

## **North Ayrshire Outdoor Access Forum**

### **Note of Statutory Forum Meeting**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup> December 2006 at Ardrossan Civic Centre, Glasgow Street, Ardrossan**

**Present:** Luke Borwick, Bruce Davidson, Louise Dickson, Jean Highet, Rob Loney, Alex Millar, Kate Sampson, Dick Sim and Councillor Donald Reid

**Attending:** Charles Woodward (CMRP), Cameron Sharp and Louise Kirk (all NAC)

**Apologies:** David Clegg, Rona Gibb (PfAP), John McFarlane, Jim Muir, Dick Sim, Gerard Tattersfield, Margaret Ferrier and Gordon Clark (both NAC)

#### **Welcome**

The Chair, Councillor Donald Reid welcomed the group to the meeting and highlighted that this was the final meeting of 2006.

#### **Progress update**

##### **• Projects 2006-07**

The AO advised the group that the additional £10k has been confirmed and that the Council has agreed a three-year Capital Programme of £50k per annum from 2007/08. The group was then provided with an outline of the spend/proposed spends for 2006/07 as follows:

#### **Existing Commitments**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost (£)</b>
Community Outdoor Access Grant Scheme	2500
Go On – Get Out There! Grant Scheme	1500
Scotways subscription	200
Arran Access Trust subscription	100
Engineers Services (NCN upgrade)	3500
Retentions from 05/06	1550
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9350</b>

#### **All abilities improvements**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Approximate cost (£)</b>
Installation of a dropped kerb at Moorpark Road East	500
5 thermoplastic directional signs on path surface	500
2 new "responsible access signs"	200
Realignment of access controls/resurfacing at Longford Avenue	1365
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2565</b>

#### **West Kilbride Project**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Approximate cost (£)</b>
Production and installation of two new map boards(A0)	2175
Production of a new leaflet (10000 at A3 or at A2)	1565
3 new "responsible access" signs to replace existing signs (A2)	300
Upgrade of steps	TBC
Upgrade of path (Kirktonhall Glen)	TBC
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TBC</b>

The AO advised that a successful application was made to SNH for £750 towards the Responsible Dog Ownership/Walking project identified at the September meeting. Cleansing have agreed to part fund the project and to supply the dog tidy bags. The project will include:

- Production and distribution of a responsible dog owner leaflets and posters
- Purchase and distribution of incentive give-aways e.g. dog reflectors and poo bags
- A North Ayrshire wide competition through the local press with prizes donated from a corporate sponsor (Gibb of Galston)
- Increased patrols from the Dog Wardens to promote the message to communities

The AO also advised that the application to Sustrans for funding for phase 3 of the Go On – Get Out There! (GOGOT) scheme has been successful. £19,000 has been secured to reprint the School's leaflet for both Primary and Secondary Schools, provide every Primary School child with reflective materials e.g. slap wraps, adjustable cross belts and bicycle reflectors, improve cycle marking in playgrounds and promote road safety through specially prepared plays. The AO advised that applications for the next round of the Tackling the School Run fund will be required in January 2007 and asked for suggestions.

### • **Access and Code issues**

The AO highlighted that the main issues since September have been in relation to path surfaces and conditions and have been addressed through the relevant sections of the Council. LB advised that he had attended SNH's Public Access and Land Managers' workshop with the AO and provided with a summary of the topics covered and the main issues raised. The workshop included quick reference guidance for land managers and case studies, which were worked through in groups.

Discussion arose on the suitability of the dates chosen by SNH for the Outdoor Access Festival. There was a general consensus of opinion that this was one of the most sensitive times for both wildlife and farming but it was recognised that the week was aimed at encouraging organised and sensitively planned events rather than general access to the outdoors. The AO advised that the potential for an Ayrshire wide event was being investigated with a wide range of local organisations.

Discussion also arose on the issue of narrow roads and the safety of pedestrians with changes in verge management. RL highlighted that these changes have resulted in reduced availability of verges and right-angled ditches which poses problems for access users trying to avoid traffic at narrow points. It was recognised that this is more of a road safety issue than an access issue and the Chair highlighted that the Scottish Road Safety Forum has been examining this issue and rural speed limits. The group agreed that reflective clothing was beneficial in these situations and that there was an issue in terms of education for users and Roads departments. The AO agreed to advise NAC Roads Services accordingly.

The group was then provided with a summary of the return made in October to the Scottish Executive (Appendix A) and advised that the next return is due in April/May 2007.

### **COAGS Round 2 assessment**

The group was provided with a summary of the applications received for the second round of COAGS (Appendix B) and agreed the works to be funded. The group agreed that the application deadlines would be adhered to more rigidly for the 2007/08. The AO advised that the scheme's success to date would be evaluated in 2007/08 to determine whether or not it should be continued and therefore whether or not a further application to SNH would be required.

### **Forum development**

The AO advised that the full compliment of applications would be available for the February meeting. Three further suggestions for Landowner/manager representatives were proposed namely Oswald Wardrop of Carlung Estate (by LB), Alistair Logan from Holehouse Farm (by AM), and Andy Walker of the Forestry Commission. RL highlighted that Pat Sommerville, the BHS Access Officer, was willing to be an access user substitute.

LB highlighted that it was essential for the group to examine the new good practice guidance and decide what this means for the Forum e.g. if any changes are required in light of its recommendations. It was agreed that this would be included in the agenda and discussed in detail at the February meeting.

The AO advised the group of the change of room from the Lounge to the Main Hall for the 2007 meetings and that the Arran meeting will be the June meeting. A morning site visit will be included on the agenda for the Arran meeting.

### **Outdoor Access Toolkit update**

The group was shown a map highlighting a selection of the routes identified to date and the AO advised that the survey responses were being collated and analysed. The AO highlighted that new access related questions had been incorporated into the Community Planning Partnership's People's Panel survey. LB provided the group with a summary of the People's Panel session that he had attended with the AO and highlighted that this information would be useful for the core path planning process. The AO advised that a summary of the responses was provided alongside the information for the next agenda item.

The AO advised that the COSLA Excellence Award application has been long leeted and that the short leet would be announced before Christmas. The Chair congratulated the group on this success. LB highlighted that the SRPBA has produced a fact sheet to encourage landowners/managers to engage in the core path planning process. The AO advised that a copy would be provided with the Notes of the meeting.

### **Core Path Selection Criteria**

The AO provided the group with examples of the potential types of selection criteria for the Core Paths Plan (CPP) for discussion (Appendix C). Discussion arose on addressing the high priorities identified in the Outdoor Access Strategy and BD highlighted the importance of considering sustainability issues when identifying the core paths.

JH provided the group with information from Stirling Council's CPP process and RL highlighted the range of approaches that a number of Authorities were taking. CW advised that Inverclyde Council's CPP is based on criteria and that Renfrewshire Council are adopting a different approach. Furthermore he advised that the Regional Park are happy to support the CPP process.

The group agreed that a smaller group would meet in January/February 07 to discuss this further and fully examine the information and range of approaches. RL, LB, JH and a representative from Arran, possibly KS or DS, agreed to attend the meeting. The AO agreed to arrange a time and venue and advise participants in due course.

### **AOCB**

- Woodland issues

Discussion arose on the number of community woodlands being developed in North Ayrshire and in particular the woodlands around Brodoclea. The AO agreed to investigate the linkage between these woods and towns/paths further and advise the group accordingly.

### **Close of meeting**

Councillor Donald Reid thanked the group for their continued involvement and commitment and reminded the group that this was the deadline for the Toolkits return. The group was advised that all extensions to this deadline need to be agreed with the AO in the near future.

### **Access Officer, January 2007**