

North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum

Note of Statutory Forum Meeting

Monday 2 March 2009 – Ardrossan Civic Centre, Glasgow Street, Ardrossan

Present: Luke Borwick (Chair), Bruce Davidson, Louise Dickson, PC Donna Harrison, Jean Hight, Cllr Jean Highgate (Vice Chair), Rob Loney, Sandy Miller and Kate Sampson.

Attending: PC Mark Copeland (Strathclyde Police), Rona Gibb (PfAP), Margaret Ferrier and Louise Kirk (both NAC).

Apologies: Annique Armstrong, Kenny Burns, David Clegg, Dick Sim and Gerard Tattersfield.

Welcome and introduction

Luke Borwick welcomed the group to the meeting. No issues were raised in relation to the Note of the November meeting. The group were advised that SM has been in correspondence with the AO regarding issues in relation to the promotion of the CPP and requested that a number of issues be discussed. These will be addressed under the Issues relating to the promotion of the Plan item.

Progress update

• Access and Code issues

The AO advised the group of the following issues and requested their input:

- Dogs: A number of complaints have been received from the Dalry area regarding dogs worrying sheep. These include issues at Baidlandhill Farm and Knockendon Farm. The AO advised that agreement has been obtained from Cleansing and the Country Parks Section to undertake a series of patrols in partnership with the Police and rerun the Paws for Thought initiative in the run up to the spring/summer period. The aim of this is to raise awareness of the issues and dog walkers' responsibilities. The AO reiterated to the group that it is also worthwhile bearing in mind that dog worrying is an illegal activity addressed by existing statute and that the Police should be informed of and involved in such issues. SM highlighted that landowners experiencing issues require two independent sources of evidence. DH advised that circumstantial evidence can be used. The group agreed to discuss this issue further under the Core Paths Planning item in light of SM's correspondence with the AO.
- Kelburn Avenue, Fairlie: The resident's lawyer has provided the Council with a copy of the Memorial prepared to obtain the opinion from Professor Rennie. The group agreed that they still did not feel it would be appropriate for the Council to pay for half of the opinion on the basis of the Memorial. The AO advised that the position at present is that negotiations are on-going. The AO also highlighted that local people have advised that there is considerable local interest developing in this issue in particular through the S1 Fairlie website. The group agreed that they would assist with negotiations with the landowners if required.

- Silverburn Farm: The AO advised that a response had not yet been received from Scotways regarding the information obtained from the questionnaires. It was agreed that the AO would advise the group accordingly in due course.
- Davies O' The Mill: The AO advised that this issue is still under investigation. It was agreed that the AO would advise the group accordingly in due course.
- Homecoming 2009: The AO advised that the Council has received its first application for a Section 11 Exemption Order for the Homecoming Festival 2009 at Irvine Beach Park, North. As the application is for more than 5 days the Order is subject to public consultation and would be required to be confirmed by Scottish Ministers. The AO advised that a Public Notice has been issued providing 14 days for people to comment on or object to the proposed Order. The group were provided with the details of the application and agreed that the Order should be allowed subject to no objections being raised and confirmation by Scottish Ministers. It was agreed that the AO would advise the group of the outcome as appropriate or at the next meeting.

- **Projects 2008/09**

The AO advised the group that given the timescales involved, the remainder of the Outdoor Access Budget has been allocated to purchasing signage for the Core Paths. This includes waymarkers, waymarker discs and the signage for the on-road routes.

KS advised that the Wildlife Festival project being undertaken by Arran Natural History Society has secured its funding from LEADER and is currently underway. KS agreed to ensure that the receipts for the training element of the project were passed to the AO for processing by 15 March 2009. The group agreed that this was a worthwhile project as it would train walk leaders for the Wildlife and Outdoors and Walking Festivals.

- **Projects 2009/10**

The AO reminded the group that a response is anticipated in the new financial year for the bid submitted to Sustrans to upgrade National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 73 through Ardeer Quarry in Stevenston. The group were requested to identify additional projects for 2009/10 and advise the AO of any proposals by 20 March 2009.

The AO advised the group that an approach had been received in relation to undertaking a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) on the NCN Route 7 Feasibility Study from Sustrans in partnership with the Scottish Health Impact Assessment Network and Greenspace Scotland. Greenspace Scotland will use the HIA as a demonstration of their Good Practice Guidance for HIA and open space. The AO advised that Sustrans has confirmed a further £2,500 for 2009/10 for this process. Volunteers were sought from the group to participate in the HIA process and RG agreed to assist.

The AO advised the group of the outcome of the recent meeting with the Brodick to Corrie Support Group, which is comprised of a number of different interest groups including Arran Bike Club and Strathclyde Police. Signage has been agreed for the on-road section of NCN Route 73 between Brodick and Lochranza and will be used on all on-road Core Paths. The signage has to be compliant with the Roads legislation and will be implemented by the Council's Infrastructure and Design Services on behalf of Planning Services. A copy of the signage was provided for the group's information. The AO also advised that a promotional campaign is being investigated in partnership with the Support Group, Roads and the Police. This may include a leaflet for outdoor access on the Island in partnership with the National Trust for Scotland, Forestry

Commission Scotland and Scottish Natural Heritage. It was agreed that the AO would advise the group of any progress at the next meeting.

The AO advised that Scottish Natural Heritage is no longer providing funding for the Community Outdoor Access Grant Scheme (COAGS). This is due to the changes being made regarding Local Authority funding. The funding previously available is now part of the central government allocation. The group will be asked to discuss the future of the scheme in light of this position. The group can apply separately to SNH however this would require a bank account and constitution to be developed. The group agreed that the AO should investigate the potential to secure this funding internally within the Council and advise the group of the outcome at the next meeting.

Forum development

The group discussed the fact that Visit Scotland has advised that they can no longer actively contribute to the Forum and the Garnock Canoe Club representative does not attend or respond to correspondence. KS advised that due to the current financial situation it may also be necessary for the NTS to examine their involvement with the group. The group highlighted that KS input has been invaluable and agreed to examine the timing of future meetings to reduce the burden on the organisations involved. The group also agreed to canvas substitutes to see if they would agree to fill vacant representative roles in the first instance and then to canvas potential new members where necessary. It was agreed that the AO would investigate this and advise the group of the outcome at the next meeting.

The AO advised the group that a number of Forums receive the full mailings from the National Access Forum (NAF). LB highlighted that there is quite a large amount of correspondence from the NAF but included useful information on a number of topics including wild camping and stalking. The group agreed that they would prefer to receive a summary of the information available to enable them to request any relevant information. It was agreed that a summary of the previous information would be provided at the next meeting.

- **Forum leaflet**

The AO thanked LD for her and her husband's assistance in preparing a wording for the Forum leaflet. The group considered a number of options for the design of the leaflet and agreed that this should be prepared in time for the AGM and launch of the Core Paths Plan. The group hoped that this could enable prospective representatives to be identified at the AGM. It was agreed that the AO would organise for the leaflet to be printed and distributed at the AGM and that 1,000 leaflets should be produced in the first instance.

- **Forum meetings for 2009**

The group were provided with a list of potential dates for the 2009 Forum meetings (Appendix 1). The group agreed to monitor attendance at the next few meetings and re-evaluate the timing and dates if necessary. The group agreed that the presentations proposed will be useful.

Core Path Planning

- **Production of the Core Path Plan**

The AO advised that the Core Paths Plan (CPP) is currently being finalised for issue to the printers. The group were provided with copies of the draft document and asked to highlight

any issues. The group agreed that the charges for the Plan should be set in line with the Local Plans (£50) for commercial organisations and at a lower rate (£30) for voluntary and community organisations. It was agreed that this reflected the level of input that the community and voluntary sector had made to the Plan.

It was agreed that the Plans would be provided to the Forum and key agencies/organisations free of charge to enable them to share the information within their interest groups. The AO reminded the group that the Plan will also be available on line or free of charge on CD ROM. It was agreed that the CD ROMs should be provided within the delegate packs for the AGM.

- **Launch of Core Paths Plan**

The AO advised the group that the arrangements for the AGM had been made as follows:

Date: 1 April 2009
Time: 3.00pm
Location: Ardrossan Civic Centre

LB reminded the group that the key speaker has been agreed as Richard Cooke, Convenor of the National Access Forum. It was agreed that it would be useful if Mr Cooke could provide a presentation on the NAF, its future and the potential for improved linkage with Local Outdoor Access Forums. RG also agreed to provide a presentation on life after core path planning. LB agreed to provide a presentation on the Core Paths Plan itself. The group agreed that no further presentations were necessary. The group discussed and agreed the format of the event including the order of speakers, timing and breaks. This AO advised that this would be confirmed to the group by mail and e-mail prior to the AGM.

- **Issues relating to the promotion of the Plan**

The group were advised that SM has requested that a number of issues be discussed under this item. SM highlighted some of the issues that he and other landowners have been experiencing. SM advised the group that the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS) encouraged education before promotion and reminded the group of the NFUS response to the consultation on the SNH Policy Statement on Paths. SM stated that he felt further education should be undertaken before paths were promoted. The group discussed the wide range of initiatives being undertaken at a local and national level to educate users on their responsibilities and the provisions of the Code.

The issues raised by SM were then discussed as follows:

1. If local Authorities promote the use of paths (either country roads or on landowners' property) they should take the responsibility to inform the public of safety aspects of routes: The group agreed that the promotional materials being produced will inform the public of their responsibilities in relation to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (Code), in particular that they are responsible for their own safety. The group agreed that it would be useful to have seasonal information on the Council's website e.g. information lambing time, to advise the public of appropriate information.
2. Dogs should be on leads at all times in livestock areas: The group highlighted that the Code states that you should not take dogs into fields where there are young livestock and that they should be on a short lead or under close control at all times. The group agreed that the Paws for Thought leaflet promoted responsible dog walking and ownership. The AO

reminded the group that plans were being prepared to raise awareness of the Paws for Thought initiative.

3. Avoid night time access in livestock areas where possible: The group discussed the fact that the Act provides for 24 hour access but that they are required to take extra care to respect other people's privacy and peace of mind. In addition to this, the Code states that it might be better to go into neighbouring fields or areas rather than pass through fields of animals at night. The group agreed that it was essential to promote responsible access and that the new promotional literature should assist with this.
4. High visibility clothing should be worn on Country Roads: The group agreed that a recommendation to wear high visibility clothing could be incorporated into promotional materials however it recognised that there is not a legislative basis for this. The Forum agreed that this issue should be raised with the Police and Road Safety section of the Police. The AO highlighted that the From the Horse's Mouth leaflet encourages riders to wear reflective and high visibility clothing.

Discussion arose on the difference between criminal activity and activity caused by lack of knowledge of the Code. The group discussed the fact that issues such as dog worrying, hare coursing and poaching are criminal activities and as such should be reported directly to the Police. DH highlighted that in some areas such as Tayside, Farmers act as Special Police Officers. The group agreed that it would be useful to have a separate meeting with the Police to discuss this and other issues. It was agreed that the AO would set up a meeting including RL, LB, North Ayrshire Countryside Ranger Service and Clyde Muirshiel Ranger Service. It was agreed that the AO would advise the group of the outcome of this meeting.

North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership

• Environment Partnership Update

The group were provided with a copy of RL's report on the first Environment Partnership meeting (Appendix 2). RL highlighted that the consultation had commenced on the Draft SOA Action Plan however there had been some omissions from the draft Action Plan and some issues had arose as a result of this. It was agreed that further discussion was required and would be carried out under the next agenda item.

The AO advised that the first Community Planning Week was scheduled for 18 to 22 May 09. Volunteers were sought from the group to participate in a one day event at Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre entitled the Great Green Get Together. The event will provide an opportunity to promote the Forum, Paws for Thought initiative, Core Paths Plan and path networks in general. Interested parties were requested to contact the AO by 1 May 2009.

• Draft Single Outcome Agreement Action Plan

The group were provided with a copy of the relevant sections of the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) Action Plan (Appendix 3) and noted the omissions in relation to promotion of the Core Paths Plan and wider path network as detailed in the proposed actions submitted by the AO (Appendix 4).

The group noted and welcomed the support of the Environment Partnership for the inclusion of these actions. RL advised that the Minutes of the EP meeting did not reflect the agreement that had been obtained in relation to including the promotional activities within the SOA Action Plan. He advised that he felt that this agreement had been taken out of the Minute rather than missed out and that when challenged the Community Planning Partnership had advised that it

could not be altered until the next EP meeting. This was due to the fact that the Chair had approved the Minute prior to its distribution.

RL contacted the Chair regarding this and was subsequently advised that the Minute would be changed prior to the next meeting. Discussion arose in relation to minuting and reporting procedures within the Partnership and RL advised that he would raise this at the next Partnership meeting. The group highlighted their strong dissatisfaction with this issue but reiterated that it welcomed the support from the Council.

LB advised the group that the consultation process did not provide sufficient time to discuss the response as a group. The AO provided the group with a copy of the response that was submitted regarding the consultation (Appendix 5). The group agreed that the response was appropriate. RG reiterated the importance of the SOA recognising the significance of access and the Core Paths Plan in delivering local benefits. The group agreed that it was important to have a number of hooks within the SOA therefore it is beneficial if the promotion actions can be incorporated into the Action Plan.

AOCB

- **Outdoor access and Planning:** Discussion arose in relation to outdoor access and the planning system. MF advised the group that the Core Paths Plan will be incorporated into the new Local Development Plan (LDP). The group were advised that consultation will be undertaken on the Main Issues element of the LDP at the end of 2009. The AO reminded the group that they would receive a presentation on the LDP at the December meeting.
- **Scottish Rural Development Programme:** RG reminded the group that the SRDP offers a number of funding opportunities for access related projects. These will be particularly beneficial to landowners including Local Authorities and may provide match funding for future budgets.

Close of meeting

LM thanked the group for participating in the meeting and reminded them that the next meeting will be the AGM and launch of the Core Paths Plan on 1 April 2009.

Appendix 1: Forum Meetings 2009

The following table provides a summary of the dates for the 2009 meetings:

Date	Time	Purpose of meeting	Speaker(s) and Topic(s)	Location
2 March 2009	3pm - 5.30pm	Forum Meeting	National Cycle Network Route 7 Feasibility Study: speaker to be confirmed	Ardrossan Civic Centre, Glasgow Street, Ardrossan, KA22 8EH
1 April 2009	3pm - 5.30pm	Forum AGM and Core Paths Plan Launch	Richard Cook, Convenor of the National Access Forum Rona Gibb, Paths for All Partnership	Ardrossan Civic Centre, Glasgow Street, Ardrossan, KA22 8EH
15 June 2009	9.45am - 12pm	Site visit on Isle of Arran Lunch will be provided	Not applicable	To be confirmed, Brodick, Isle of Arran
15 June 2009	1.30pm - 4.00pm	Forum Meeting		To be confirmed, Brodick, Isle of Arran
7 September 2009	3pm - 5.30pm	Forum Meeting	Local Transport Strategy: David Lodge	Ardrossan Civic Centre, Glasgow Street, Ardrossan, KA22 8EH
7 December 2009	3pm - 5.30pm	Forum Meeting	Local Development Plan: David Hammond, Planner, North Ayrshire Council	Ardrossan Civic Centre, Glasgow Street, Ardrossan, KA22 8EH

Appendix 2: Report on the North Ayrshire Environment Partnership meeting

6 February 2009

The agenda for the meeting and a list of the membership of the Environment Partnership are appended for information.

There were two main items of note on the agenda for my first partnership meeting, the Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) Action Plan and a request for involvement in the Community Planning Week

The Single Outcome Agreement Action Plan

This revision of the action plan was much more acceptable than the draft which we commented on at our last meeting. Many of the points raised by the Forum and by the Access Officer independently have been taken on board, with the major exception of any reference to the promotion of outdoor access and the core paths and wider network. I pointed out the omission and stressed that the Forum considered promotion of the network to be very important, if we were to achieve the environmental and health targets set out in the action plan. I asked that the Environment Partnership take on board our comments about promotion and include in the Action Plan promotional recommendations already put forward by the Access Officer but not as yet been taken up. The members of the Environment Partnership were very supportive of the points I made to them and agreed that they would recommend to the CPP Management Group the inclusion of the promotional items in the Plan.

Community Planning Week

The Community Planning Partnership are keen to promote the work of the Partnership to the public of North Ayrshire and have asked that each of the partnership groups come up with ideas for "events" to be held during Community Planning Week 18-22 May. A working group of the Environment Partnership was sought to discuss possible proposals. I said I would bring the matter to the Forum's attention but that I thought you would be in principal supportive and volunteered the Access Officer to represent us on the working group.

Rob Loney
North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum

North Ayrshire Environment Partnership

Date: 6 February 2009

Venue: Committee Room 2, 3rd Floor, Cunninghame House, Irvine

Time: 10.00am

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Minutes of previous meeting of former Environment Thematic Group held on 17th December 2008 (copy enclosed)

2.1 Matters Arising

3. CPP Terms of Reference (copy enclosed)

Receive presentation from Anne Todd, Community Planning Officer, on new CPP Terms of Reference

4. SOA Action Plan

Receive update from Anne Todd, Community Planning Officer on the draft SOA Action Plan.

5 CPP Update

Community Planning Week

Sandra Bale, Policy Officer will report on the proposed Community Planning Week. (copy enclosed)

6. Community Plan Action Plan Q3

Submit report by Anne Todd, Community Planning Officer on the Quarter 3 progress report on the Community Plan Action Plan. (copy enclosed)

7. AOB

8. Date of Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday 27th March 2009.
Consider any agenda items.

North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership North Ayrshire Environment Partnership Membership

Energy Agency

Liz Marquis, Director

NHS Ayrshire and Arran

Marlene McMillan, Lead Public Health Practitioner

North Ayrshire Council

Alex Anderson, Economic Development Manager, Economic Development

Sandra Bale, Policy Officer

Councillor Tom Barr (Chair)

Mairi Cunningham, Quality Improvement Officer

Damien Griffith, Principal Officer Housing

Richard Henry, Planning Officer

Iain Hossack, Policy Officer (Environment)

Yvonne Hunter, Cleansing Controller

Alex MacKenzie, Team Leader – Technical Support

Jack McConnachie, Transportation Manager

Kevin McMunn, Chief Environmental Health Officer

Cameron Sharp, Country Parks Manager

Outdoor Access Forum

Robert Loney, Representative

Scottish Natural Heritage

Jimmy Hyslop

Scottish Water

TBC

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)

Carol McGinnes, Environmental Partnership Manager

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT)

Pat Doherty, Public Transport Officer

Also In Attendance

Andy Lee, Labour Market Initiative Co-ordinator, Economic Development

Appendix 3: Draft Single Outcome Agreement Action Plan Outcomes 6e and 10c

	Ref	Description
National Outcome	6	We live longer, healthier lives
North Ayrshire Outcome	6e	People are more active more often
Community Plan Priority	2	Healthy and Active
Indicators	6e1	Percentage of primary schools providing 2 hours of PE per week
	6e2	Percentage of secondary schools providing 2 hours of PE per week
	6e3	Number of attendances per 1000 population to all local authority supported pools
	6e4	Number of attendances per 1000 population for other local authority supported indoor sports and leisure facilities, excluding pools in a combined complex
	6e5	Percentage of people who currently take part in outdoor activities as a leisure pastime

Actions <i>What needs to be done?</i>	Lead <i>Who has lead responsibility?</i>	Partners <i>Who else is to be involved?</i>	Timescale <i>When will it be completed?</i>
Develop new strategy and action plan for sport and physical activity in North Ayrshire	North Ayrshire Council, Educational Services	NAPASH Group – North Ayrshire Council, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, North Ayrshire Leisure, Sportscotland	October 2009
Evaluate Club Demonstration Project to establish a framework for supporting community sports clubs and volunteers	North Ayrshire Council, Educational Services	NAPASH Group – North Ayrshire Council, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, North Ayrshire Leisure, Sportscotland	March 2010

Actions <i>What needs to be done?</i>	Lead <i>Who has lead responsibility?</i>	Partners <i>Who else is to be involved?</i>	Timescale <i>When will it be completed?</i>
Increase number of schools providing 2 hours of PE per week	North Ayrshire Council, Educational Services	NAPASH Group – North Ayrshire Council, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, North Ayrshire Leisure, Sportscotland	June 2010
Provide support to schools and community organisations to encourage walking and cycling to school through the Go On Get Out There! and Community Outdoor Access Grant Schemes and related initiatives	North Ayrshire Council, Legal and Protective Services	North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum	March 2010
Increase access to physical and sporting activities for temporary accommodation residents	North Ayrshire Council, Property Services, Housing and Building Services	Community Health Partnership	March 2009
Deliver Year 2 of Fairer North Ayrshire Healthy and Active Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ B-Active Programme ▪ Evolution Skate Park 	North Ayrshire Leisure, North Ayrshire Council, Community/voluntary sector		March 2010

	Ref	Description
National Outcome	10	We live in well-designed, sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need
North Ayrshire Outcome	10c	The condition of roads, footways, path networks and lighting has improved
Community Plan Priority	6	Clean and Green
Indicators	10c1	Percentage of roads network that should be considered for maintenance treatment
	10c2	Proportion of street lighting columns that are over 30 years old
	10c3	Percentage of core paths that are accessible, sign posted and promoted
	10c4	Percentage of footways that are litter free; obstacle free; intact surfaces; good signage; minimum 2m width

Actions <i>What needs to be done?</i>	Lead <i>Who has lead responsibility?</i>	Partners <i>Who else is to be involved?</i>	Timescale <i>When will it be completed?</i>
Invest sufficient funding in road and footway resurfacing to improve conditions on all public roads maintained by the Council in terms of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984	North Ayrshire Council, Property Services, Infrastructure and Design Services		
Prepare and operate a maintenance regime to reduce year on year the percentage of road network requiring maintenance treatment.	North Ayrshire Council, Property Services, Infrastructure and Design Services		
Reduce the percentage of street lighting columns within the network that are over 30 years old by a programme of column replacement.	North Ayrshire Council, Property Services, Infrastructure and Design Services		
Prepare and implement Year 1 of the improvements and signage scheme for the Core Paths network	North Ayrshire Council, Legal and Protective Services	North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum	March 2010
Prepare and implement an improvements and signage scheme for the wider path network and associated infrastructure within Council ownership	North Ayrshire Council, Legal and Protective Services	North Ayrshire outdoor Access Forum	March 2010
Review the existing provision for outdoor access within strategic Council owned parks and open spaces to identify opportunities for improvement and inform the preparation of funding applications.	North Ayrshire Council, Legal and Protective Services, Environment and Related Services	North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum	March 2010
Review the inspection and maintenance requirements of the existing path network within Council ownership and prepare a maintenance scheme for paths and associated infrastructure.	North Ayrshire Council, Environment and Related Services, Infrastructure and Design Services	North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum	March 2010

Appendix 4: Planning Services proposed actions for the Single Outcome Agreement Action Plan

The actions in relation to the implementation and promotion of the Core Paths Plan and Outdoor Access Strategy are most appropriately split across two outcomes as follows:

Outcome 6e: People are more active, more often

Outcome 10c: The condition of roads, footways, path networks and lighting has improved.

The indicators for these outcomes demonstrate the split as follows:

Indicator 6e5: Percentage of people who currently take part in outdoor activities as a leisure pastime.

Indicator 10c3: Percentage of core paths that accessible, signposted and promoted.

The proposed outdoor actions have been agreed with Roads and Transportation Services and Grounds Maintenance as a number of the routes fall within their responsibility/maintenance. The proposed actions are as follows:

Outcome 6e: People are more active, more often

Overarching actions:

Action	Responsible service
Implement Year 1 of the North Ayrshire Core Paths Plan	Planning Services
Implement Year 5 of the North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Strategy	Planning Services
Promote outdoor activities such as walking and cycling within North Ayrshire through the implementation and promotion of the Core Paths Plan, School Travel Plans, Outdoor Access Strategy and other initiatives.	Planning Services and Roads and Transportation Services

More specific actions:

Action	Responsible Service
Prepare and implement Year 1 of a promotional scheme for the Core Paths Plan including the production of path network leaflets and web based information	Planning Services
Promote the use of the wider path network through improved signage and the production of promotional materials.	Planning Services
Provide support to Schools and Community organisations to encourage walking and cycling to school through the Go On Get Out There! and Community Outdoor Access Grant Schemes and related initiatives	Planning Services and Roads and Transportation Services

Outcome 10c: The condition of roads, footways, path networks and lighting has improved

Overarching actions:

Action	Responsible Service
Implement Year 1 of the North Ayrshire Core Paths Plan	Planning Services
Implement Year 5 of the North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Strategy	Planning Services

More specific actions:

Action	Responsible Service
Prepare and implement Year 1 of the improvements and signage scheme for the Core Paths network	Planning Services
Prepare and implement an improvements and signage scheme for the wider path network and associated infrastructure within Council ownership	Planning Services
Review the existing provision for outdoor access within strategic Council owned parks and open spaces to identify opportunities for improvement and inform the preparation of funding applications.	Grounds Maintenance and Planning Services
Review the inspection and maintenance requirements of the existing path network within Council ownership and prepare a maintenance scheme for paths and associated infrastructure.	Grounds Maintenance and Roads and Transportation Services

Please note that a review of the existing core paths and wider path network will be undertaken in 09/10 to inform the preparation of the schemes. For the purposes of this note Services are in alphabetical order rather than indicating a lead Service.

Access Officer
January 2009

North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum
c/o Access Officer
Planning Services
Perceiton House
Irvine
KA11 2DE

Justina Murray
Community Planning Co-ordinator
North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership
Cunninghame House
Irvine
KA11 2DE

25 February 2009

Dear Ms Murray,

Consultation Response: Draft Single Outcome Agreement (SOA) Action Plan

The Outdoor Access Forum welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Draft SOA Action Plan and would like to thank the Community Partnership for taking a number of its comments on the Draft SOA into account in its formulation. Please note that the response provided in this letter was also outlined by the Forum's Representative on the Environment Partnership at the 6 February 2009 meeting. The Forum also welcomes the support of the Environment Partnership for the inclusion of the additional actions proposed in this response within the final SOA Action Plan.

The Forum welcomes the inclusion of the actions in relation to outdoor access within Outcome 10c. However, we would recommend that the Community Planning Partnership reconsider the inclusion of the following actions proposed for inclusion within the Action Plan for Outcome 6e - People are more active, more often:

- Prepare and implement Year 1 of a promotional scheme for the Core Paths Plan including the production of path network leaflets and web based information
- Promote the use of the wider path network through improved signage and the production of promotional materials.

Please find enclosed a copy of the Actions proposed by the Access Officer on behalf of Planning Services and the Outdoor Access Forum for your reference. It should be noted that these actions will form the basis of the Forum's activities for the next two years.

In our opinion the promotion of the Core Paths Plan and wider path network is an intrinsic factor in encouraging local people to become more active, more often. The benefits of walking and cycling in terms of health and physical activity are well documented. Walking in particular is often described as the perfect exercise by

health professionals. Both activities require little or no special equipment, can be undertaken from your doorstep at any time and are therefore ideal way for most people to become more active. In addition to this the importance of walking and cycling in encouraging people to be more active, more often is recognised by a wide range of organisations and their plans, policies and strategies.

The Forum is confident that the promotion of the Core Paths Plan and wider path network will raise awareness and encourage the use of the path networks by a wide range of individuals. In our experience these individuals will range from more sedentary individuals who may be encouraged to walk as part of a healthier lifestyle through the production of health walk leaflets to the more active individual who may be encouraged to walk or cycle to work in preference to taking the car or to utilise the longer distance routes for health improvement or recreation.

In our opinion the inclusion of these actions will also assist in improving the results obtained from the indicator: Percentage of people who currently take part in outdoor activities as a leisure pastime. The Forum believes that the inclusion of these actions is essential within this outcome particularly as it is supported not only by the Forum but by the Council's Planning Services and the Environment Partnership of the Community Planning Partnership.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to comment on the draft SOA Action Plan. We look forward to working with you on the implementation of the final Plan.

Yours Sincerely,

Luke Borwick
Chair, North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum

Enc. Single Outcome Agreement Action Plan - Outdoor Access Actions for 2009/10

C.c. North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum