



Environmental Protection

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Garden L Morrison
Support Services Officer

Our Ref: IMD/MS/949611

Your Ref:

19th May 2011

Mr R Ritchie
Clerk to the Moray Local Review Body
The Moray Council
Council Office
High Street
Elgin
IV30 1BX

Dear Ron

Town and Country Planning (Schemes of Delegation and Local Review Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2008

Request for Review: Planning Application 10/01693/APP – Removal of planning condition 11 of the previous planning consent 07/00758/FUL at 12 Seafield Place Cullen

I refer to your letter of 11th May 2011. I do not intend to re-iterate what I have already covered in my statement of 16th March 2011 already submitted on the proposal to remove the Planning Condition. I will focus on briefly answering specific questions raised in your letter, i.e. when funds might become available or any monies made towards a start on the Aspirational Core Paths.

At this stage there are no specific plans or programme to develop the Old Railway as a Cycle Route which remains purely aspirational. No central core budget exists within the Council to develop such routes which is not surprising given the current austenitic measures forces on local authorities. The Moray Core Paths Plan is intended to be formally adopted in June. In the Plan Policy 2 specifically relates to development of Aspirational Core Paths and Policy 6 refers to how Core Paths and the wider paths network (including Aspirational Core Paths) could be developed. In the Policy the measures for this include:

- Securing external grants and funding
- Encouraging and supporting initiatives by landowners, farmers and land managers to develop and manage paths through the Scottish Forestry Grant Scheme and Land Management Options Scheme under the Scottish Rural Development Programme

- Providing ongoing support of the activities of Local Community access Groups in their continuing efforts
- Working with local environmental and community support organisations to assist with routine paths maintenance of Moray Core Paths and the wider Moray Paths Network. Organisations include Criminal Justice Community Services.
- Pursuing 'in kind' resources from partner agencies including Scottish Natural Heritage, Historic Scotland and the Forestry Commission
- Seeking Developer Contributions through the statutory planning system to finance path improvements where there is a relevant direct impact from development which requires mitigation
- Consider setting up a Moray Countryside Access Trust or similar organisation

The Moray Core Paths Plan can be viewed online at www.moray.gov.uk/corepaths

The Council will work towards developing Aspirational Core Paths in terms of Policy 6 through a partnership approach where opportunities arise.

The development of the Old Railway would require a feasibility study and technical appraisal and secured external funding before it could be realised. What is abundantly clear is that any such opportunity for development will be lost if the potential link is severed by removal of the requirement to remain the path line in relation to planning consent 07/00758FUL

Yours sincerely

Ian M Douglas