

MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

33rd MEETING

Tuesday 4th March 2014 at 4:00p.m.

Elgin Library

MINUTES

Present: Ian Douglas, Moray Council Outdoor Access Manager

Members Present: S Tyson (Chair), C Roberts, J Oliver, , Michelle Gillibrand, Rebecca Russell, D Stewart, T Anderson, G Bain, J Smith

Non Attendees: F Nicholson (NHS Grampian), I Green, D MacPherson

Vacancies: R R MacPherson's Position, J Evans-Freke's Position

Item		Action
1	Apologies	
	Apologies were received from, M Stelmach, J Trythall. F Murdoch, S Reid, W Metcalfe, I Cowe.	
2	Accuracy of previous minutes	
	It was noted with regret that former member Rita Marks had died in January. Minutes were agreed as true and accurate.	
3	C.O.A.T. Murray Swapp: Possible Future Moray Projects .	
	<p>C.O.A.T. Reported that in the last five years over 40 community paths and 16 bridges had been built.</p> <p>On strategic routes such as the Speyside Way and Deeside Way 11km of upgraded paths installed.</p> <p>Moray Way Project: On the Dava way 3km of path to the viaduct upgraded and on the Moray Costal Trail 1.2km of track moved away from cliff edge.</p> <p>Whilst seed funding from Moray Council has been available in the past this may no longer be forthcoming due to necessary economies. C.O.A.T. seeks future projects within the Moray area. Seed funding could be sourced directly from community groups.</p> <p>However C.O.A.T can help to raise funding from other sources such as Moray LEADER, Sports Scotland and others. In addition it offers to survey and specify, liaise with landowners, tender and supervise.</p> <p>Could consider the Highland Way from Huntly to the Cabrach, Seed funding could be sought from proposed Dorenell Wind Farm. This could then join with the Isla Way. Also Isla Way extension and Rothes to Craigellachie Cycle Route.</p> <p>Noted Sustrans have budget of £33m and will fund aggregate track where black-top not viable.</p> <p>S.T. thanked Mr Swapp for his enlightening presentation.</p>	JO

4	Appointment of new members	
	<p>Four members finish their three year term at the end 2013 Gilbert Bain: Landowner/Land Manager. Agreed to continue Mary Stelmach: User. Will continue or find alternate Roy MacPherson: To be replaced. C Roberts to be switched to fill R MacPherson's community vacancy. Vacancy is now for a User. Approach to be made to Steve Bate of White Revolution/Outfit Moray Wilson Metcalfe: Community. Agreed to continue Members to note resignation of Jamie Evans Freke. An approach to be made to Faye Gonzalez of Smiths Gore to fill the vacancy.</p>	<p>ID</p> <p>ST</p>
5	Matters Arising	
	Item 4: I Greene to be contacted re. NFU substitute Representative	ST
6	Business Plan (Actions Update)	
	<p>Item 1 – Separate agenda item Item 2 Work on Dava Way very nearly complete to an excellent standard. Item 5 – Moray Joint Community Council meeting M.G. attended, she reported: Meeting went well and she was invited to stay throughout. Equality Officer advised on Street Audits – how to make streets safe and accessible for disabled users. Scottish Rural Parliament to be held in Oban in November 2014, when member of Scottish Rural Forum will meet. Damage to dunes at West Bay, Lossiemouth, may be affecting the Moray Coastal Path. Interest expressed in Lossie to Hopeman Cycle Route Proposal. Alistair Kennedy offered a place as an observer. M.G. & I.D.'s email addresses left. LOAF Member to attend future meetings of the Moray Joint Community Council, Michelle offered to talk to Community Councils, No update yet. Links to be established with the Moray Forum. Item 6 - M.G. gave an excellent and detailed presentation on Community Planning and the several groups which contribute to the process. A copy of the presentation was provided for those attending. Forum to develop stronger links with the Moray Forum and the Moray Joint Community council. Item 7 – Separate agenda item. Item 12 – Latest Draft Moray Local Outdoor Access Strategy issued to members for approval. Forum signed this off for ID to organise public consultation starting internally within the Council.</p>	<p>MG</p> <p>MG</p> <p>ID</p>
7	Communications Plan – actions update	
	WEBSITE - MG had a good meeting with The Moray Council IT Dept. which was very pleased to implement improvements to the web-site to raise the profile of LOAF. This included the addition of eight key words to the search section of the site making it easier to access the outdoor activities. Some	Communications Sub-Group

	<p>additional tweaking still required. Still a relatively low number of hits but rising. The sub-group will continue to work to make the website Moray LOAF section of the Council more interesting and more accessible as time permits. PRESS RELEASE: joint press release proposed with C.O.A.T. LIAISON WITH NEIGHBOUR FORUMS - Await I Cowe's report on Aberdeen City.</p>	<p>Communications Sub-Group</p> <p>ST IC</p>
8	Core Paths Plan Review - sub group	
	<p>A detailed paper has been prepared by the sub-group and circulated to members. It was agreed that Items 1 - 4 be actioned with No 1 the main priority, Items 1-4 are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sub group to work with Moray Access Manager to provide a set of maps showing new candidate Core Paths and other changes as they relate to the existing Core Paths network. Deadline should be end of 2014. Sub group to attend site visits as necessary 2. Above maps to be sent to affected landowners inviting response. Deadline to be determined (2 months before start of formal consultation) 3. Carry out a formal 12 week public consultation exercise at per S18 of the Act. Deadline to be determined but no urgency based on absence of any specific time requirement by which review to be carried out. This will required Council Committee approval before commencement 4. No consultative draft phase as was carried out for initial Core Paths Plan. Not required as proposals will be much less in scope and potential controversy as initial plan which was devised from scratch 	<p>Core Paths Sub-group</p> <p>ID</p> <p>ID</p>
9	Elgin Cycle Path Route	
	<p>The Moray Council in conjunction with the Flood Alleviation Contractors will work to install a cycle track as shown on the maps distributed. The overall cost is £1.3m with 50% coming from Sustrans. Application for funding now submitted and members will be kept abreast of developments. Preferred route to rear of Moycroft Sewage Works. Project to be implemented during Flood Alleviation works to take advantage of contractual savings. Provision of lighting at back of Moray Leisure Centre section of cycle path to be pursued with Moray Roads Section.</p>	ID
10	Access Issues –	
	<p>Gedloch Farm track blockage. Access obstruction (i.e. Heras Fence) now removed. Top gate can be opened and closed. Planners still investigating gate but unlikely to enforce. Currently access is not technically blocked but Mr Watson is being 'verbally discouraging' to any potential user on the track. Continue to monitor but no action likely. However verbal abuse may be construed as a criminal activity and a recipient of this</p>	ID

	could report to police for action .	
11	Gordon Castle Highland Games 18th May – LOAF Stand.	
	<p>Sub group discussed as follows: The question of insurance was raised again and a request for this to be covered by The Moray Council. Needs checked. Gazebo to be supplied by Council. A simple flyer about Moray LOAF with space for public to comment. Council can print. Small budget required for pens and pencil as hand-outs, Council can cover. Small display boards required. ID to explore availability. Current Core Path Maps to be displayed and public asked to identify any additional candidate Core Paths. Leaflets on any long distance routes in Moray to be displayed. Request for members to volunteer for two hour stints of manning stall. MG to organise. Investigate a reduced price of entry for helpers Sub-Group hoped I.D. would be able to attend. ID to confirm.</p>	<p>ID ID ID ID ID ID MG ST ID</p>
12	A O C B	
A)	BHS Scotland in conjunction with SNH are conducting audit of Scotland's Great Trails. In Moray these include Speyside Way, Dava Way and Moray Coast Trail. Due for completion in June this survey will indicate how suitable they are for horse riders and indicate potential improvements.	
B)	<p>A celebration of MacBeth is to be held in September it was proposed that LOAF should participate and use it to raise funds. However LOAF has no remit to hold or manage money Letter indicating that this was not an appropriate venture for LOAF to be sent.</p>	ST
13	Date of Next Meeting	
	<p>The dates of the 2014 meetings have been arranged as below: Please note these have been modified from the provisional dates agreed at the meeting due to accommodation difficulties. All meetings will take place in the Gallery at Elgin Library.</p> <p>TUESDAY 13TH MAY 4.30PM – 6.30PM (note half-hour later than normal)</p> <p>WEDNESDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER 4.00PM – 6.00PM</p> <p>MONDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 4.00PM - 6.00PM</p>	