

**Minutes of the meeting of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Local Access Forum
held on 19th June, 6.30pm at NPA HQ, Balloch.
LAF 02/2018**

Present

Don Milton (C)
Yvonne Boles
Paul Prescott

Chris Smith
Alasdair Eckersall
Will Huckerby

David Warnock
Falcon Frost

In attendance

Kenny Auld

Babs Robertson

Guy Keating

Apologies

Grant Dolier

Sue Riches

Lisa Roberts

Welcome and apologies

DM welcomed all and declared apologies for Grant Dolier, Sue Riches and Lisa Roberts.

Declarations of Interest

Falcon Frost declared his interest in Derrydarroch.

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held in March were approved.

Matters arising

A new cycle tourism project funded by Forth Valley LEADER has been created to look at researching cycle infrastructure (paths/signage/transport links etc). Jane Beaton has been appointed as Marketing and Tourism Officer and will be working with partners and businesses to help identify gaps and support opportunities. More information can be found on FV LEADER website at <https://www.fvl.org.uk/news-events/fvl-blog/cycle-tourism/>

Site Visits –Lessons Learned

There was positive feedback received from the St Fillans community regarding the make up of the Access Forum. This suggests that informing and encouraging communities to engage with the access forum with potential ventures could be beneficial and an opportunity for the potential to be more visible and approachable by communities.

The access issues addressed in St Fillans have now been resolved although there are still planning considerations being addressed.

Access Team Update

In reference to update paper, the following points were raised:

- Luss Faerie Trail –request from Forum to see signage that is in place with potential for site visit to be arranged.
- Derrydarroch –the estate are continuing to monitor the situation while working in line with legislation and estate management. Problems are also arising with the self-closing gate being jammed open.
- Drumlean –next stages will be working on the signage and an overall access strategy on the estate. An article has also been published on the Scotways website https://www.scotways.com/images/pdf/Drumlean_CoS_Note_Scotways_Combe.pdf

The Access Team are also supporting the scoring of the Expressions of Interest applications received the NPA Community Grant Scheme. Information on the scheme, who can apply and what it can fund can be found at <https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/park-authority/how-we-can-help/funding-grants/grantscheme/community-grant-guidelines/>

There are currently a number of major planning applications submitted to the NPA Planning Authority and the access team will be spending considerable time considering these applications and providing comments and feedback to the planning team. <https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/planning/planning-applications/major-planning-applications/>

Core Paths Plan consultation review

An email was drafted and shared with the forum prior to sending to key partners and local communities and development trusts. The email is intended to gather feedback of any paths or routes that could feed into the updating of the network and may be considered as core path additions or amendments. This should ensure that when we go to consultation (expected late October) that we have considered and included as much as possible. Feedback received from members to amend the wording to clearly reflect core paths and not just paths. DW enquired as to aspirational paths but unless due to be in place by March 2019 then these would not be included but could be considered as part of the ORP. Images of the online consultation were shared and an explanation of how users can view and comment on any of the proposals or map and provide comments of their own suggestions.

KA is required to have completed a paper for the September Board meeting by 30th August. Everyone agreed a separate session for the forum focussing on the review should be scheduled for early August. This would enable members to view the progress made by the Access and GIS teams and assist with scoring and considering any comments fed back through the email inviting comments from key partners.

Action –BR to issue Doodle Poll for dates early August for focussed CPP Review meeting.

Outdoor Recreation Plan consultation

The timeline has now changed and work on preparing for the consultation will now start in October with the intention of being ready for consultation in April 2019.

AOCB

KA raised concerns regarding sheep worrying and the ongoing issues at Conic Hill. NFUS campaign "Take the Lead" is asking for a change in legislation but not stating what the changes would be. Kenny has been approached by Emma Harper MSP to discuss what the changes could be. A workshop is being held next week in Edinburgh

AE raised a proposal he had received for an operator to offer mountain bike hire at the foot of Ben Lomond. Obvious concerns voiced about the impact on paths and walkers if increased bike traffic was encouraged.

FF highlighted the high numbers of visitors to Falls of Falloch and the impact of irresponsible parking, especially if emergency services required access. One count showed 75 vehicles in one day.

CS raised concerns about 2-3 gates in the middle of the Glen Croe (Old Military Road) which are being locked and no pedestrian gates being in place.

DM BHS Access Conference will be held at the NPA HQ on 31st October. This hopes to attract and work with access professionals. Anyone wishing to attend can request to do so through Don.

DW advised that this was his last meeting as he was standing down as Board Member. Don thanked David for stepping in due to the forum losing Bob Ellis through retirement. It has been decided to wait until the full board recruitment process has been completed before seeking a new representative for the forum.

DONM

18th September at 6.30pm, NPA HQ.