to respond regarding the potential for the Speyside Way's publicity materials to publicise the route as a link path.</p>	<p>Moray Council</p> <p>Kelly Miller</p>
<p>8.0</p> <p>8.1</p>	<p>Access Issues</p> <p><u>Right of Way- GM55, Duffus</u> Site report and photos were issued to Members prior to the meeting giving the background to this case. Ian Douglas explained that there has been an ongoing long-term problem of ploughing, inappropriate barriers, cattle and bulls on an existing claimed right of way. At present the path through the field is churned up and extremely muddy due to cattle being concentrated for winter feed in the area of the path. Ian Douglas noted that the problem would be easily solved by erection of a fence to keep cattle of the path which would thereafter dry up due to sandy soil.</p> <p>The Forum unanimously agreed that the situation is unacceptable and reflects badly on other Land Managers.</p>	

