

**MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM
ELEVENTH MEETING**

MINUTES

Thursday 1st May 2008 at 4.00pm at Knockando Distillery Visitor Centre

PRESENT

Ian Douglas (Moray Council Access Manager)
I D Bruce
Garry L Morrison

Members Present

P. Graham, I Green, S Jacyna, R Marks, D McConnell, P Whitfield, J Trythall,
J Fleming, F Smith, F Murdoch, K Miller, J Gate, T Metcalfe, J Oliver

Apologies

J Maclean, A McLeod, W Bell, I Stephen, A Laing

Non Attendees

R Brumby (resigned)

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 agreed as being true and accurate	
3.0	Matters Arising	
3.1	<u>Item 7</u> No need now to contact National Access Forum as outstanding issues have been adequately covered in the Council's written response on how Moray's Core Paths Network will be developed and managed.	
4.0	Forum Member's Expenses	
4.1	Mileage rate for Access Forum Members now confirmed as 40p per mile commencing 1.05.08. New forms available from I Douglas	

Item		Action
5.0	Training for next meeting	
5.1	D Craig, or another representative, of the S.C.U. to come and give a talk to the next Access Forum meeting in the Town Hall. This will give the paddle sports user perspective focussing specifically on the River Spey.	I Douglas
6.0	Member's Resignation	
6.1	A letter has been received from Ray Brumby confirming his resignation from the Forum. All agreed his input has been invaluable. I Douglas to write to all Community Councils/Local Access Groups/Community Associations across Moray seeking nominations to replace Ray on the Forum.	I Douglas
6.2	P Whitfield confirmed at the meeting he is resigning from the Forum and this will be his last meeting. He agreed to advise the Forum if and when a replacement member can be allocated from Forestry Commission Scotland. Everyone agreed Phil's contribution has been of immense value and is much appreciated. I Douglas to write to Ray and Phil thanking them for their time and effort.	P Whitfield I Douglas
7.0	Moray Health Walks	
7.1	I Douglas confirmed the Moray Health Walks were launched on 14 th April 2008 at Elgin Library. A booklet was given to each Access Forum member who attended the meeting.	
7.2	I Douglas also confirmed that a 'one stop shop' for outdoor access in Moray was launched on the same day. i.e. web site www.morayways.org Members can now view the web site on line but the site is still under development.	
8.0	National Access Forum	
8.1	Papers from the latest National Access Forum meeting were circulated for information. Any issues or questions to be raised with I Douglas or P Graham who can then contact the National Access Forum by letter	All

Item		Action
<p data-bbox="225 230 336 268">9.0</p> <p data-bbox="225 302 336 340">A</p> <p data-bbox="225 824 336 862">B</p>	<p data-bbox="336 230 1169 268">Core Paths Planning</p> <p data-bbox="336 302 1169 672">Letter dated 11th April 2008 to the Forum Convener from R Stewart of Moray Council was discussed which states how the Council intends to develop and manage the Moray Core Paths Network. Follow up email received by P Graham from R Stewart confirmed the Core Paths maps being discussed under Item B below by the Access Forum at today's meeting is what Council Officials would recommend to the Council Committee as 'sufficient' and where adequate minimal maintenance could be achieved by The Moray Council.</p> <p data-bbox="336 705 1169 784">All present were satisfied with the Council's statement as contained in the letter.</p> <p data-bbox="336 817 1169 963">Maps These were presented as the Core Path Planning sub group's recommendation to the whole Forum for an expanded paths network. The maps were agreed by the whole Forum subject to the following amendments.</p> <p data-bbox="336 996 1169 1108">Map 1 – designate new Core Path linking Cloddynoss with new all abilities trail (hill 99 route) at Wellhill in Culbin,</p> <p data-bbox="336 1142 1169 1187">Map 2 – Remove blue lines at Dunkirk (printing error)</p> <p data-bbox="336 1220 1169 1478">Map 15/15A – Remove core path proposal along edge Gordon Castle estate parallel with Castle Street. This is considered unnecessary particularly as new bypass will make the route unattractive. Designate alternative route along Fochabers High Street which will be ideal once the bypass is built at traffic calming measures are introduced along High Street.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1512 1169 1624">Map 17A – Content with high level of Public Road Core Paths in Buckie as this reflects the way people have to get about as there are few off road paths available.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1657 1169 1736">Map 19A – Crannoch Circular Core Path subject to Aberdeenshire Council designating their section.</p> <p data-bbox="336 1769 1169 1881">Map 24 – Balloch Wood southern link routes subject to Aberdeenshire designation Core Path link(s) towards Huntly.</p>	

Item		Action
C	<p>Map 29/29A – Retain circular Core Path proposal along River Spey from Rothes. Remove Core Path designation from two central linking paths which will just be shown as blue line existing paths.</p> <p>Map 32 – River Spey access-egress points are difficult to read at scale presented. All access/egress points being designated as Core Paths to be shown on separate more detailed inset maps.</p> <p>Map 34 – Cairngorms National Park have confirmed they will accommodate Cabrach –Suie link through to Chapleton of Glenlivet in their area. Park also requested short Core Path designations in Moray to help them complete circular routes at Tomnavoulin and Drummuir. These were agreed and will be shown on a new map to be created in the plan.</p> <p>Second Landowner Consultation – I Douglas confirmed that all affected landowners had been contacted for the original and new Core Path proposals. Once responses received and collated by I Douglas then meeting of Core Path Sub Group to be convened to discuss and recommend any required changes to the maps to the next full Forum meeting.</p>	I Douglas
D	<p>Strategic Environmental Assessment/Natura Assessment</p> <p>I Douglas confirmed tender has been issued to consultants with responses require by 9th May 2008. Scoping report required by time final draft is published in September/October 2008 with full SEA being complete by time plan is put forward for adoption. SEA is a joint exercise combining with the Moray Road Safety Plan (4th Edition), I Douglas to co-ordinate.</p>	I Douglas
E	<p>Plan Production</p> <p>Still aiming to meet agreed programme with launch of formal consultation on Final Draft Core Paths Plan due to commence October 2008.</p>	I Douglas
10.0	<p>Election of Forum Convener</p>	
10.1	<p>P Graham was endorsed to continue at Convener by all present at meeting. P Graham confirmed he would be looking to stand down once the Core Paths Plan is adopted.</p>	

Item		Action
11.0	Selection of new Forum Members	
11.1	<p>It was agreed that it would be unwise to have all members being removed at once with a whole group of new members then being appointed. There is a need for continuity of knowledge and effort. T Metcalfe suggested however that some methodology needs to be put in place to ensure some turnover of members. P Whitfield suggests we need to carefully assess member representation to see where 'gaps' in representation need to be filled particularly for canoeists, cyclists, etc.</p> <p>K Miller/I Douglas/P Graham to present general options for reviewing future membership to the next meeting. This will include looking at require amendments to current Forum policy and constitutional papers.</p>	P/Graham/ K Miller/I Douglas
12.0	Possible Forum Annual Event	
12.1	All agreed that the Forum have enough business to occupy their time and at this stage a specific annual event is un-necessary.	
13.0	Access Issues GM55 Duffus	
13.1	<p>Photographs were examined by Members showing how the route has once again become un-accessible due to the presence of cattle. I Douglas confirmed the cattle have now been removed. It was agreed that W Bell and I Douglas should meet with the owner, D Anderson, to seek a more permanent solution to protect the route. If this proves to be unsuccessful then the Forum recommends that enforcement action should be taken against Mr Anderson in respect of the relevant section of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. Such action should be carried out as necessary without further referral to the Forum.</p>	I Douglas/ W Bell
14.0	A O C B – email to S Jacyna from Mrs Bodman	
14.1	<p>The email asks the Access Forum to deliberate on how to resolve damage to a vehicle track at Stonehouse, Tiendland caused by horse use. It was agreed that P Graham should respond outlining the matter will be investigated by I Douglas and K Miller with a view to potential resolution. The Forum do not therefore require to discuss this matter further which is being remitted to Moray Council in respect of its Access duties.</p>	I Douglas/ K Miller

Item		Action
15.0	Date of next meeting	
15.1	The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 5 th August 2008 in the Lounge Room, Elgin Town Hall at 4.00pm.	
	<p>Additional Note</p> <p>The Forum would like to thank Duncan Dunbar-Naesmith for his illuminating training event which he organised for the Forum prior to this meeting. He explained fully the kinds of access issues that are faced every day on the River Spey and presented an enlightened attitude in how he and others are trying to achieve mutual understanding and tolerance between different users of the River. The Forum agrees that ways should be explored to seek financial contributions in particular from watersports businesses who are currently profiting from free facilities. Such contributions would be used to improve access facilities particularly at main access/egress points. How this could be achieved on a practical level should be explored at future Moray LOAF meetings.</p>	All