

# NORTH LANARKSHIRE OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM



**Acting Chair:** Hayley Andrew.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28TH APRIL 2016  
ROOM 1, GARTLEA COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

**Present:** Hayley Andrew (**HA**), [NLC Senior Access Officer]; Mark Palmer (**MP**) [NLC Access Officer]; Hugh Ilgunas (**HI**) [NLC Access Officer]; Paul Carter (**PC**) [Kilsyth and Villages Community Forum]; Ian Jarvis (**IJ**) [Friends of Kelvin Valley Park]; Ann Glen (**AG**) [Friends of Brownsburn Community Park et alia]; Twan van Duivenbooden (**TD**) [Sustrans]; Graham Elder (**GE**) [Public]

**Apologies:** Shirley Ann Duncan (**SD**) [User]; Jim Cassidy (**JC**) [User]

1	<b>Welcome and Apologies.</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
	<p>Welcome and apologies from HA.</p> <p>HA states that two Councillors have been appointed to the North Lanarkshire Access Forum. They are Cllr. Stephanie Griffin and Cllr. Tom Johnston.</p> <p>Round table introductions and welcome to Graham Elder, who is interested in joining the Access Forum (and could be appointed at the AGM).</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of meeting 29 October 2015 and Matters Arising</b></p> <p>[October Minutes distributed]</p> <p>Minutes from last meeting approved by PC and seconded by TD.</p>	
3	<p><b>Walking Festival</b></p> <p>[Walking Festival handout distributed]</p> <p>MP gave an update to the preparations for the North Lanarkshire Walking Festival (23 – 26 September 2016).</p> <p>Tried to get Ramblers' input, but the dates they could lead an event didn't tie in with our dates.</p> <p>Looking to still get some input from the Health Walk Coordinator, once in post.</p> <p>A dedicated Walking Festival leaflet will be produce before the Big Fit Walk on 10 June 2016, and the school holidays.</p> <p>IJ would like us to make use of the local newspapers, e.g. Cumbernauld news/Kilsyth Chronicle for publicity. The Access Team will check that we can do that.</p> <p>AG keen for us to use local Community Council Newsletters/web pages.</p> <p>Access Team stating that Social Media and 'Visit Scotland' website will also be used.</p> <p>MP quickly ran through the events descriptions and locations. 2 people at least on each walk for safety/manageability.</p>	<p><b>Access Officers</b></p>

# NORTH LANARKSHIRE OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM



	<p>Some round table talk of the transport arrangements regarding minibus use/drop off/pick up points. Biodiversity Team also involved and leading some events.</p> <p>PC and A.N. Other (Carol Carter?) to support on the Monday 'Romans and Navvies' walk.</p> <p>Monklands Canal walk championed by AG. Access Team previously asked Scottish Canals for input but they couldn't help due to lack of manpower. We may try them again closer to the Festival.</p> <p>Round table talk about the potential for the Festival to grow each year from now on. See how it's received this pilot year and take it from there. Some potential also for longer walks.</p> <p>TD to ask a colleague at Sustrans if they could help with an 'On your doorstep' type walk.</p> <p>HA thanked everyone for their ideas and input.</p>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Newsletter feedback</b>	
	<p>[January newsletter distributed]</p> <p>Positive feedback but would like more local news and matters included next time. AG would like further Community Funding/Grants information.</p>	<b>Note to publisher</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Access Strategy and Volunteer surveying</b>	
	<p>HA informed the group that the NLC Access Strategy was under final review and should be available from 2017 on a 5yr plan.</p> <p>A proposed 'system' of prioritisation may be sounded out at consultation stage – with most protection for sites/areas that have associated Core Paths/ROW's. Close to 30 sites identified as 'Priority Greenspaces' which are a combination of Ranger patrolled sites, SINCS and LNR's. We will look to maintain them at their current standards by surveying and monitoring, then making them better over time. IJ suggests prioritising work on paths that have been identified as in poor condition with regards to public accessibility, stopping users from gaining acceptable access to the Countryside.</p> <p>MP and IJ discussed where the Council spends money on path repairs/upkeep. Paths on Council owned land will always be a priority.</p> <p>IJ suggests we keep on looking for external funding to help us also. E.g. Paths for all, SNH, Landtrust, Lottery.</p> <p>HA intimating that a full Core Path Survey is on the way soon. The Access Team will be looking to use a new piece of recording software called 'ESRI Arc Collector'. This software will help us to record the standards of a random 5% of the CP network each year. Getting the public to help us is an option we are looking at. PC stated that the whole network would take 20 years to complete at 5% per year. It was suggested that a greater % may be more helpful.</p> <p>Round table talk about what a 'standard' feedback form for the Public might have as</p>	

# NORTH LANARKSHIRE OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM



	<p>content. PC spoke of having a standard that was suitable for the location whether it be a remote area or Country Park for example. IJ suggests we may like to look at the 'Purpose' of the path also.</p> <p>TD mentioned that Sustrans survey their routes but mainly volunteers who report back any problems. Scotways also use volunteers for path surveying.</p> <p>MP commented that some of the focus of the Access Strategy may focus on routes which are part of a 'Health walk' rather than pure access for the sake of access.</p> <p>HA asked the group to please pass on any pictures that could be used in the strategy report. E.g. Meikle Bin.</p>	
<p><b>6. New Access Forum leaflet</b></p>	<p>[New leaflet showed to group]</p> <p>PC suggests the new leaflet might be popular in local libraries. AG suggests local Community Councils as a good outlet too.</p>	
	<p>PC suggests the new leaflet might be popular in local libraries. AG suggests local Community Councils as a good outlet too.</p>	<p><b>Access Officers to look at distribution options</b></p>
<p><b>7. Carron Valley Section 11</b></p>	<p>[s11 handout/map distributed]</p> <p>MP gave some background into the forthcoming 'Pandorafest' music festival coming up on 16 July 2016 at the east end of Carron Valley reservoir, and the need to temporarily stop up access along CP2 under section 11 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.</p> <p>IJ commented that some walkers/cyclists coming in from the west may not realise the path is closed. MP agreed, and stated that lots of appropriately placed signs would need to be placed well in advance of the festival. A suggestion was made that we make contact in advance with the main Mountain Bike groups/websites/Scottish Cycling Federation or equivalent.</p> <p>HA asked the group if we are happy to say 'Yes' to the go-ahead of the festival with regard to the temporary path closure. Group agreed but reiterated the need for proper signage well in advance of the event. No objections.</p>	
	<p>MP gave some background into the forthcoming 'Pandorafest' music festival coming up on 16 July 2016 at the east end of Carron Valley reservoir, and the need to temporarily stop up access along CP2 under section 11 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.</p> <p>IJ commented that some walkers/cyclists coming in from the west may not realise the path is closed. MP agreed, and stated that lots of appropriately placed signs would need to be placed well in advance of the festival. A suggestion was made that we make contact in advance with the main Mountain Bike groups/websites/Scottish Cycling Federation or equivalent.</p> <p>HA asked the group if we are happy to say 'Yes' to the go-ahead of the festival with regard to the temporary path closure. Group agreed but reiterated the need for proper signage well in advance of the event. No objections.</p>	<p><b>Access Officers to arrange s11 sign off</b></p>
<p><b>8. AOCB</b></p>	<p>AG gave the group some information regarding a proposed development called EuroPark by Glasgow-based developer Orchard Brae. The 3000 house development near Eurocentral. As part of the statutory planning process, the developer is holding a series of public events to outline its plans and obtain feedback: the last event being held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April. AG informed us that Monkland Glen Community Council and The Greenbelt Group are to object with a view to making the 3 square mile site a Country Park. HA contributed that Greenspace Development was aware of the proposed development through the formal planning process and would make comment in relation to public access.</p>	
	<p>AG gave the group some information regarding a proposed development called EuroPark by Glasgow-based developer Orchard Brae. The 3000 house development near Eurocentral. As part of the statutory planning process, the developer is holding a series of public events to outline its plans and obtain feedback: the last event being held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April. AG informed us that Monkland Glen Community Council and The Greenbelt Group are to object with a view to making the 3 square mile site a Country Park. HA contributed that Greenspace Development was aware of the proposed development through the formal planning process and would make comment in relation to public access.</p>	

