

MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM SEVENTH MEETING

MINUTES

**Tuesday 25th April 2007 at The Gallery, Elgin Library
4.00pm- 6.00pm**

PRESENT

Ian Douglas (Moray Council- Moray Access Manager),
Claire Bell (Moray Council- Path Project Officer),
Cath Clark -Paths for All Partnership

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)
Ray Brumby -Speyside Paths Network Group (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)
Franziska Smith -HIE Moray (Public Agencies)
John MacLean -Westfield Farms (Landowner)
Philip Whitfield -Forestry Commission Scotland (Public Agencies)
Iain Stephen -Moray Access Panel
Kelley Miller -SNH (Public Agencies)

Apologies

Watson Bell (Outdoor Access User), Toby Metcalfe -Smiths Gore (Landowner), Sarah Preston -
Moray Health & Social Care Partnership (Public Agencies), Honor Third -Moray Access Panel
Ian Bruce (Moray Council -Environmental Services Manager)

Non Attendees

Iain Green-NFUS (Landowner), Alasdair Laing- Logie Estate (Landowner)

Item		Action
1.0	Welcome The meeting was chaired by the Convener Peter Graham.	
2.0	Accuracy of Previous Minutes	
2.1	The previous meetings were agreed as being true and accurate.	
3.0	Matters Arising	
3.1	Cllr Linda Gorn's (Moray Council) replacement will be appointed following the Local Authority elections in May.	Council Committee
3.2	<u>Item 3.4: Wind Farm at Paul's Hill</u> Peter Graham reported that he has spoken to the National Power Company and they have said that the pedestrian restriction signs have now been removed.	
3.3	<u>Item 3.3: Website Links</u> Cath Clark has now advised Ian Douglas on direct links to the Scottish Executive's outdoor leaflets to be included on the Council/ Forum websites.	

3.4	<p><u>Item 3.4: Land Management Contract.</u> Ian Douglas and Peter Graham have now arranged a meeting with SERAD on 2nd May to discuss general issues of LMCs and Access.</p> <p><u>Item 5.3: Quarrel Wood</u> Phil Whitfield reported that he has spoken to the Quarrelwood Association, and they are supportive of the path (CP-30 on Map 10) becoming a proposed Core Path.</p> <p><u>Item 5.3: Blue Lines</u> Duncan McConnell raised his concerns over the inclusion of the Blue lines on the Core Paths Plan, however the Forum agreed that the blue lines will be retained on the Consultative Draft.</p>	
4.0	Training	
4.1	<p><u>Training Programme for Forum Members</u> The survey carried out by Cath Clark in September 06 of training requirements and existing skills present within the Forum, was summarised in the resultant training programme paper issued by Cath Clark. The most popular three subjects for training were Funding, Estate Management & Liability and Risk Assessment.</p> <p>Following discussions, it was agreed that much of the training can be achieved by tying up existing skills & training from within the group, however, the Forum are to confirm which subjects they would require additional training from external advisors/ organisations.</p> <p>It was agreed that other access users not represented directly on the Forum should be invited to give presentations on their access requirements/ issues. (eg Mountain biking, canoeing)</p>	Forum members
4.2	<p><u>Proposed Site Visit to Rothes Estate</u> Peter Graham has agreed to organise a site visit to Rothes Estate, and will demonstrate various access issues for discussion. It was agreed Ian Douglas is to organise for a Mountain Bike representative to attend and provide a presentation after the visit.</p> <p>The visit will be arranged for the day of the next Forum meeting. Ian Douglas to issue a letter confirming details, with a tear off slip to confirm attendance.</p>	Peter Graham/ Ian Douglas
5.0	Core Paths Planning – Report by Sub Group	
5.1	<p><u>Draft Core Paths Plan Text</u> The draft text was issued to Forum members prior to the meeting to allow comments. None were raised and the Forum agreed to the full document. They also thanked the sub-group and Ian Douglas for their input in its production.</p>	
5.2	<p><u>River Spey- Consultation Process</u> Ian Douglas reported that he has written to the main user representatives and landowners on the River Spey. He has now received their responses and will produce a summary report to record the responses and main issues raised. This report is to be discussed at the next River Spey Sub-group meeting, who will present its findings to the next access Forum meeting.</p> <p>Peter Graham noted that he will stand down from chairing the section of the next Access Forum meeting with the River Spey, and that Simon Jacyna will replace him for this section.</p> <p>In the meantime, ID noted that most users are ‘for’ the river being made a Core Path and most landowners ‘against’. Issues such as European environmental designations, economic viability and effects on fishing have been raised.</p>	<p>Ian Douglas</p> <p>Simon Jacyna</p>

5.3	<p><u>River Spey- other issues raised</u></p> <p>Jean Oliver was annoyed to note that the recent SNH publication for the Outdoor Access Festival, already refers to one of its events on the Spey as being on a ‘Core Path’.</p> <p>It was generally felt amongst the Forum members, that the decision on whether the River Spey within the Moray Boundary be designated a ‘Proposed Core Path’ or not, should be made independently of the National Park’s decision to include it as one.</p> <p>Ian Douglas confirmed that the Moray Forum will make its own decision based on our own criteria and consultation process. However, he noted that the Moray Council will have the final decision.</p>	
5.4	<p><u>Landowner Consultation</u></p> <p>Ian Douglas reported that he has written to the landowners of the current Proposed Core Paths, and included a map extract of their area and a copy of the Core Path criteria. The deadline for responses is the 30th of April, after which he will produce a summary report for the next meeting of the Core Path Planning Sub Group. The sub group will then provide recommendations for the next Forum Meeting.</p>	Ian Douglas
5.5	<p><u>Core Paths Surveys- Progress</u></p> <p>Ian Douglas noted that the deadline for receipt of the surveys is the 14th May. The surveys will record the paths’ existing condition and possible works required, and is to form the Core Paths Plan.</p> <p>Further to discussion, it was agreed that to reduce paper consumption and printing costs, the surveys not be included in the Plan, but can be made available in electronic format on request.</p>	
5.6	<p><u>Format of the Open Event</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the open event be held on the Wednesday 5th September between 7.00pm- 9.30pm at Glenfiddich Distillery, Dufftown.</p> <p>This will include the launch of the public consultation document, with a politician (MSP) present, a talk on Core Paths, and maps on display. Forum Members are also requested to be present.</p> <p>Ian Douglas requested that a sub-group be assigned at the next meeting to help organise the event and its marketing .</p> <p>Jean Oliver confirmed that the assigned room can accommodate up to 150No people and that the space can be divided into three if required.</p>	Ian Douglas
5.7	<p><u>Next Stages- Production of Consultative Draft Plan</u></p> <p>a/ The text and maps have now been agreed, with a few small map amendments.</p> <p>b/ The River Spey issue should be at a stage for decision at the next meeting, which will allow the full draft plan to be signed off by the Forum. Consultative draft can then be signed off at the next meeting.</p> <p>c/ Ian Douglas then to prepare a report and recommendation for Council Committee approval of the Plan.(August)</p> <p>d/ Consultative Draft ready for issue prior to the 5th September launch.</p>	
5.8	<p><u>Next Meeting of Sub Groups</u></p> <p>Core Path Planning Sub Group meeting to be held at 9.30am on 25th May at the Moray Council Ashgrove offices.</p> <p>River Spey Sub Group meeting to be held 9.00am 21st May and 9.30am on Wednesday 27th June at Moray Council Ashgrove Offices.</p>	Core Paths Sub Group River Spey Sub Group
6.0	Communications	
6.1	<p><u>Media Liaison</u></p> <p>Peter Graham agreed to take on responsibility for this meeting. He will prepare letter for the Press & Journal and pass a draft to Ian Douglas for comment prior to issue.</p>	Peter Graham

7.0	Access Issues	
7.1	<u>Right of Way- GM55, Duffus</u> Ian Douglas reported that the farmer (Mr. Anderson), has now carried out the works as agreed. The matter has now been signed off, although Ian Douglas will keep a watching eye on the site.	
7.2	<u>Right of Way- Corsairtly, Keith</u> Ian Douglas noted that the path has been identified as a Proposed Core Path, but that the farmer has responded negatively to this. He also reported that the developer of the adjacent site has now replied to say they are unwilling to provide a diversionary path, and they have no requirement to do so. Ian Douglas reported that the Community Council are still gathering evidence as to the path being a right of way. ID to try to approach them for an update on progress. The matter to remain ongoing.	Ian Douglas
8.0	AOCB	
8.1	<u>Dufftown- Tomnamuidh Wood</u> Jean Oliver requested that Ian Douglas consult with the Planning Department over a proposed planning application for housing on woodland site which includes popular local footpaths. Ian Douglas to liaise as an access issue.	Ian Douglas
8.2	<u>Access Issue</u> Jean Oliver noted that she has heard reports in Dufftown of an aggressive landowner preventing access to a hill near Dufftown. Jean Oliver to provide Ian Douglas with the landowners details for him to send a letter and a copy of Access Code. <u>Other Authorities Progress</u> The Cairngorm National Parks Consultation has now been issued. It was noted that their criteria are quite different from Moray', resulting with more core paths in and around the settlements rather than linking settlements. The River Spey has also been included, without any prior direct consultation with landowners. Cath Clark noted that in general there appears to be a large variation in the criteria applied by the authorities in Scotland. She noted that Highland Council are having difficulty applying the same criteria over the extent of their whole of their region, due to the differences in land types. Ian Douglas noted that there has been consultation between the neighbouring authorities to avoid core paths stopping on boundaries. <u>Walking Festival</u> It was noted that the Spirit of Speyside Walking & Wildlife Festival will be held between 23 rd -27 th August 07. (www.walkingfestival.net) <u>Paths For All Event- North Area Access Forums</u> Cath Clark noted that Paths For All will be organising an event to enable the north area Access Forums to meet . Date to be provided. <u>Clerking- Maternity Leave</u> Claire Bell will be taking maternity leave as of the 29 th June, and will be absent from the next 2No Forum meetings. Ian Douglas to arrange for minutes at these meetings. <u>Apologies for next meeting</u> Phil Whitfield and Janet Trythall provided their apologies for the next meeting.	Jean Oliver/ Ian Douglas

9.0	Location & Date of Next Meeting Next meeting: to be held on Tuesday 3rd July at 6.00pm-8.00pm following the training event. Venue: Rothes Church Hall Training Event- General access issues on Rothes Estate: The event will start at 4.00pm at the entrance road to Gedloch Quarry off the A941 between Coleburn & Fogwatt.	
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Distribution: all Members and Substitute Members
 Cllr Fiona Murdoch – Moray Council
 Barbara Stearn – NHS Grampian
 Ian D Bruce – Moray Council
 G. Morrison- Moray Council