

**Minutes of the meeting of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Local Access Forum  
held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2016, 6.30pm at The Four Seasons Hotel, St Fillans.  
LAF 04/2016**

**Present**

Don Milton (C)  
Yvonne Boles  
Iain Wilkinson

Bob Ellis (VC)  
Will Huckerby  
Paul Prescott

Sue Riches  
Chris Smith  
Grant Dolier

**In attendance**

Babs Robertson  
Guy Keating

Kenny Auld

Bridget Jones

**Apologies**

Kevin Fitzgerald

**Welcome and apologies**

**DM** extended thanks to Karlene and Geoff for hosting the site visit to view the progress of the cycle path being developed from St Fillans to Lochearnhead.

**Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**Minutes of previous meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held in July were approved.

**Site visit discussion**

The first site visit looked at upgrades to the cycle path (NCN 7) at Kilmahog and was an opportunity to discuss the type and width of the path. Discussions focussed around whether or not tarmac was a suitable option, and the increasing preference for this by route managers to assist with future path maintenance and the opportunities. It provides for multi-use (prams, wheelchairs) but is a hard surface for walkers and runners. It was felt, that where possible, local consultation should take place before progressing significant surface upgrades.

Key comments that arose from this discussion were:

- There is no 'one size fits all' solution and each upgrade or path installation should be relevant to the situation and its utilisation.
- Planning permission is generally not required for path resurfacing and works may be carried out as and when budget allows (such as year end underspend opportunities)
- Consideration needs to be made on aesthetic and visual impacts, maintenance and path longevity, and existing and potential users and costs

The following visit took place at St Fillans to look at the current community led project creating a path between St Fillans and Lochearnhead as part of the Pilgrims Way/Three Saints Way, which will link up with Comrie. Despite members feeling that it required 'softening' in some areas and may take some time to recover, it was accepted that due to

the topography of the land, very steep cross slopes, and to enable the path to be created while maintaining a safe and useable path it was agreed that it was;

- Relevant to the path location and type of usage including adjacent land management activity
- A positive that it was not visible from the road or village

However, it was felt that the spec for the high parapets on the bridges was unnecessary. It was designed to ensure safety for horse riders, but the path itself isn't an ideal surface for horses (tarmac).

### **Access Team Update**

See update paper provided.

### **Outdoor Recreation Plan Review**

To date, the ORP has been successfully delivering its actions and aspirations over the last three years with 72 partners involved in achieving 25 ORP actions and 4 aspirations. Over £4.8m of funding has been drawn in from a variety of funding sources including larger scale lottery and Sustrans bids to smaller grants from Trusts and donations. The Park Authority has contributed £870k in the form of grants and contributions which has been used very effectively to lever in greater amounts, and significant support has been provided through the Access and Recreation Team. Partner organisations are now referencing the ORP in their documents and publications and it is seen as a positive and useful document.

It was proposed that the ORP becomes a standing agenda item for future LLTAF meetings as plans to review and update it progress.

### **Draft Meeting programme 2017**

**BJ** provided a draft schedule for discussion. This ties in key items for discussion with meeting dates, with the focus being:

- January meeting –National Park Partnership Plan and Drumlean review.
- April meeting – Consider CPP review and also review the Ramblers Pathwatch app.
- July meeting –Review Open Water Swimming advice leaflet and Active Travel projects.
- October meeting –LLTAF membership review.

**ACTION-** members to review document and submit comments.

**ACTION- BR** to issue Doodle Poll to find suitable date for January meeting.

### **National Park Partnership Plan**

The consultation for the next Park Partnership Plan has been rescheduled to 2017, with options being considered for a January or April start. Health & Wellbeing and the Outdoor Recreation Plan will be included in the plan. A further update will be provided once further information on the programme for consultation is available.

### **Your Park**

The Loch Chon campsite was approved at Planning and Access Committee. It has been reduced to 26 pitches. Byelaw signage proposals have been agreed and designed and the project team are liaising with the respective roads authorities.

Byelaw Supporting Systems Design

- Permit system has gone out to tender.
- Patrol/monitoring systems development underway.
- Byelaw enforcement procedures – ongoing training for staff is underway.

- Communications –currently testing systems and investigating the use of White Space, which is a means of using frequencies that have been freed up by the switch over from analogue to digital TV to increase Wi-Fi connectivity.

The NPA Board Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> October will be supplied with the Camping Development Strategy papers showing the camping provision plans for across the NP.

**ACTION – BR** to send link to papers.

#### **AOCB**

Request for information on the use of drones.

**ACTION –BR** to send recent NAF paper on drones.

**KA** requested that if required could a quote from forum be provided when the result of the Drumlean case is issued, this was agreed.

**PP** – informed forum members of Trossachs Mobility project in Callander and their plans to provide all terrain mobility “scooters” to help encourage wider participation by the less able in the outdoors. Suggested that the forum may consider as an option for a future site visit.

#### **DONM**

Date in January to be confirmed upon results of Doodle Poll.

DRAFT