

NORTH LANARKSHIRE OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM



Chair: Jim Cassidy

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27TH OCTOBER 2016
ROOM 1, GARTLEA COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

Present: 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*]; Shirley Ann Duncan (**SD**) [*User*]; Peter Kane (**PK**) [*Sustrans/User*]

Apologies: Hayley Andrew (**HA**) [*NLC Senior Access Officer*]; Matthew Buckland (**MB**) [*Forestry Commission Scotland*]

Not present: Cllr Stephanie Griffin, Cllr Thomas Johnstone

1	Welcome and Apologies.	ACTION
	Welcome from MP and JC. Apologies conveyed through HI.	
2	Election of Forum Members	
	No new nominations received. All existing Forum Members in attendance had their appointment extended a further year, as described in s4 of the existing NLOAF Terms of reference.	
3	Election of Chairperson	
	JC nominated by PC and seconded by AG. JC appointed Chair for a further year. Round table introductions from Members to Chair. 'Kelvin Valley News' distributed to Members by PC. AG asking for further information on Cllrs Griffin and Johnstone, why they were appointed to the Forum, and why they were not in attendance. JC requests that an email should be sent out to Cllrs Griffin and Johnstone to respectfully remind them that it might be beneficial to attend at least one meeting of the Forum. IJ and PC proposed and seconded the previous minutes as being correct.	
4	Walking Festival feedback/reaction	
	Some background stats and initial received feedback from MP on the walking festival. Round table discussion on its perceived successes/failures/changes viz. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booking system could be better. People turning up who hadn't booked. People couldn't get on walks because full, when in reality a booked person had dropped out. Could a dedicated Facebook page run by the Forum help control information/bookings? • Distribution of information and advertising media including booklets, leaflets, flyers, emails, webpages etc could be better. Does the advertising need to start earlier? JC suggested contacting the local press 2 weeks before the festival. PC seconded using local press more. JC suggesting Forum Members could contact 	



	<p>the local press agent directly for their own walks to bypass the need for a Council/Access Team Member doing it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group enthusiastic about doing the festival again, but not at holiday weekends. This would free Forum Members up to help lead events. • AG asked about the age spread of attendees and geographical location of held walks. Age spread very wide and geographical spread fairly well distributed. • HI spoke of some attendees turned up looking for more of a 'power walk' than historical/heritage type walks. Perhaps scope to include 1 of these and described as such? • Most agreed that heritage/historical walks should continue to form the main part of future walks and maybe clarified in the walk descriptions that it would be led by someone with strong knowledge of the area and its cultural/historical value. • MP suggested that the longer walks tended to be the most popular and there was potential to provide more of these next year. • JC and others suggested that the last week of the NL school' holiday might be a good time to have next year's event. Children would still be off, but back from their summer holiday away. Mon – Sun (7th Aug to 13th Aug) suggested. Well received and agreed. • Maybe a few bike rides could be added on. TVD suggested that Sustrans could organise something. Insurance for bike riding would need to be checked. SAD asking about giving out existing cycle maps available at Broadwood for cycling events. Kelvin Valley produce their own cycle maps. PC would offer to lead a cycle if the insurance works. • AG suggests we do our homework before any change to next year's walking festival date. We don't want to clash with anything already planned by this Council or other parties. • JC suggested that 'The Great Outdoors' magazine may do an article on a highlighted walk or cycle as a focus. • PC offered to put some walking festival pictures on his Facebook page. JC happy to set up a Facebook page specifically for the Forum to use. • General consensus that the walking Festival 2016 was well received and to repeat 2017 with the 7-13 August date. Generally agreed that we should have it mostly walking again with a few trial cycle events. There may be future scope to include NL Leisure and events like kayaking or rowing, turning the Walking Festival into an 'Outdoor Festival'. That is all a long way down the road though. 	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Diversion of CP190 (Strathclyde Business Park)</p>	
	<p>MP gave some background information about a potential permanent diversion to CP190 under s20 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2013. This would allow phase 2 of an industrial development to go ahead whilst allowing (perhaps improving) existing access rights across the planned development site. Maps and aerial photos produced. JC asked why the new route seemed so short. MP explained it links directly to the bridge over the burn, improving local access. Forum Members keen to let local people/community councilors to get their say. Members also stressing the importance of a good path surface, well lit, with a wide maintenance verge and/or trees/shrubs/plants to make the walk as pleasant as possible.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>Commercial dog walking accreditation scheme</p>	
	<p>HI highlighted existing schemes in other Councils such as East Lothian and Falkirk</p>	

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	<p>Councils. These schemes are similar in their content delivery, which seems to stem from SNH workshops in 2013 and the subsequent guidance report produce off the findings.</p> <p>Members would like some clarity on why 6 dogs are recommended as the maximum number on walks, when the average seems to be 4 in the 2013 results.</p> <p>JS suggested that a minimum of 2 dog walkers might be preferable also, to keep the dogs properly under control.</p> <p>SAD suggested a formal dog walking zone(s) could be created on Council land.</p> <p>Members, in principle, supportive of exploratory work into the feasibility of a formal dog walking scheme in North Lanarkshire.</p>	
<p>7. AOCB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MP would like to see a Land Manager on the Forum. Members to keep a look out for anyone suitable. • JC would like to see increased use of the local press for access related issues to raise awareness of local issues. PC submits local articles to the Kilsyth news. • PC asking about the core path plan review. Are core paths disappearing/changing? What percentage has been surveyed so far? IJ suggesting that Members could be allocated core paths near them to survey in the future. • IJ asking about the status of planned footpath upgrades to CP71 Dullatur railway to Croy hill. SRDP money applied for 330m of path upgrade and drainage work. Permission granted from the landowner and Forestry Commission. Waiting to hear back about application for funding. • MP mentioned SPT grant money could perhaps help with future access/path projects. http://www.spt.co.uk/corporate/2015/05/grant-funding-for-community-transport-projects/ • JC mentioned 'Criminal Justice' teams perhaps having an input into path maintenance such as vegetation clearance. They completed a task at Plains successfully. • PC wondered if there was any update in the potential re-routing of path(s) surrounding the planned project area around the Garrell burn? Flooding/scour damage continuing over time. MP explained that a working group has been set up including partners such as SEPA and the Biodiversity Team. PC expressed concerns over the early potential route choices on draft plans, and not being consulted. PC keen to see a waterside path continuing on both sides of the burn. MP thought that PC had been involved with early discussions with Biodiversity regarding draft project plans. MP will bring the point up with the working group/HA to ensure that interested parties get a reasonable say in the future. 	
	<p>Date of next meeting <u>Thursday 27th April 2017</u></p>	<p>All note</p>