

NORTH LANARKSHIRE OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM



Chair: Jim Cassidy [elected at meeting, item 2 on Agenda]

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2017
CALDER ROOM, STRATHCLYDE COUNTRY PARK. (1.30PM - 4PM)**

Present: Mark Palmer (**MP**) [*NLC Access Officer*]; Hugh Ilgunas (**HI**) [*NLC Access Officer*]; Ian Jarvis (**IJ**) [*Friends of Kelvin Valley Park*]; Ann Glen (**AG**) [*Friends of Brownsburn Community Park et alia*]; Peter Kane (**PK**) [*Sustrans/User*]; John Peter (**JP**) [*User*]; Cllr Ann Weir (**AW**) [*NLC*]; Pardeep Chand (**PC**) [*NLC Access & Forestry Manager*]; Jim Cassidy (**JC**) [*User*]

Apologies: Twan van Duivenbooden (**TD**) [*Sustrans*]; Cllr Gillian Fannan (**GF**) [*NLC*]; Paul Carter (**PC**) [*Kilsyth and Villages Community Forum*]; Cllr Alan Beveridge (**AB**) [*NLC*]

Not present: Shirley Ann Duncan (**SD**) [*User*];

1	Welcome, introduction and Apologies.	ACTION
	MP Welcome and introduction for PC. HI with apologies received. Cllr Weir introduced to group after arrival. JC proposed as chair and seconded.	
2	Nominate Chair and Members	
	JC proposed as chair and seconded. All existing Forum members' forum membership extended by a further year.	
3	Amendment to Terms of Reference	
	New section 9 (Public representation) addition to the ToR. Wording agreed and passed by the Forum. This allows a mechanism for Members of the public to raise access related matters without being present.	
4	Minutes of meeting 27th April and matters arising	
	<p>AW highlighted an error where her name was mentioned in the Apologies but hadn't been elected yet! Changed.</p> <p>AG wanted to note that she voiced opposition to removal of the steel barriers on the Monkland canal and this wasn't reflected in the minute. Comment that mentioned general support of the idea between Members was removed.</p> <p>Some round table discussion regarding the Monkland barriers in relation to the Council's Duties under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.</p> <p>A vote amongst sitting members was held to see who supported removal of the barriers in principal, and who wished them to remain. Result was:</p> <p>Keep the barriers – 3 Remove the barriers – 3</p> <p>Access officers will speak to Scottish Canals to see if there are any options available. The Access Officers have a duty to remove these obstructions under s14 of the LRA. It is noted that this action will not have complete support of the Forum Members as it stands. The Forum would be notified of any s14 being raised in the future in relation to the obstructions.</p>	



5	Greenspace restructure	
	MP with some background to the new departmental/structural changes at Greenspace Development Service.	
6	Access and Cycling strategy	
	<p>PC with some background to a new Access & Cycling Strategy. Early stages. Some meeting with the Roads section may take place in the near future. The strategy formation will take place once Hayley Andrew is back in post. The draft access part of the strategy will eventually be put before the Forum for comment.</p> <p>Some round table talk of the lack of bicycle racks in and around North Lanarkshire and Airdrie in particular. JC to fashion a letter to the Council on behalf of the Forum with regard to this matter. Hopefully any movement on this matter can be incorporated into the access strategy.</p>	
7	S14 letters	
	<p>3 x letters sent out to landowners regarding obstructions/signage explaining obligations under s14 of the LRA.</p> <p>2 x cases (CP149 Brackenknowe rd, CP146 Mollinsburn) resolved.</p> <p>1 x case remains unresolved (nr Caldercruix)</p> <p>AG commented that there was some non conforming signage up around a new housing development north of the canal near Sykeside. Access Officers to look into this.</p>	
8	Dalzell 12 month walker summary	
	Handout of the last year's figures for walkers near the RSPB car park at Dalzell estate. Cycling numbers also available but not included here.	
9	Dullatur/Bunny hop improvements	
	<p>MP with some background to the path erosion at the Dullatur Bunny hop. Local housing developer has paid for restoration work.</p> <p>MP explaining the SRDP project that's due to commence in the New Year on the north side of the railway. This will upgrade 330m of path, which is very muddy at the west end.</p>	
10	Craigneuk pump track	
	HI gave some background to the almost completed works at Craigneuk, and the creation of an east/west Active Travel link past the site between Wishaw and Ravenscraig.	
11	Rowan street, Coltness	
	Handout by HI with the Council's Infrastructure Committee decision regarding sale of Council land for private parking. Council approved the sale. MP with some background into why the Access Officers had become involved.	
12	CP190, Strathclyde Business Park – Committee decision	
	MP gave a brief outline of the events leading up to the Infrastructure Committee's decision to keep Core Path 190 in its current position and not divert it to facilitate future development.	

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13	Walking Festival summary	
	<p>MP put forward the provisional date of September 17-24, 2018 for the next walking festival. The date of September will allow most Greenspace staff to be available to run and support walks.</p> <p>MP thanked PK and IJ for leading events last year. PK talked positively about a successful cycling group set in Strathclyde Country Park, which came off the back of the Sustrans Cycle Training for the last Walking Festival. JC to put PK's cycling events onto the Forum Facebook page.</p> <p>MP explained that more and more people are asking for walking routes in North Lanarkshire online. Mark has started a project based on this and will start with a 'first ten walks'. There's an opportunity for Forum members to input detail into future routes. AW asked if some wheelchair friendly routes could be incorporated. Also asked if some prominent Walking Festival banners would be a good idea?</p> <p>JC asked if next year's events can be forwarded to him in good time to be put up on the Forum's Facebook page.</p>	
14	Edge Auditor trial	
	<p>Nothing to report at this time. We were unable to do a trial of this path recording software in time for the AGM. Will attempt an update for next meeting.</p>	
15	AOCB	
	<p>PK asked about the possibility of arranging a semi-formal agreement for Sustrans work parties on Council land in the future. He will forward a written request to PC in the near future.</p> <p>JC and AW asked if it would be possible to have the next meeting in Motherwell Civic Centre next time. Venue to be looked at and decided in due course.</p> <p>IJ enquired about the position of the Antonine Wall path diversion that has been in place for a considerable time now. Access Officers have been in contact with Historic Environment Scotland to try and resolve the situation, but the ball is very much in their court, as land managers. We will pursue and update for next meeting.</p>	
	Date of next meeting: To be decided 2018	All note