

MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

26TH MEETING

THURSDAY 7TH JUNE 2012

MINUTES

Present: Ian Douglas, Moray Council Access Manager

Members Present: R Knight (Chair) J Oliver, D Stewart, S Tyson, F Murdoch, J Smith, R R McPherson, D McPherson

Non Attendees: I Green, T Anderson, A Glover, M Stelmeh, G Bain, R Marks

Minute Secretary: C Shanks

Item		Action
1.0	Apologies and Membership	
	Apologies were received from R Bromby, W Metcalfe, C Roberts, S Reid, I Cowe, F Nicholson	
	Two members from Rothes Council were welcomed to the meeting to discuss Rothes to Craigellachie Cycle Path proposals. It was noted that Ian Cowe will replace Matthew Young on the Committee to represent the Forestry Commission and F Nicholson for D Barron, representing the NHS. RK announced that he would be stepping down from his position as Convener at the end of 2013. RK agreed to speak to Tim Atkinson as regards joining the Committee as his replacement in 2013. FM informed the Forum that she had received a complaint from a gentleman in Findhorn as he has applied to join the Forum on several occasions and been rejected. It was agreed to ID would write an 'encouraging' letter to the gentleman in question	RK ID
2.0	Accuracy of Previous Minutes	
	The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed to be a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 28 th February 2012.	
3.0	Matters Arising	
	ID confirmed that the Communities contact list has now been updated. Forum response to Brown Muir Wind Farm still to be carried out as an action. ID reported Forum issues to G Templeton to be addressed in the new Moray Wind Energy Policy Guidance.	RK
4.0	Outdoor Access Trust	
	The Forum were informed of a meeting scheduled for 15 th June 2012 which would be attended by I Bruce (Moray Council) and Dougie Baird (COAT) regarding a Service Level Agreement. The proposal from this meeting would be presented to the Moray Council at their Committee meeting in August outlining the principles, requirement for 'seed' funding, etc. ID noted his concern that £15k fees would go to COAT. FM advised that there should be a hard sell on tourism issues as she has a 'pot' of funding for developing tourism.	

5.0	Business Plan	
	<p>An updated Business Plan was circulated previously to all members and discussed at the meeting including the following observations. There has to date been no further progress in public consultation on the Moray Development Plan.</p> <p>It was agreed that the various groups involved would be kept up to date to reinforce links with community/user groups.</p> <p>It was agreed that John Ferguson, Community Planning and Development Manager, would be invited to the last 2012 meeting of Moray LOAF.</p> <p>The input of the Forum into the OSS consultation process is still awaited. Planning consultations involving Moray LOAF input is ongoing.</p> <p>Access dispute issues addressed at Access Forum meetings is ongoing.</p> <p>The production of up to date constitution and policy documents is still outstanding but low priority. It was agreed that a policy sub group would be convened and report back to Moray LOAF.</p> <p>Draft Access Strategy – RK felt that local agreements should be encouraged to resolve access issues.</p>	
6.0	Dorenell Access Management Pain	
	<p>JO and ID to produce a map showing proposed path routes. JO pointed out that in her site investigations a deer gate was not accessible and noted her concern that poachers would ram this gate. RK asked if JO had taken this up with the proprietor (Forestry Commission) and it was noted that Infinergy (wind energy company) were reluctant to get involved. He enquired how close they were to clarifying the actual routes and it was noted that there would be maps to aid discussion at a future meeting at which I Cowe would be asked to attend.</p> <p>It was agreed that ID Would action this and provide copies of the maps for all Forum Members.</p>	ID
7.0	Rothes to Craigellachie Proposed Cycle Route	
	<p>Previous to this meeting some Forum members walked the line of the proposed cycle route with two members of the Rothes Council Sub Group. The Sub Group also produced a paper on the proposal which the two members talked about at the Forum meeting. RK noted that Moray LOAF can offer support to the Rothes Community but would not project manage; a letter could be prepared on request noting the unanimous support from Moray LOAF for the proposal. Rothes Council would need to initially approach landowners for consent in principle. RK also agreed to approach Arndilly Estate, owner Sir Robert Clark, to establish permission in principle to use their access track.</p> <p>It was noted that there was a preference for the route not to cross the A941 for safety reasons. ID stressed that Moray Council Roads Department must be involved. It was agreed that the Rothes Council Sub Group would come back to ID to work out how this project can be taken forward.</p>	<p>RK</p> <p>RK</p> <p>Rothes Sub Group/ID</p>
8.0	Access Issues	
	<p>It was noted that there was a locked gate on the main track to Paul's Hill, ID to investigate.</p>	ID

9.0	A O C B	
	<p>Moray Walking Festival – FM stated that this would occur over midsummer weekend.</p> <p>Drummuir Wind Farm – it was noted that the developers were interested in making a financial contribution to the Isla Way dependent on the wording of the Section 75 Planning agreement to allow this as a substitution for access works already agreed. ID to pursue with Moray Planners.</p> <p>It was noted that Moray LOAF support the wind farm developers contributing to the Isla Way as opposed to other options.</p> <p>National Access Forum/Local Access Forum meeting – JO informed the Forum that she would attend the meeting with ID to be held in Edinburgh in October 2012 .</p> <p>Kings Grave Area Dufftown – DS informed the Forum that this had been opened up for public access.</p>	<p>ID</p> <p>JO/ID</p>
10	Date of Next Meeting	
	The date of the next meeting of the Moray LOAF will be Thursday 4 th September 2012 at 4.00pm in Elgin Town Hall	