

**MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM
NINTH MEETING**

MINUTES

**Tuesday 13th November 2007 at Lounge Room, Elgin Town Hall
4.00pm**

PRESENT

Ian Douglas (Moray Council – Moray Access Manager)

Members Present:

Peter Graham – SRPBA (Landowner) – Convener
Simon Jacyna – MEAG (Outdoor Access User) – Vice Convener
Fiona Murdoch – Moray Councillor (Public Agencies)
Jenny Gate – Glenlivet and Inveravon Community Association (Community Groups)
Rita Marks – Moray Tourism Forum (Outdoor Access User)
John Fleming – MALT (Community Groups)
Toby Metcalfe – Smiths Gore (Landowner)
Jean Oliver – Speyside Paths Network Group (Community Groups)
Franziska Smith – HIE Moray (Public Agencies)
Philip Whitfield – Forestry Commission Scotland (Public Agencies)
Duncan Mcconnell – Dyke and Landward Community Council (Community Groups)
Iain Stephen – Moray Access Panel
Annette MacLeod – NHS Grampian (Public Agencies)

Apologies

John Maclean – Westfield Farms (Landowner), Janet Trythall (Outdoor Access User), Iain Greene – NFUS (Landowner), Cath Clark – (Paths for All Partnership), Alasdair Laing – Logie Estate (Landowner) Watson Bell – (Outdoor Access User), Ian Bruce – (Moray Council – Environmental Protection Manager)

Non Attendees

Ray Brumby – Speyside Paths Network Group (Community Groups)
Kelley Miller – SNH (Public Agencies)

Item		Action
1.0	Welcome The meeting was chaired by Convener, Peter Graham	
2.0	Accuracy of Previous Minutes	
2.1	The previous meeting minutes were unanimously agreed as being true and accurate.	

<p>3.0</p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p>	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p><u>Item 3.2</u> Dufftown – Tomnamuidh Wood. I Douglas confirmed that the planning application has been withdrawn. Ian has also met with the land owner who has said he has no intention to fell any part of the wood</p> <p><u>Item 3.3</u> Clerking – This has now been resolved. P Graham wrote to The Moray Council regarding the lack of support received and as a result Michele Mustard has attended this meeting to take the minutes in Clare Bell’s absence.</p> <p>Annette MacLeod was introduced as the new NHS Grampian (Public Agency) representative.</p> <p>The Convenor, P Graham thanked J Oliver for all her work with the Consultative Draft Plan Launch Event. All her efforts are greatly appreciated. It was noted however that the launch was poorly publicised in the local press; all agreed this was the case.</p>	
<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p>	<p>LMC - Discussion of routes on map to consider achieving a more strategic approach.</p> <p>The map distributed to members showed all the notified Land Management Contract paths up to 31st October 2007. I Douglas confirmed he is receiving maps from some farmers showing where the routes are and he is feeding back comments suggesting how the routes could be improved and better integrated with the wider paths network. Ian also stated that he was conscious that he is only notified when paths have been completed and monies paid out and said he would like to be involved sooner to improve the public access proposals.</p> <p>It was discussed that Farmers/Landowners should be made aware of the need to link with the Core Paths Network where possible. T Metcalfe will contact NFUS for list of e-mail addresses of farmers. He will pursue an editorial feature be placed in the SRPBA in house magazine to encourage land managers to contact Local Access Officers at an early stage. It was also suggested that SEERAD be pushed to publish a list of all LMC routes being paid for. I Douglas confirmed that this is already the case but only available to Local Authorities. T Metcalfe advised that there is an inspection regime for LMC’s which should help to ensure paths are provided as originally approved by SEERAD.</p>	<p>I Douglas / T Metcalfe</p>

<p>5.0</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p>Training</p> <p><u>Training 2008</u></p> <p>The following was suggested for 2008.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rafting and river access • A talk on specific access issues from a local mountain bike club representative. Cover issue of problems caused by mountain bike • Use on paths intended for pedestrians • Knockando Estate – T Metcalfe to approach Duncan Dunbar – Nasmith to gauge interest. • Motorbike Access – Possibility of purpose built paths for their specific use, raise awareness of the detrimental effect of motor bikes on paths. • Water user groups presentations • All Ability access paths and Urban access paths • Talk from SEERAD on LMC’s and the access part of the new Scottish Rural Development Programme • Managing motorbike use of public paths <p>Specific dates for these to be agreed at the next meeting</p>	<p>T Metcalfe</p> <p>All</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Core Paths Planning – Consultative Draft:</p> <p><u>Consultation Launch Meeting -</u></p> <p>A database has been set up to collate responses. Also all comments made at meetings I Douglas has attended have been recorded. Sub-group to discuss the results when the consultation period concludes at the end of November. I Douglas is to convene the subgroup on 14th December 2007.</p> <p>Themes resulting from the workshop needing to be addressed in the plan:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access for the Disabled – Need for provision • Elgin – Core paths needed • Speyside Way should be a Core Path <p>Consensus of opinion being that the Speyside Way should be a Core Path.</p> <p><u>Consultation Exercise</u></p> <p>I Douglas said that he had not received many responses to date but more are to follow. Council to release funds for advertisement on MFR to raise the profile of the consultation. I Douglas to organise</p>	<p>I Douglas</p> <p>I Douglas</p>

	<p><u>SEA/Natura Assessments</u></p> <p>The Moray Council has released £20,000.00. The SEA/Natura assessments will be carried out by and external consultant during 2008 as a joint exercise involving the Moray Core Paths Plan and the Moray Road Safety plan. I Douglas to organise</p>	I Douglas
7.0	<p>Publicity</p> <p>I Douglas to be interviewed on Moray Firth Radio to raise awareness of the Core Paths Plan and consultation also to mention the L.O.A.F</p>	I M Douglas
8.0	<p>A O C B</p> <p><u>Feedback from NAF/LAF meeting</u></p> <p>N.A.F 3rd Annual Report handout given to all members along with notes from taken from the meeting and contact details.</p> <p>I Douglas did a presentation at the meeting on how MLOAF was a 'hands on' Forum – it was generally received well but it was noted that other Forums did things differently</p> <p>Issues to be fed back – Forums given the opportunity to put forward details to N.A.F for discussion. E.g. Problems with LMC's could be put forward. To be discussed at the next meeting</p>	All
B	<p><u>Wind farm Proposal Aultmore Forest/Scout Hill</u></p> <p>S Jacyna raised the point at what stage should the Forum be involved in the planning process. If go ahead is given is there room for improvement of access routes from development of the wind farm.</p> <p>I Douglas receives consultation paperwork for developments and will ensure access routes will not be overlooked. All agreed that the sooner the forum was involved in development the better.</p>	I M Douglas
C	<p><u>Wind farm Proposal Glenfiddich Estate, Cabrach</u></p> <p>J Oliver reported that nothing had been decided on the access route for the wind farm at present. The point was</p>	

	<p>also raised that perhaps Planning Department should be approached re the ongoing access for the local community. It was also noted that it is important to recognise that Forum should not influence local communities on how to spend any monies they receive. Forum should only be concerned with access rights. This was agreed by all.</p>	
<p>D</p>	<p><u>Upholding Access Rights – Caseload Moray Access Manager</u></p> <p>Ian discussed a selection from his caseload. He stated that he is involved through letters/discussions an access issues are mostly resolved, those that he cannot resolve he brings to the Forum.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Safety Issue – Birkenhall Wood – This case involved barbed wire being erected across a path by the landowner. Ian called the landowner and matter was resolved and within 24hours barbed wire had been remove. • Ballindalloch Access – Relating to improved access to the river. There are ongoing negotiations at the moment ref. a locked gate at the entrance to site so canoeist are not able to park. Funds have been awarded for the construction of car parking facilities. Discussion with the estate continues. • Motorbikes – Lhanbryde – there is an current problem with motorbikes using and causing the destruction of foot paths. This matter is not being addressed successfully by the Police. Perhaps specific motorbike courses should be looked at. This was noted and added to the training section of the minutes. • Urban paths – Taylor Place Elgin – Fence had been built blocking access route and not picked up by planning office. Seemed to be a lack of communication between Council departments. • Right of Way enquiries – this usually is where are they, how many, what to do when ROW is blocked. I Douglas did say that he had a ROW problem that he would need to bring to the Forum – Duke Street, Findochty, which raises the question will the Council enforce the Right of Way • Land around houses – Cathay Nursing Home – Landowner fenced off woodland behind the home on being contacted regarding the access issues the landowner stated he various issues that led him to fence the area i.e. fly-tipping and vandalism. Ian in 	

	<p>consultation to resolve issues and get area partly opened up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Privacy Zone – Legislation and Code are very loose and open to individual interpretation. Ian in discussion and consultation with Seafeld Estate where agreement has been reached loosely defining a privacy zone. This is subject to ongoing review. <p>S Jacyna asked how access issues were brought to Ian's attention as Aberdeenshire has a form on the website and what procedures were in place in Moray. Ian said he felt form filling tended to put people off and that he preferred an informal approach. A record file is however kept on all cases</p>	
E	<p><u>GM55 – Duffus latest problems</u></p> <p>Photo in the attached sheets was discussed. Ian stated that the simple solution to allow through movement. Landowner stated that fencing was only for a temporary period. Ian to monitor and report back to the Forum</p>	I M Douglas
F	<p><u>Good Access Certificates</u></p> <p>I Stephen – Moray Access Panel, informed the forum that certificates were awarded for the provision of good access. Places, persons and sites can be nominated by logging on to morayaccesspanel.org. It was suggested that I Douglas look into adding a link to the Moray Access website to Moray Access Panel website page.</p>	I M Douglas
9.0	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the next meeting be held on Tuesday 19th February 2008 at 4pm in the Gallery, Elgin Library Mountain bike talk to be arranged for that date, P Whitfield to contact group to arrange</p>	P Whitfield
Other	<p>Provisional Meeting dates:-</p> <p>Thursday 1st May 2008 (Final Draft to be Signed) at 3pm Knockando Distillery for training thereafter meeting 4pm Knockando Church</p> <p>Tuesday 5th August 2008 in the Lounge, Elgin Town Hall at 4.00pm</p> <p>Thursday – 13th November 2008 in the Gallery, Elgin Library at 4.00pm</p>	

Distribution: All Members and Substitute Members

I D Bruce – Moray Council
G Morrison – Moray Council
Cath Clark – Paths for All Partnership