

**MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM
17th MEETING
MINUTES**

12th November 2009, 4pm Rothes Grant Hall.

Present

Ian Douglas (Moray Council Access Manager)

Ann Dunn (minute taker)

Fiona McInally (Paths for All Partnership)

Members Present

P. Graham, J Gate, R Knight, J Oliver, R McPherson, S Reid, A Laing, D

Barron, S Jacyna, R Boardman, Dr J Trythall, J Fleming

Non Attendees

F Smith

Item		Action
1.0	Apologies Cllr F Murdoch, I Green, T Metcalfe, M Young.	
2.0	Accuracy of Previous Minutes The previous meeting minutes were agreed as being true and accurate apart from Para1 – apologies for non attendance should have been recorded from J Gate Para 10.a) which should read <i>Copies of the SOAC National Communications Campaign were circulated.....</i> Proposed by J Oliver and seconded by J Gate.	
3.0	Matters Arising <i>Para 10.b</i> Press article featuring the Access Forum “sign off” of the final Core Paths Plan appeared in the Northern Scot in August.	
4.0	Membership a Resignations have been received from Iain Stephen (Outdoor Access User), Jim Barron (Mountain Biking), D McConnell (Community Groups). John Fleming and T Metcalfe are also standing down. The Access Panel have been contacted and wish to resume their guaranteed place but have yet to decide who will attend in place of Iain Stephen. b Recruitment of new members was discussed, with the following suggestions put forward <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place an advert in local press. This shows an open, accountable, public process but cost will be an issue • Mail out to all on the CPP consultation database asking for possible candidates • Make use of the Moray Voluntary Services Org newsletter Other Access Forums have held “Events Days” to raise the profile of their groups and note details of interested volunteers. The decision was take to write to all on the database, place an advert in the Northern Scot and an article in the MVSO newsletter. A sub group will review and short list the candidates. Sub group will be J Fleming, P Graham and F McInally. I Douglas to expedite actions and facilitate group.	IMD

Item		Action
<p>5.0</p> <p>a</p>	<p>Core Paths Planning</p> <p>Current funding position</p> <p>Moray Council is looking at painful budget cuts and a public consultation process is taking place, deadline for responses is 15th December. The post of Access Manager appears to be safe but the £15,000 Core Paths budget may be affected at some point, which will affect the ability to implement the Core Path Plan. Moray Council will only now manage the section of the Speyside Way in Moray. The current Speyside Way Ranger Service will be converted to cover the whole of Moray, to include the work of the former Moray Coast Ranger. Access is covered by 2 of the Local Priorities in the Council's Single Outcome Agreements, i.e. health and sustainable transport. This needs to be stressed to local politicians. Forum members agreed to write to their local Councillors asking for funding for access to be maintained as a priority. The Forum will also write to Richard Lothead and the Chief Executive of Moray Council.</p> <p>b Objections</p> <p>The Core Path Plan was signed off by the Forum at the last meeting with the exception of FR09 and Robertson's objections. The Robertson family objected to EG32 and EG33 and Robertson Homes Ltd also objected to both, but have since withdrawn objection to EG33. Moray Roads Section considers that it's critical to keep EG33 and a section of EG32 as Core Paths as they form part of a safe routes to the Primary and Secondary School to be sought as a developer contribution for Local Plan site R7. The Robertson family have an interest because they were granted permission to build a dwelling along this route. The permission is up for renewal in 2010. The route was identified as part of the public consultation and is therefore valued by the local population. Although it is too new to be designated a Right of Way, this earth path is well used by locals and has a kissing gate installed. Unanimous decision taken to support the Roads Dept position and retain EG32 and EG33. The Finalised Plan is being considered by</p> <p>c</p> <p>Highland - River Spey hearing 10.09.09</p> <p>R Knight reported that the Inquiry was well run and that the Reporter had been very well briefed and had a good grasp of the issues. It dealt primarily with the Highland section of the River Spey and less on the National Park and Moray, although these were mentioned. No word yet as to the recommendations from the Reporter to ministers. We hope to hear before Christmas on both the National Park and Highland Hearings.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>PG</p>
<p>6.0</p> <p>a</p>	<p>National Access Forum</p> <p>P Graham wrote on the Forum's behalf, asking for more support and promotion of access routes through the SRDP. The response received was disappointing, in that they stated that they were not a political lobbying body. The paper from Mark Wrightham was supportive re pushing for funding for access.</p>	

	<p>S Jacyna commented on the problems for community groups in applying for the SRDP funding as it was difficult to raise the 25% necessary, many costs were not eligible and the process is complex. The 25% will reduce to 10% in April.</p> <p>b NAF/LAF meeting 28.10.09 - Inverness I Douglas attended a disappointing meeting. NAF recognised the poor communications between themselves and the local forums and there was discussion as to how this could be rectified.</p>	
<p>6.0 b</p>	<p>F McInally confirmed the Paths for All Partnership role is being looked at in this context, as they attend both local and National forums. This may be limited as they have a particular agenda to follow.</p> <p>There followed discussion on the different roles that the local and National forums have. The National Forum has no legal standing and no budget, they advise SNH and Scottish Government on all access issues. Local Forums have obligations to advise councils in their statutory duty regarding access.</p> <p>It was felt that recurring issues within local forums were not being recognised and addressed, which would be a useful function of the National Forum.</p> <p>Decision taken to write to the National Forum suggesting regional representatives of the LOAFs on the NAF to ensure better consideration of recurring local issues by the NAF.</p>	<p>PG</p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Training 3 suggestions for future training events – Health Walks, Active Travel initiative “Urban Freedom” and Single Outcome agreements.</p>	
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Future Forum Business Existing policy documents were circulated and emailed prior to the meeting. IMD to convene policy sub group to consider review of documents with report back to next meeting.</p> <p>Now that the Core Paths Plan has been signed off, the Forum needs to consider what issues to concentrate on in the future. Several were suggested including sustainable transport, priorities for future limited funding, advising on planning applications, review of Moray Access Strategy, influencing developer contributions and Development Plan issues.</p> <p>It was noted that “Urban Freedom”, the council’s document on sustainable travel had been produced without any consultation with the Forum.</p> <p>Decision taken to produce a Business Plan, determining the priorities for the Forum. A workshop focussing on business plan priorities to be organised for next meeting following Chris Thomson’s presentation on Urban Freedom, these to be the main agenda items. Fiona McInally and Ian Douglas to run the workshop</p>	<p>IMD</p> <p>CT FMcl ID</p>

Item		Action
<p>9.0</p> <p>a</p> <p>b</p>	<p>Access Issues</p> <p>Green Roadies, Duffus The obstruction (gates) is being pursued by SERAD. F. McDougall of SERAD has confirmed that several letters have been sent to the landowner, Dean Anderson. The latest letter gives 7 days notice to resolve the obstruction or the path will be removed from the LMO scheme and payments recovered. Ian Wilson, the NFU spokesperson has commented that farmers need to behave reasonably and responsibly if they want users to do so. I Douglas to monitor and report back to the Forum</p> <p>Giant's Chair, Dufftown This core path has been damaged by flooding to the extent that a bridge has gone and part of the path is now a burn. The path is no longer accessible or attractive. The land is owned by Diageo and historically they have been very co-operative in resolving access issues with the help of the community. The local footpaths group have responsibility through an agreement to maintain the route but are unable to deal with this act of nature due to costs involved.</p> <p>Decision taken that I Douglas write to the local management asking them to look at helping with repairs to the path. Grant options also to be considered. If the local management are not responsive, R Knight suggested that the Chief Executive of Diageo should be approached as this is often more effective. This was agreed.</p>	<p>ID</p>
<p>10.0</p>	<p>AOCB Speyside Way – This designated core path has been damaged by floodwaters at the Burn of Ordiquish. The path will have to be diverted, which will require a future change to the Core Path Plan.</p>	
<p>11.0</p>	<p>Dates for next meetings Elgin Library Gallery - Feb 25th, 4pm – Elgin 'Urban Freedom' presentation and Business Plan Workshop Venue to be confirmed - May 20th, 4pm – meeting preceded by Health Walk Elgin Library Gallery - August 3rd, 4pm Elgin Town Hall Lounge Room - November 11th, 4pm</p>	