

**MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM  
SIXTH MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at Elgin Town Hall  
4.00pm- 6.00pm**

**PRESENT**

Ian Bruce (Moray Council- Environmental Services Manager),  
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)  
Duncan McConnell- Dyke & Landward Community Council (Community Groups)  
Jenny Gate- Glenlivet & Inveravon Community Association (Community Groups)  
Iain Green-NFUS (Landowner)  
Alasdair Laing- Logie Estate (Landowner)  
Toby Metcalfe –Smiths Gore (Landowner)  
Franziska Smith- HIE Moray (Public Agencies)  
Philip Whitefield- Forestry Commission Scotland (Public Agencies)  
Iain Stephen - Moray Access Panel  
Sarah Preston- Moray Health & Social Care Partnership (Public Agencies)  
Kelley Miller –SNH (Public Agencies)

**Apologies**

Cath Clark -Paths for All Partnership, Watson Bell (Outdoor Access User), Ray Brumby- Speyside Paths Network Group (Community Groups), John MacLean- Westfield Farms (Landowner), Honor Third – Moray Access Panel

<b>Item</b>		<b>Action</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Welcome</b> The meeting was chaired by the Convener Peter Graham.	
1.1	The Convener welcomed new member Sarah Preston, who is the Health Walks Co-ordinator for Moray and will be replacing Barbara Stearn as representative from NHS Grampian.	
1.2	Cllr Linda Gorn's (Moray Council) replacement will be appointed following the Local Authority elections in May.	Council Committee
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Accuracy of Previous Minutes</b>	
2.1	The date of the meeting should read the 19 <sup>th</sup> December and not the 29 <sup>th</sup> December as appears on the minutes. Otherwise, the previous meetings were agreed as being true and accurate.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
3.1	<u>Item 3.1-Funding</u> Peter Graham has written to the Convener of Moray Council (Cllr Coutts) regarding the Forum's concerns over a lack of funding by the council towards Outdoor Access and the implementation of the Core Path Plan.	

<p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p>	<p>PG has now received a response from the Convener of Moray Council addressing these concerns. This was read to the Forum and is attached with these minutes.</p> <p>It was agreed the Forum is to lobby the new Council Convener after the May elections. In the meantime, PG to acknowledge Councillor Coutts letter.</p> <p><u>Item 3.4: Wind Farm at Paul's Hill</u> Rita Marks reported that the pedestrian restriction signs are still in place. Peter Graham to contact the National Power Company to request their removal.</p> <p><u>Item 3.3: Website Links</u> Cath Clark still to advise Ian Douglas on what direct links to the Scottish Executive's outdoor leaflets to be included on the Council/ Forum websites.</p> <p><u>Item 9.1: Land Management Contract.</u> Ian Douglas and Peter Graham have still to meet with SERAD to discuss general issues of LMCs and Access. It was noted that the National Outdoor Access Forum is currently lobbying SERAD to improve the mapping and signing of registered Land Management Paths.</p>	<p>Peter Graham</p> <p>Peter Graham</p> <p>Cath Clark</p> <p>Ian Douglas/ Peter Graham</p>
<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p>	<p><b>Training</b></p> <p><u>Training Programme for Forum Members</u> The training programme will be discussed at the next meeting with a view to establishing a detailed programme of events and dates.</p> <p><u>Revised Publication</u> A copy of SNH's revised publication of 'Local Access Forums- A Guide to Good Practice' (second Edition) was distributed to all those at the meeting. Copies will be available from Ian Douglas for any members who were not present.</p>	<p>Cath Clark</p>
<p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p> <p>5.2</p> <p>5.3</p>	<p><b>Core Paths Planning – Report by Sub Group</b></p> <p><u>Refinements to Criteria</u> Following the Sub Group meeting in January the Core Path Criteria have been updated and copies issued to members. These revised Criteria were discussed by the members and further amendments are to be made as follows:</p> <p>Criteria 1 – the term 'castles' to be removed from the text, as some may be private residences. Criteria 2- the text is to take account of rivers and open water as potential Core Paths.</p> <p><u>River Spey</u> There was some difference of opinion amongst members as to whether the River Spey (or any other rivers) should be included as a Core Path. It was agreed that consultation is required with all users, land owners and interested parties prior to an informed decision being made. A meeting is to be held between Kelly Miller, Peter Graham, Toby Metcalfe and Ian Douglas in order to identify consultees, and agree a letter format for consultation. Meeting: 5<sup>th</sup> March at 4.00pm. in the Council Offices at Ashgrove Depot.</p> <p><u>Review of Core Path Plan Maps</u> The maps were discussed and the following was agreed:</p> <p>A/ <u>Map 1- The Tearie Walks (Moray Estates)</u> - To be shown as a promoted path._</p> <p>B/ <u>Map 4- Roseisle Forest- Burma Road Path (Forestry Commission)</u> Despite query by Phil Whitefield that the path doesn't meet the 'added value' criteria due to the small size of the College of Roseisle Community, it was</p>	<p>Ian Douglas</p> <p>River Spey Sub Group</p> <p>Ian Douglas</p>

	<p>agreed by the Forum that this should remain a candidate Core Path.</p> <p>C/ <u>Map 10- Quarrel Wood</u> Phil Whitefield to consult with the Quarrel Wood Association as to whether they are supportive of the path being a Core Path. PW to report to Ian Douglas.</p> <p>D/ <u>Map 30- Mannoeh Road to Archiestown Path (Forestry Commission)</u> It was agreed that this should be omitted.</p> <p>E/ <u>Blue Lines (Existing Paths)</u> Duncan McConnell to provide Ian Douglas with an updated record of existing paths within the Moray Estate. Ian Douglas noted that the Landowner Consultation will also allow landowners a chance to note any mistakes/ changes to be made to the blue lines. In the meantime, Ian Douglas to amend the text on the key for the blue lines to paths that have been highlighted in previous consultation.</p>	<p>Phil Whitefield</p> <p>Ian Douglas</p> <p>Duncan McConnell/ Ian Douglas</p> <p>Ian Douglas</p>
5.4	<p><u>Landowners Sub Group</u> A landowners' subgroup has been formed to assist in identifying the landowners of proposed Draft Core Paths. This will include: Peter Graham, Watson Bell, Duncan McConnell, Ian Green, Toby Metcalfe, Alasdair Laing, &amp; John MacLean. Meeting to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> March at 4.00pm at Moray Council Offices, Ashgrove Depot.</p>	<p>Landowners' Sub Group</p>
5.5	<p><u>Open Day</u> Further to discussion it was agreed that the event should be held on an evening and to avoid the holiday period a provisional date was set: Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm at Glenfiddich Distillery, Dufftown. Jean Oliver to check this date is suitable for the distillery.</p>	<p>Jean Oliver</p>
5.6	<p><u>Path Surveys</u> The following members volunteered their services in surveying the core paths: Allan Gurr, Kelly Miller, Peter Graham (for Rothies paths), Alastair Laing (for Dava Way), Jean Oliver (Dufftown area), Simon Jacyna (maps 21,24 &amp; 25), Jenny Gate, Sarah Preston (map 8), Ian Stephen (map 15). Ian Douglas to liaise with volunteers to agree a programme, allocation of paths, and distribution of maps &amp; survey sheets.</p>	<p>Ian Douglas</p>
5.7	<p><u>Next Stage- Consultative Draft Plan</u> Ian Douglas explained that the document will be similar to a local plan. It will include explanatory text, survey sheets for each of the proposed core paths, general objectives for monitoring over the 5 year life of the plan, maps, and a response sheet.  Ian Douglas to produce the text and update the maps over the next few weeks. He will be writing to the landowners of the proposed Core Paths, and consulting with relevant Agencies and Council departments prior to public consultation.</p>	<p>Ian Douglas</p>
5.8	<p><u>Aspirational Core Paths</u> Ian Douglas noted that additional Aspirational Core Paths may be added to the maps once consultation has taken place with MC Transportation Department, as there is likely to be funding available for sustainable transport through 'High Trans'.</p>	<p>Ian Douglas</p>
5.9	<p><u>Core Path Sub Group Meeting</u> Sub Group to meet to review and update the Core Path definitions in light of today's meeting. Ian Douglas will also have issued the first draft of the accompanying text for comment and discussion. Finally a programme is to be agreed for the Core Path surveys and a schedule assigning volunteers to paths. Meeting date: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm. at Ashgrove Depot offices.</p>	<p>Core Path Plan. Sub Group</p>

<p><b>6.0</b></p> <p>6.1</p>	<p><b>Communications</b></p> <p><u>Media Liaison</u> Rita Marks agreed to issue the press release for the next meeting, but will be unable to provide written articles. Alternative arrangements to be agreed.</p> <p>Ian Bruce to contact the council PR department, in order to help with the publicity of the proposed Open Day.</p>	<p>Rita Marks</p> <p>Ian Bruce</p>
<p><b>7.0</b></p> <p>7.1</p> <p>7.2</p> <p>7.3</p> <p>7.4</p>	<p><b>Dufftown Spur</b></p> <p><u>Risk Assessment Report</u> A copy of the Council's Risk Assessment Report was issued to members prior to the meeting. This recommends that the path be considered as a local Core Path, subject to review of current signage (wording and location) and the repositioning of fencing adjacent to the landslide area.</p> <p><u>Speyside Way</u> Kelly Miller confirmed that the Speyside Way's promotional material will now publicise the route as a link path to Dufftown.</p> <p><u>Maintenance</u> Ian Bruce confirmed that Moray Council will continue to undertake minimum maintenance as long as the route is open. The report notes that further slippage could occur on the path at the Dufftown end. John Fleming suggested that drainage maintenance should be carried out to prevent this. Ian Bruce explained any drainage improvements would require major engineering works at significant cost- as identified in the previous engineer reports, and that the Council will not be carrying out such works.</p> <p><u>Conclusion</u> The Forum agreed to accept that the path has been deregulated from the Speyside Way, but that the path should be a proposed Core Path. This is on the basis that the Speyside Way will continue to promote the route as a linkage path to Dufftown, and that Moray Council will continue to carry out at least minimum maintenance.</p>	
<p><b>8.0</b></p> <p>8.1</p> <p>8.2</p>	<p><b>Access Issues- Updates</b></p> <p><u>Right of Way- GM55, Duffus</u> Ian Douglas reported that he has met with the landowner (Mr. Anderson), who has agreed to carry out fence repairs and install a temporary electric fence to keep cattle off the path. A letter confirming the meeting has been sent to Mr. Anderson and copied to Forum members.</p> <p><u>Right of Way- Corsairty, Keith</u> Ian Douglas reported that he has again discussed the matter with the farmer/landowner. Mr Davidson, however, does not recognise the route as a right of way, nor is he willing to consider taking on path maintenance under the Land Management Contract Scheme</p> <p>Ian Douglas noted that the Community Council are currently gathering evidence as to the path being a right of way.</p> <p>Ian Douglas has consulted with the Planning Department, who confirmed that the planning consent for the adjacent site has no requirement for a path improvement. Ian Douglas has now written to the developer Kirkwood Homes Ltd (letter copied to members) requesting a path link to the Right of Way, but has not yet received a reply. ID to chase up.</p>	<p>Ian Douglas</p>
<p><b>9.0</b></p>	<p><b>Location &amp; Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>Next meeting to be held on Wed 25<sup>th</sup> April 2007 at 4.00pm-6.00pm Venue: The Gallery, Elgin Library.</p>	

