

**Minutes of the meeting of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Local Access Forum
held on 9th June 2015, 5.30pm at National Park HQ, Balloch.
LAF 01/2015**

Present

Bob Ellis (VC)	Peter Baker	Sue Riches
Yvonne Boles	Will Huckerby	Chris Smith
Alasdair Eckersall	Paul Prescott	Kevin Fitzgerald

In attendance

Babs Robertson Kenny Auld

Apologies

Don Milton Bob Sparkes

Welcome and apologies

Bob Ellis chaired the meeting in the absence of Don Milton.

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held in September were approved.

AOCB

Items to be raised later under AOCB:

BE commented on the earlier site visits as being good opportunity for the Forum, providing constructive criticism and problem solving.

PB requested that the new reduced number of meetings of the Forum is not working and proposed we return to 4 meetings per year

ACTION –BR to schedule meetings for October, January, April and July

Aberfoyle PRow discussion and recommendation

KA explained the questionnaires issued and the methodology used (by Scotways) to analyse the findings. He also clarified that through the scheme of delegation, and recommendations would be submitted to Bridget Jones in the first instance. It is then up to Bridget to make a decision or escalate to the Planning & Access Committee. The owner could take the case to court if they wished to pursue it further.

The Forum agreed that the path was clearly used continuously, openly and peaceably and as a result are in support of the local community. If this was considered under LRA there would be privacy concerns. Alternative routes could come into play if necessary.

WH pointed out that until around 4 or 5 years ago the route was also waymarked. WH also abstained from voting due to conflict of interest.

ACTION –KA to check any potential legal impact of previous waymarking of woodland section

Echo Rock recommendation

Stirling Council anti-flooding works have blocked traditional access. Discussions focussed around the provision of covering the wall with a rounded smooth surface to allow kayakers to get over the wall. There were suggestions of introducing signage and which type should be introduced –or whether there should be none at all to discourage potential overuse of site. A vote on whether there should be a simple Slow Vehicles sign resulted in 4 votes for and 3 against.

Aberfoyle All Abilities Path

It was agreed that the path was far too narrow. This is merely due to vegetation creep over the path and could be rectified by a volunteer task led by the landowner to return it to the correct width. The NPA has powers under S19 of the LRA (2003) and could possibly help with works through this mechanism.

Drymen to Milton of Buchanan Path Upgrade

Concerns were raised about the path leading onto the road. The barrier was considered a Health & Safety hazard with the gradient of the path being too steep. This raises further concerns for when there is ice on the ground. Potential solutions offered were to lower the kerb and remove barrier.

Members were surprised at the width of the path and questioned the speed bumps at the far end. The width is standard (2.5m) for multi-use paths and the speed bumps were at the request of the landowner. The material used for the path is low maintenance and therefore a reduced cost over time.

Duck Bay

PB raised the issue of the gatehouse on the right hand side. This has been sold and planning permission has been sought for a boathouse. Feelings were that alternative options in very close proximity offered good public access.

Land Reform Act case updates

Drumlean –Kenny Auld was on the stand at court over 3 days regarding the case involving 3 gates and one notice. The sheriff wanted a site visit, but as **KA** was unable to attend, this was supported by our legal representative. QCs are currently finalising written submission for the Sheriff. We can expect the outcome by the end of summer.
The Wild Boar sign has now been removed.

Lake of Menteith –this dispute is still ongoing, however, the focus has to remain on the Drumlean case for now. It is worth noting, the LoM have allowed an open water swimming event.

Public Liability –the Leonard Case. This was a case where a boy had fell and sustained serious injuries. The family had taken the NPA to court questioning maintenance and standards of the section of path. Despite securing legal aid twice to continue challenging the decision taken by both judges ruled in favour of the NPA.

ORP Update

Currently concentrating on travel links.

The CNPA and LLTNPA secured £6.2m funding for a 5 year upland paths project.

ACTION –KA to provide progress report at next LLTAF meeting

NPA staff were requested to leave the room at this point to allow the Forum members to continue with a private session for the remainder of the meeting. This resulted in AOCB items not being minuted however, those raised and discussed at the start of the meeting are noted above.

DONM –TBC. Programme will be issued basing meetings on the pattern agreed at the meeting.

APPROVED