

North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum

Note of Statutory Forum Meeting

6th June 2006 at Ardrossan Civic Centre, Glasgow Street, Ardrossan

- Present:** Luke Borwick, David Clegg, Frank Corcoran, Jean Highet, Rob Loney, Norman MacGilvray, James Muir, Kate Sampson and Councillor Donald Reid
- Attending:** Geoff Atkins (SNH), Diana Holt and Rona Gibb (PfAP) Margaret Ferrier and Louise Kirk (NAC)
- Apologies:** Bruce Davidson, Louise Dickson, Peter Downes, Gerrard Tattersfield, Dick Sim, Alex Millar, John McFarlane and Gordon Clark (NAC)

Welcome

The Chair welcomed the group to the meeting and highlighted that although it had only been a short while since the last meeting that this was the best date to avoid the majority of the holiday period. The Chair also welcomed Diana Holt, the new Project Officer for North Ayrshire from the Paths for All Partnership (PfAP). The group was advised that Rona Gibb would be concentrating more on managing the PfAP team and addressing strategic issues now that the team has returned to a full compliment of staff. The group thanked Rona for her contributions and support to date and looked forward to working with Diana in the near future.

Progress update

The group was provided with a summary of the Scottish Executive (SE) Monitoring Form submitted in May 2006 (provided as Appendix A to this Note). The group were advised that this identified the total spend made on outdoor access for 2005/06 not only by Development and Promotion but also by Education and Grounds Maintenance and noted the report.

- Projects 2006-07

The group was provided with a list of potential projects brought forward for consideration, in addition to those discussed during May's meeting. The AO advised that Friday's meeting with Sustrans might also identify projects for 2006/07 and JH agreed to represent the Forum at this meeting. The projects discussed were:

1. All ability improvements works – Which would result in a wide range of small scale improvements being made that would benefit all abilities to the National Cycle Network Routes 7 and 73 and the New Town Trail. These would include removing barriers, replacing kerbs on path edges with dropped kerbs, improved signage and information. This would provide increased access opportunities to less able or disabled residents and visitors.
2. West Kilbride Path Network – Which has arisen through a request from the community and Local Member for signage and waymarking, similar to that in Dalry and Largs, for West Kilbride. The aim of this is to highlight the existing networks of paths to local residents and visitors and to encourage increased usage.
3. Blackwaterfoot to Kilpatrick path, Arran – Which would create a path, which would start at the rear of the Kinloch Hotel and run for 1km round the bay to the Preaching Cave at Kilpatrick. The estimated cost is £6,000 and permissions still need to be obtained. This type of path is identified in the AAT strategy as a priority for Arran in that it links two communities and provides access to the coastline.

The group discussed the merits of each project and agreed that the AO should investigate each one further and provide detailed estimates at the next meeting. It was highlighted that the potential cost of the Blackwaterfoot path could be much higher than the estimate.

The second section of route at Brodick Seafront was discussed but it was appreciated that the estimated cost for construction was considerably larger than the Outdoor Access budget. The AO agreed to monitor the progress of the route and securing funding with the Brodick Improvements Committee and keep the group informed of progress.

The AO advised that it would be appreciated if any additional projects could be raised in the near future to allow them to be considered before the next meeting of the group.

- Access and Code issues

The AO advised that a few issues in relation to the Code and Act had arisen since the last meeting of the Forum. These have mostly been regarding the extent of responsible access rights and confusion over issues relating to title deeds such as vehicular access over private roads. The main queries were:

1. A query raised by the owners of an area of woodland in Largs, which is outwith the curtilage of the houses, as they were unsure whether the land would be within the access rights. From the maps provided it would appear that access rights would apply and the AO advised that she would undertake a site visit to confirm this and advise the Forum at the next meeting.
2. An issue which occurred on a track over some fields near Longbar, where users were approached by an unknown person and asked to leave. The users advised the person that they believed they were within their rights under the Act and referred to the Code. The AO issued a copy of the code to the users who were approached again by the same individual and asked to leave despite highlighting what the Act and Code advised. The person refused to give their name but accepted a note of the AO's number and said they would get in touch. The group suggested that a site visit may be beneficial and LB agreed to accompany the AO.
3. A private roadway/track on the edge of Kilwinning which is used by neighbouring householders walking to and from the station.
4. An enquiry from the Scottish Golf Union for information on the Outdoor Access Forum and its membership. The group was provided with an outline of the proposed response to the SGU and agreed that it would welcome applications for membership from SGU members and golf courses. The AO advised that a copy of the response would be circulated to the group with the Note of the meeting.

LB highlighted the issues that had been in the news in relation to a golf course in Prestwick (South Ayrshire). The group discussed which interest group golf courses should fall within. It was agreed that as golf was not covered as a recreational interest by the Act it would be best to include it under land management. The group discussed issues of privacy and curtilage and there was a feeling that this was not well enough defined within the Act or Code.

LB advised the group that the Garnock Valley Habitat and Access Survey undertaken by the Ayrshire Rivers Trust had identified a number of potential improvements to rivers and riverbanks. The AO reminded the group that this study was in part funded from the Outdoor Access Budget.

Core Path Planning update

The group was advised that Toolkits would be available for collection at the event and were asked to disseminate information about them to their interest groups. The AO highlighted that the Training Event was a success and was attended by a wide range of organisations. A list of organisations was supplied to the group (Appendix B).

The group was advised that the Access Surveys will be analysed in partnership with East Ayrshire and the Path Survey forms will be analysed on an area basis. A public advert was placed in the Ayrshire

Classified in partnership with East Ayrshire and press releases are being sent to the Arran Banner and the Largs and Millport Weekly News. The AO advised that if these were not published NAC would consider the requirement for further public notices however it should be noted that press releases are also published on the Council's website.

The group were advised that the official close of the consultation is 8th September 2006 and any Forum member requiring additional time to utilise the Toolkit should advise the AO as soon as possible.

Review of the Forum

The group was supplied with a draft application form (Appendix C) for potential Forum members and a list of potential organisations that could be approached. The group agreed that the form appeared appropriate, should be renamed "Application Form" and should be circulated widely. The group was asked to identify any missing organisations and highlighted a number of changes to the list and additional groups, a copy of the amended list is supplied as Appendix D. The group was advised that information would also be posted on Navigate, issued as press releases and the group was asked for to promote the recruitment drive within their interest groups.

Forward Planning

The group was advised that this session aimed to identify whether the group has any ideas for future work for the Forum including:

1. Site visits to examine the potential projects – the group agreed that this was appropriate and that the AO should arrange visits and advise the group of dates. Any members available on those dates could then attend.
2. Significant dates to be added to the Diary – the group agreed that at present there were no additional dates to be added to the 2006/07 diary other than the consultation deadlines.
3. Potential dates for 2007/08 meetings – the group agreed that five meetings should be held next year. These should be in February, April, June, September and November. The group felt that this should tie in with the Core Path Planning process and that it was best to set a date and set a venue around this.
4. Training – The group felt that at present there were no specific training needs. RG highlighted that both SNH and PfAP undertake training programmes that may be of interest to Forum Members. The AO agreed to obtain copies of these and to circulate them to the group. RG also highlighted that there may be merit in investigating Living Streets training for the group. The AO agreed to examine this further and advise the group accordingly.

AOCB

- JH advised that the bridge over the Gogo Burn at Largs has been vandalised resulting to damage to the planks. The AO agreed to highlight this to CMRP and raise it with the landowners.
- The issue of wind farms and their link to outdoor access opportunities was raised. RL enquired about opportunities to link in with this and suggested that a presentation on wind farms would be useful for the group. The group was advised that Economic Development were dealing with the Community Trust Funds set up to disseminate funds from wind farms for community benefit. The group was advised that there had been a successful open day recently at the wind farm. The AO agreed to investigate this further and advise the group accordingly.
- The group was advised by the AO that the Community Planning Partnership's web pages included a link to the North Ayrshire 4 Funding site, which identifies a wide range of funding opportunities for groups.
- The issue of dog walking and dog fouling was raised. RG highlighted that SNH had produced new leaflets and posters regarding this. The AO advised that further copies had been requested and would be circulated to the group. RG suggested that there could be benefit in undertaking some publicity with the Dog Fouling Enforcement Officer regarding this issue. The AO agreed to investigate this and advise the group of the outcome.

Close of meeting

The Chair thanked the group for their continued involvement and commitment and remind them to pick up their Toolkit.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that meetings should commence at 3.15pm with tea and coffee available from 3pm. The next three meetings have been agreed as follows:

- Friday 22nd September
- Friday 1st December

The dates for 2007 meetings will be organised for the September meeting.

APPENDIX A: SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE MONITORING RETURN – MAY 2006

SECTION 1 - General Questions and Core Path Plans: To cover the period 1 October 2005 to 31 March 2006

The purpose of this section of the form is to gather information on local access forums, outdoor access strategies and paths including core path plans.

Local Access Forums

1a) How many meetings have there been of the Local Access Forum(s) established under Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003? (If none note 'none') Please provide details in the box below:

One in November 2005.

Outdoor Access Strategy

2a) Does your authority have an Outdoor Access Strategy? **YES**

2b) If yes, when was it adopted? :
If 'in preparation' for the first time, when is it expected to be adopted?

MM/YYYY
09/2004

2c) When do you plan to review it? :

MM/YYYY
09/2007

Paths

3) Please record the total length of all paths and tracks signposted or waymarked for non-motorised access in the access authority area:

224
Kms

Core Paths Plan

4a) What are the access authority target dates for drawing up of a core paths plan?

MM/YYYY	
Start of public ('informal') consultations	10/05
Start of section 18(1) ('formal') consultation	04/07
Adoption of core paths plan	02/08

4b) If there has been any slippage in this target since your last return please provide details:

Not applicable

If the core path plan has not yet been adopted proceed to question 6.

5a) If the core path plan is adopted, please provide the total length of core paths:

Kms

5b) If the core path plan is adopted, please provide the length of core paths signposted or waymarked:

Kms

5c) If the core path plan is adopted, please provide the total length of core paths that the access authority maintains:

Kms

SECTION 2 - Exercise of duties and powers
For the period 1st October 2005 to 31st March 2006

The purpose of this section of the form is to gather information on the exercise of the various powers, which the access authority has under Part 1 of the Act. When completing this section of the form, you may therefore wish to refer to the Act and to the guidance, which was issued by the Scottish Executive to all access authorities in February 2005.

6) Please provide the number of Orders made by the authority under section 11 of the Act, which have exempted land from access rights for less than 6 days (include a description of the reasons for each):

Total number issued – 0
Location , reason – Not applicable

Please provide for this period:

7a) the number of written notices served under section 14 of the Act:

7b) the number of written notices served under section 15 of the Act:

8) the number of notices served under section 23 of the Act:

9) the number of land purchase agreements under section 16 of the Act:

10) the number of land purchase orders under section 16 of the Act:

11) the number of new path agreements concluded under section 21 of the Act:

11a) the number of new path orders concluded under section 22 of the Act

12) Judicial determination - Number of summary applications served on the access authority under section 28 of the Act:

Total number – 0
Location , subject - Not applicable

SECTION 3 - Outline of expenditure

Expenditure in last year (1st April 2005 to 31st March 2006)

The purpose of section 3 of the form is to gain an outline of total expenditures incurred by the access authority under Part 1 of the Act for the financial year concerned.

Please provide:

14a) the total expenditure on all path capital works (capital) by the access authority:

£ **107,303**

14b) the total capital expenditure from other sources (matched funding) which accompanied that capital expenditure by the access authority:

£ **128,000**

14c) the total expenditure on path maintenance works (revenue) by the access authority:

£ **106,400.33**

15a) the number of cases and the total expenditure under section 14(3) (removals of signs, remedial action)

No of cases	0	£	0	total
-------------	----------	---	----------	-------

15b) the number of cases and the total expenditure under section 23(4)(b) (recoverable reinstatement costs)

No of cases	0	£	0	total
-------------	----------	---	----------	-------

If a core path plan has not yet been adopted, please proceed to question 17

16a) If core path plan is adopted, the total core path capital works expenditure:

£

16b) If core path plan is adopted, the total core path maintenance works expenditure:

£

17a) Total number of access officers:

	1	Full time
	0	Part time
	1	Total FTE

17b) Total expenditure on access officer employment costs:

£ **43,274.62**

18) Please provide a note of total running costs for each local access forum(s) (excluding the staff costs identified at question 17b):

£ 550

19) Please provide total expenditure on publicising the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, as required under section 10(7) of the Act:

£ 2,500

Other expenditure not listed above

20) Please provide details of all other relevant costs relating to the Act:

Public Notice (Strategy Launch and Forum AGM): £358.80
Community Outdoor Access Grant Scheme: £2,500 from NAC Development and Promotion with £2,500 match funding from SNH
Go On Get Out There Grant Scheme: £4,000 (from Development and Promotion, Education and Roads)
Outdoor Access Toolkit as part of the core path planning process with East Ayrshire Council: Total cost £8040.40 – NAC contribution £3020.20 with £1,000 funding from both PfAP and SNH
Outdoor Access Event with East and South Ayrshire Councils: £250 contribution from NAC
Stevenston Beach LNR launch: £1185.71 with £500 from SNH
Production of Section 11 leaflet: £320
Membership of Scotways: £200
Membership of Arran Access Trust: £100
Contribution towards Habitat and Access Survey of River Garnock: £3,335
Production of leaflets and signage for various locations: £7,000
£ 21,769.71 (Excluding match funding) Total

APPENDIX B: TOOLKIT EVENT – PARTICIPANTS AND TOOLKIT USERS

25th May 2006

Forename	Surname	Organisation	Toolkit users	Authority
Mark	Davies	East Ayrshire Woodlands	No	Ayrshire wide
Diana	Holt	Paths for All Partnership	Yes	Ayrshire wide
Derek	Mullins	Sustrans	Yes	Ayrshire wide
Christine	Jeffers	Cunninghame Ramblers	No (JH)	North Ayrshire
Frank	Corcoran	Cumbræ Walking Group	Yes + school	North Ayrshire
Norman	MacGilvray	West Kilbride Amenity Society	Yes	North Ayrshire
Susan	Lennox	Cycling/Riding	Yes	North Ayrshire
Margaret	Ross	Dean Castle Riding Centre	Yes	East Ayrshire
Louise	Dickson	Irvine Community Council	Yes	North Ayrshire
Ian	Hall	Mauchline Community Council	Yes	East Ayrshire
James	Perman	Largs Community Council	Yes	North Ayrshire
George	Stevenson	OIR Three Towns	Yes	North Ayrshire
Andrew	Hale	North Ayrshire Council	No	North Ayrshire
Pat	Somerville	BHS	Yes	Ayrshire wide
Rennie	Mason	SWT	Yes	Ayrshire wide
Oswald	Wardrop	Carlung Estate	No	North Ayrshire
Alan	Atkins	East Ayrshire Council	No	East Ayrshire
Ian	Scade	East Ayrshire Council	No	East Ayrshire
Julian	Thorpe	East Ayrshire Council	No	East Ayrshire
Jean	Highet	RA Cunninghame Group	Yes	North Ayrshire
Julie	Crook	Beith Community Council	Yes	North Ayrshire
James	Muir	Kilbirnie Community Council	Yes	North Ayrshire
Suzanne	Gracie	East Ayrshire Access Forum	Yes	East Ayrshire
Graham	Wilson	Cunninghame Ramblers	Yes	North Ayrshire
Rob	Loney	BHS/CRAAG	Yes	North Ayrshire
Jean	Gilbert	Accessibility	Yes	North Ayrshire
As above		Garnock Valley Disability Forum	Yes	North Ayrshire
As above		Barrmill and Beith CC	Yes	North Ayrshire
Ronald	Cooper	Fairlie Old Ramblers	No	North Ayrshire
Drew	Moyes	Ayrshire Cyclists Touring Club	Yes	Ayrshire wide
Joan	Stewart	VisitScotland	Yes (kayak)	Ayrshire wide

SUMMARY

The total number of delegates attending the event was 30 and this was split as follows:

Authority area	Attending event	Toolkit users
Ayrshire wide	7	6
North Ayrshire	17	13
East Ayrshire	6	3
TOTAL		22

North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum**Application Form****1. What outdoor-related activities are you interested in/do you take part in?**

Walking **Cycling** **Horse Riding** **Canoeing**
Hill walking **Land management** **Running/Jogging**

**Other
specify**

Please

2. Which interest group would you wish to represent?

Access Users **Agencies**
Communities **Land owners/managers**

3. Please provide an outline of your experience in relation to outdoor access**4. Please outline the types of skills and contributions you could offer to the Forum****5. Please outline the ways in which you would ensure that you are representative of your interest group?**

Thank you for completing this questionnaire.



NORTH AYRSHIRE
COUNCIL

CONTACT INFORMATION

Data Protection Act 1998

The Council regards your privacy as important and undertake to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. In particular, we will:

- Only use personal information for the purposes for which it is provided.
- Only hold your information for as long as necessary to fulfil these purposes.
- Not pass information on to any other party unless this is made clear to you.

All employees who have access to your personal data or are associated with the handling of that data are obliged to comply with relevant legislation, guidelines and codes of practice as may be developed from time to time.

The Council may use anonymised content of communications in order to review and improve our overall service to the public.

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Please state your preferred method of contact:

Mail

E-mail

Telephone

Please provide details of any special requirements you have. E.g. If you require information in large print or Braille.

APPENDIX D: CONSULTATEES FOR OUTDOOR ACCESS TOOLKIT

Organisations to be consulted through the Forum

Air Na Creagan Mountaineering Club
Arran Bike Club
Arran Estates
Beith and District Community Council
British Horse Society
Cumbrae Initiative Group
Cunninghame Ramblers Group
East Ayrshire Woodlands
Garnock Canoe Club
Irvine Community Council
Kelburn Country Centre
National Farmers Union Scotland
National Trust for Scotland
North Ayrshire Council for Voluntary Services
Scottish Agricultural College
Scottish Rural Property and Business
Strathclyde Police
West Kilbride Amenity Society

Additional consultation: The following organisations were invited to the Toolkit Training Event and a follow up letter will hopefully generate support and use of the Toolkit.

Agencies

Arran Tourist Information Centre
Ayrshire and Arran Woodland Partnership
Forestry Commission Scotland
Scottish Agricultural Department
Ayrshire and Arran Health Board
Scottish Agricultural College
North Ayrshire Council for Volunteer Services
Arran Council for Volunteer Services
Local Angling Clubs (Kilwinning, Dalry, etc)
Ayrshire Rivers Trust

The Forestry Commission has agreed to provide digitised information on all routes funded through the SFGS and WIAT schemes to assist the audit process. It has also been suggested that a small training session on Arran would be useful. The date for this will be confirmed in the near future.

Arran Improvements Committees

Brodick Improvements Committee
Shiskine Valley Trust
Brodick Improvements Association
Whiting Bay Improvements Committee
Kilmory Hall
Kildonnann Hall
Whiting Bay Improvements Committee
Lamlash Improvements Committee
Arran Tourist Association
Machrie Village Improvement group
Corrie and Sannox Improvements Committee
Lamlash Improvements Committee
Shiskine Valley Trust/ Harbour Association
Whiting Bay Improvements Committee
Lochranza Improvements Committee

Whiting Bay Improvements Committee
Pirnmill Improvements Committee

Community Organisations

Ardrossan Community Council
Arran Community Council
Bourtreehill and Broomlands Age Concern
Bourtreehill Community Association
Dalry Community Council
Fairlie Community Council
Kilwinning Community Council
Saltcoats Community Council
Skelmorlie Community Council
Stevenston Community Council

Landowners/Managers

Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park
National Farmer's Union
CKD Galbraith
Forest Enterprise (Arran only)

Access Users

Arran Access Trust
Arran Horse Riders
Millport Marine Biological Station
Kilwinning Sports Club
Irvine Sports Club
North Ayrshire Riding Club
Scotways