

**Minutes of the meeting of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Local Access Forum
held on 6th October 2015, 6.30pm at National Park HQ, Balloch.
LAF 02/2015**

Present

Don Milton (C)	Bob Ellis (VC)	Bob Sparkes
Yvonne Boles	Will Huckerby	Kevin Fitzgerald
Grant Dolier	Sue Riches	

In attendance

Babs Robertson	Kenny Auld	Guy Keating
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Apologies

Peter Baker	Iain Wilkinson	Paul Prescott
Chris Smith	Alasdair Eckersall	

Welcome and apologies

Don welcomed Grant Dolier to the Forum. Grant will represent Scottish Canoe Association for the remainder of this term.

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held in June were approved. An amendment will be made to rectify KF as attending.

AOCB

Items to be raised later under AOCB:

PB requested that Aldochlay and Loch Ard should be raised in his absence. Further items to be discussed are LRA amendments; Blue Book review; John Muir Way; Hill Paths Project.

Your Park update

There is currently no update to provide. NPA are awaiting decision from Scottish Ministers, expected this month (October). An additional meeting will be organised with LLTAF upon the announcement. It was discussed that there should be forum involvement to look at camping provision should the byelaws be approved, or a way forward should they be declined.

ACTION –BR to arrange meeting when response received.

Aldochlay planning application

Concerns were raised prior to the meeting about the potential for the planning application for houseboats at Aldochlay to impose on parking and launching for canoeists. However, the resubmitted application is actually favourable to other users and intends to include additional parking and an improved concrete launch strip. Each houseboat will have it's own dedicated parking so there will be no reduction in public parking availability. The full application and associated documents can be found at <http://eplanning.lochlomond-trossachs.org/OnlinePlanning/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=NU3ZCJ5IH5N00>

Beinglas

BE recounted the site visit undertaken earlier this year for the benefit of members who weren't able to attend. The general consensus is that non-motorised access should not be restricted although, for the main purpose of managing anti-social behaviour, options for compromise could be considered. These suggestions will be incorporated into a report which will form LLTAF submission of recommendation to the NPA.

ACTION –BR to collate responses and resend to BE. BE to finalise report and share with members prior to submission.

Joint LAF discussion

Stirling Council Access Officer had approached NPA with regards to a joint forum. This is due to their own forum flagging, with reduced numbers attending. This raises concerns with the legality of such a move and the logistics of either forum attending, supporting or advising on areas outwith their remit. It was suggested that it may be more beneficial to SC to offer support and advice on how to regenerate their forum and offer to have LLTAF members 'guest' at meetings to offer support and advice. It was also suggested that members of LLTAF could lobby their own organisations and suggest suitable support or representation on their forum. The potential of a joint meeting somewhere on the border was discussed and supported in principal. **ACTION –KA to contact SCLAF with DM contact information and suggestions.**

National Access Forum Local Access Forum Meeting -20th November 2015

Members should notify BR if they would like to attend as representatives of LLTAF for the meeting focussed on "Keeping your LAF Vital". There will be spaces for 2 members to attend the meeting which will take place as an all day event at Battleby, Perthshire.

ACTION –BR to email members re attendance.

Land Reform Act case updates

Drumlean –The final sheriff meeting was held on the 18th September 2015. NPA QC is happy with how it went and we can expect to hear of the final outcome by December/January. This will result in the court either upholding or denying the NPA notice or may issue a separate notice amending the original notice. LLTAF will be notified as soon as a decision is issued.

Cailness Cottage –This is now resolved with a diversion path around the house, a kissing gate installed and positive signage. It is noted that the gate isn't necessarily to the standard expected, but is functional considering its users and location. This can be addressed at a later date should complaints arise.

Mid Ross Nature Reserve –issues have arisen around abuse received by paddlers accessing the old gravel pit which can be reached when the loch level is high. There may be an opportunity to input to the management plan for the reserve, which it is believed is due for renewal. GK is looking into this and YB may have copy of original management plan.

ACTION –YB to check for management plan and send copy to GK.

Lake of Menteith –this will continue to remain on hold until the Drumlean case is finalised.

ORP Update

There are now 12 new cycle route cards available on the NPA website:

<http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/visiting/cycling/menu-id-101.html>

Arrochar to Tarbet link –the national speed limit here is a barrier to securing funding. There is a clear mandate from the community to reduce the speed limit (from 60mph to 40mph). This will hopefully be achieved by the community lobbying Transport Scotland with NPA/Sustrans support. LLTAF have agreed they are happy to support this also.

The ORP, alongside the NPA Tourism Strategy, will progress with developing walking route cards and the intention is to come away from the traditional leaflets currently in circulation to roll out route cards for many recreation activities including canoeing and horse riding.

Active Travel links are progressing with Sustrans committed to funding and NPA looking for match funding.

The upgrade to the path at Ptarmigan is expected to be completed by the end of 2015. Approximately £400k was invested in this section resulting in a much more user friendly path offering an improved visitor experience.

The new **Scotrail franchise** was awarded to Abellio who will be promoting cycling at Balloch. More information on Abellio and their vision can be read at http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk/system/files/uploaded_content/documents/tsc_basic_pages/Rail/ScotRail%20franchise/ASR%20-%20Cycle%20Innovation%20Plan%20-%20June%202015.pdf

A moorings feasibility study on Loch Lomond will be secured this financial year. This will involve contacting local stakeholders with the purpose of establishing overnight, accessible moorings for visitors to the loch which will in turn support local economy allowing the public to moor at restaurants and visitor destinations.

All abilities –STV evening news featured Park Mobility which enables visitors to currently access mobility scooters at Balloch. This scheme will be piloted at The Lodge in Aberfoyle and potentially at Loch Katrine in the future.

AOCB

Loch Ard –this is still work in progress and will be updated by KA when relevant.

LRA amendments –the bill is being reviewed by Scottish Ministers and is expected to be finalised by May 2016. There are no major shifts on rights although procedural changes, such as core path reviews, are being corrected. 80% of respondents to the review were reported as not wanting significant changes. There will also be a review of the 'Blue Book' which offers advice to Local Access Forae.

John Muir Way –DM queried as to whether many complaints or concerns had been raised regarding the route. Although this is the case within the central belt, there has been little concern within the NP area. It is becoming apparent that consultation with landowners has not been well thought through and livestock management problems are arising. It is also however, appreciated that there have been positives associated with the route, such as the funding invested in Gowk Hill. Consideration to be given to inviting Stuart Davies to submit or attend to provide an update.

The Upland Paths Project (Mountains and the People) being managed by Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust (COAT) is a 5year project which sees work on Ben A'an starting on

the 12th October 2015. This work will be carried out over 3 sections, with the first two sections hopefully completed by Easter 2016. This project was made possible by funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

DONM –19th January 2016.

Members are asked to offer suggestions for the agenda for the next meeting. Consideration should be given to route suggestions. Due to the time of year, it is unlikely to include a site visit due to potential weather conditions.

FUNIVAL