

**Minutes of the meeting of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Local Access Forum  
held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014, 5.30pm at National Park HQ, Balloch.  
LAF 01/2014**

**Present**

Don Milton (C)

Bob Ellis

Alasdair Eckersall

Kevin Fitzgerald

Yvonne Boles

Bob Sparkes

Peter Baker

Will Huckerby

Paul Prescott

Chris Smith

**In attendance**

Babs Robertson

Guy Keating

Claire Travis

Linda Winskill

Charlotte Wallace (part)

**Apologies**

Sue Riches

Alex Stewart

Iain Wilkinson

**Welcome and apologies**

Members were welcomed to the new term of Forum membership followed by round table introductions.

**AOCB**

Items to be raised later under AOCB:

Bob Ellis commended the new format of meetings and site visit and proposed this should continue.

**Elections**

Don Milton was proposed by Bob Sparkes to continue as Convenor. This was seconded by Sue Riches and accepted by the Forum.

Bob Ellis was proposed by Bob Sparkes to serve as Vice Convenor. This was seconded by Yvonne Boles and accepted by the Forum.

**Land Reform Act case updates**

- Drymen to Balmaha –Sustrans funding has been secured and project to be delivered this financial year
- Cailness Cottage –concerns raised by the tenant regarding passing public has resulted in a new path alignment.
- Drumlean –Historical issue dating back 7 years with three locked gates restricting access to the hills beyond. A notice served in November was appealed in December and the first hearing was in January. There will be a ‘pre-proof’ hearing on the 21<sup>st</sup> October followed by an evidential hearing in November. **Action –update the Forum after hearing.**
- Callander Mountain Bike Group formed. They have funding for a feasibility study and potentially will be using Coilhallen Woods which are owned by

Forestry Commission Scotland who required purchase or lease of woods. The Community Development Trust, through LEADER are exploring the possibility of community ownership of this and possibly additional woods.

- Glen Tarken Bridge –Further funding available and looking for match funding through Sport Scotland.
- Strathyre to Kingshouse link –NPA and Sustrans secured feasibility funding with consultant due to finish in December followed by construction.
- South of Dalrigh –Washed out bridge, attempting to secure funding.
- Lake of Menteith –NPA Executive require legal opinion. This will be subject to progression and associated costs of Drumlean case before assessing when the NPA can continue with this case.
- An issue regarding the Piggery path link was raised with a suggestion from the forum to investigate further. **ACTION - GK to get more information from KA re: landowner details, planning considerations.**

### Your Park Update

Charlotte Wallace attended the meeting to provide a presentation and inform the Access Forum of plans to launch a consultation with regards to implementing new management techniques and byelaws over a wider area.

This would involve introducing byelaws that allow for sustainable levels of camping in identified zones and deal with damage to the environment and antisocial behaviour. The NPA would look to work with communities, landowners and partner organisations to entail a range of camping options at popular loch shore 'hotspots'.

Through monitoring, feedback and issues that regularly pose problems our most accessible loch shores are suffering due a combination of high visitor numbers and selfish and irresponsible camping behavior which has resulted in the need for further action to improve the visitor experience and conserve and manage these areas.

The proposal is still to be addressed by the National Park Board at a meeting scheduled for the 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2014. If approved, the consultation will commence on 13<sup>th</sup> October and run until 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2015.

Everyone is invited to respond to the consultation. The NPA will provide a facilitated workshop session for the forum to discuss and formulate a composite group response.

**ACTION – GK will coordinate workshop resources.**

**ACTION - all members to circulate views to DM by email prior to decision on full response.**

### The Future of the Forum

Don reminded members of the statutory requirement of the Forum. The Access & Recreation Officers may approach members should they require advice on any live cases. This may involve gauging opinion or site visits to establish extent of any concerns that are not resolved through standard methods. As stated in the application pack, members will be expected to

- give balanced advice, based on broad experience of access activity across the National Park area.
- To work together, giving advice on the exercising of access rights and offering advice, if required, in dispute resolution.
- To consider the NPAs Core Paths Plan and give advice relating to its development and implementation and ensuring it meets the legislative requirements of the Act.

- To advise on any other access related matters that may be brought before the Forum by the NPA or the public.
- To communicate with respective areas of representation via existing mechanisms such as, Community Networks, recreation and land-management bodies.
- To follow the Forum's agreed operating principles and site visit procedures.

Prior to the new membership of this Forum, discussions were held to consider the future remit and role. Discussions at this meeting led towards LLTAF

- Looking at projects
- Looking at strategic reviews
- Taking middle ground and supporting initiatives
- Making suggestions for fulfilling support on addressing/reporting on ongoing or new cases (such as signage etc)
- Supporting methodology for CPP review implementation
- Sharing skills and knowledge.

It was agreed that there is a good range of interests and spread of knowledge throughout the different members' interests and areas of representation. Members asked if it was possible for them to have foresight of Board Papers prior to meetings **Action –Claire Travis to check with Governance Team for advice.**

**DONM**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> April 2015**

DRAFT