

# MORAY LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

## 34th MEETING

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 4:30p.m.

Elgin Library

### MINUTES

**Members Present:** S Tyson (Chair), J Oliver, Michelle Gillibrand, F Murdoch, G Bain, Rebecca Russell, D Stewart, T Anderson, D MacPherson I Cowe, W Metcalfe, M Stelmach, J Smith

**Present:** Ian Douglas, Moray Council Outdoor Access Manager

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

**Vacancies:** 2

Item		Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Apologies were received from, J Trythall. S Reid, C Roberts.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Accuracy of previous minutes</b>	
	Item 3: Amend to read: Could consider the Highland Way from Huntly via the Cabrach to Donside and Deeside. JO suggested funding of £50,000 is believed to be available from the Clashindarroch Wind Farm. Huntly Development Trust reported to have funding for walking/cycling tracks. Item 4: Mr RR MacPherson incorrectly named Roy. Steve Bate is with Bike Revolution (not White Revolution)	
<b>3</b>	<b>Appointment of New Members .</b>	
	User Vacancy: Mr Steve Bate of Bike Revolution is unable to take up membership but is asking he colleague Stewart Evans if he is interested in standing. To be progressed. Land Manager Vacancy: The application from Faye Gonzalez of Smiths Gore to join was endorsed and approved by the members. ID to contact and welcome her to attend the next meeting. Agency Vacancy: Freda Nicholson of NHS Grampian has resigned. Contact to be made with Caroline Comfort (Health Promotion) or Gemma Wood of NHS Grampian to seek a replacement. Convener Vacancy: Sarah Tyson is standing down as Convener as she is moving to Perthshire. Sarah Tyson proposed Michelle Gillibrand as her successor and this was seconded by Jean Oliver. There being no other candidate Michelle Gillibrand was unanimously endorsed and approved by the members attending as the new Convener. Sarah's land manager position as a result is now vacant. D Stewart to send ID contact details of prospective candidate Angus Dixon. ID to invite Angus to submit application for consideration at next forum meeting.	ID ID ID DS/ID

<b>4</b>	<b>Matters Arising</b>	
	<p>Item 5: NFU Substitute for I Green: Murray White of NFU to be approached by GB to see if interested subject to agreement by Iain Green.</p> <p>Item 7: A joint press release with COAT was published in the Northern Scot on the Moray Way Improvement project.</p> <p>Liaison with Neighbouring Forums: Await I Cowe's report on Aberdeen City/Aberdeenshire Forums.</p>	<p><b>GB</b></p> <p><b>IC</b></p>
<b>5</b>	<b>Moray Walking Festival</b>	
	<p>All members requested to promote this event through social media and word of mouth directing people to the website:  <a href="http://www.moraywalkingfestival.co.uk">www.moraywalkingfestival.co.uk</a></p>	<b>All</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Business Plan (Actions Update)</b>	
	<p>Item 1 – Dealt with as separate agenda item</p> <p>Item 2 - Work on Dava Way, part of Moray Way Project now completed to a high standard. Whole project complete.</p> <p>Item 3 – Dealt with as separate agenda item.</p> <p>Item 4 - Dealt with as separate agenda item.</p> <p>Item 5 – MG confirmed good links are being built with community groups. Lossiemouth CC to be contacted to establish issues they have with Moray Coast Trail. MG to action. Moray Joint Community Council to be contacted regards progressing Hopeman to Lossie Cycle Route. MG to Action.</p> <p>Item 6 – M.G. to arrange meeting with Moray Forum.</p> <p>Item 7 – No Change.</p> <p>Item 8 - No Change. Open Space Strategy will be a requirement of the Moray Development Plan.</p> <p>Item 9 – No Change.</p> <p>Item 12 – Currently subject of internal office consultation within Moray Council at Officer level. Will require Council Committee approval before wider public consultation towards end 2014.</p>	<p><b>MG</b></p> <p><b>MG</b></p> <p><b>MG</b></p> <p><b>ID</b></p>
<b>7</b>	<b>Moray Local Development Plan Consultation</b>	
	<p>I.D. to seek to integrate consideration of access rights into the new plan as it was noted that granting Planning Permission removes access rights.</p> <p>I.D. proposes that each developer shows how the public are compensated for any loss of access rights and paths by submitting Outdoor Access Plans as part of planning requirements.</p> <p>Ian Cowe confirmed Forestry Commission have made a submission on forestry issues.</p> <p>J.O. has made a submission re Cabrach and will discuss with Dufftown Community Council.</p>	<p><b>ID</b></p> <p><b>JO</b></p>
<b>8</b>	<b>Gordon Castle Highland Games Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
	<p>Discussion on activities at this event. Hand-out circulated for printing with short quiz on back. Prize of £20 to winner.</p> <p>Draft Rota from 9.30 set up involving Forum Members and ID.</p> <p>Diane Smith will attend to promote Moray Walking Festival and will bring gazebo.</p>	

	Display Boards to show Core Path Plan info and general access info and Cycle/Walking Route Map. Those manning stand are encouraged to discuss these with the general public. Thanks to Group and to I.D. were offered by M.G.	
<b>9</b>	<b>Communication Plan</b>	
	Website updates and improvements on-going. Monitoring of visits to website show increased usage in most categories. Ian Douglas to investigate joint site visit(s) with Aberdeenshire LOAF.	<b>MG</b> <b>ID</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Core Path Review</b>	
	Access Officer currently concentrating on more urgent matters but will continue to gather information on Candidate Core paths on Core Paths. Core Paths review does not have a definite deadline. Staff to make time available in 2015 to work with Sub Group to prepare maps and list of Candidate Core Paths.	<b>ID</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Access Issues</b>	
	Ben Aigan Mountain Bike Trails. Ian Cowe confirmed Forestry Commission closed these trails after extensive consultation with local community. Budget constraints have resulted on concentrating resources on better used mountain bike provision at Ordiequish resulting in closure of Ben Aigan trails which were not well used. Brown Muir Wind Farm Consultation. ID to respond requesting access plans as part of the planning considerations.	
<b>12</b>	<b>A O C B</b>	
<b>A)</b>	LOAF is to empower and support local groups where possible to seek funding for access projects, i.e. Lossie to Hopeman Cycle Route and Deveron Way. Both of these would be potential future COAT projects providing there is Community lead.	
<b>B)</b>	Scottish Government Walking Strategy Paper: Responses due by 20 <sup>th</sup> May, all members invited to respond. Paper says all the right things but nothing on funding for implementation.	<b>ALL</b>
<b>C)</b>	A vote of thanks to the retiring Convener, Sarah Tyson, for her invaluable contribution and hard work, with best wishes for her future, was proposed and acclaimed by all present.	
<b>D)</b>	Elgin Cycleway. Discussion on signage with reminder that it will be used by walkers as well. Further discussion on linkage with Elgin Cycle Route and subsequent Joining to National Cycle Network. Await input from Stewart Evans. Request that Moray LOAF be consulted on any development. ID to consult with Moray Roads Section. Forum want input on design of signage for route.	<b>ID</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	
	The dates of the 2014 meetings have been arranged as below: <b>All meetings will take place in the Gallery at Elgin Library.</b> <b>WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 4.00PM – 6.00PM</b> <b>MONDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 4.00PM TO 6.00PM</b>	