

NORTH LANARKSHIRE OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM



Chair: Mark Palmer

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2018
GARTLEA COMMUNITY CENTRE, AIRDRIE. (1:30PM – 3:30PM)

Present: Mark Palmer (MP) [NLC Access Officer]; Cheryl Oliver (CO) [NLC Access Officer]; Ian Jarvis (IJ) [Friends of Kelvin Valley Park]; Ann Glen (AG) [Friends of Brownsburn Community Park]; John Peter (JP) [User]; Paul Carter (PC) [Kilsyth and Villages Community Forum]; Peter Kane (PK) [Sustrans/User]; Claire Williams (CW) [Getting Better Together, Shotts]; Bob McCombe (BMc) [Monkland Glen Community Council]

Apologies: Cllr Gillian Fannan (GF) [NLC]; Cllr Ann Weir (AW) [NLC]; Jim Cassidy (JC) [User]

Not present: Pardeep Chand (PC) [NLC Access & Forestry Manager]; Hugh Ilgunas (HI) [NLC Access Officer]

1	Welcome, introduction and Apologies.	ACTION
	MP welcomed Forum Members. Round table introduction for the benefit of new forum members. MP gave a brief explanation about the duties and roles of the Access Forum.	
2	Nominate Chair and Members	
	Jim Cassidy re-elected as Chair. Proposed by PC, seconded by IJ. All existing Forum members' forum membership extended by a further year. New forum members CW and BMc welcomed.	
3	Minutes of Meeting 14 June 2018 and Matters Arising	
	<p>No amendments required.</p> <p>MP gave a brief update on the Greenspace staffing restructure. PC requested that an email be sent to Forum Members with a current Greenspace staffing structure/job descriptions.</p> <p>Wyndford Road between Wyndford Lock and Garnhall road is officially closed. PC voiced opinion that the route is a locally important through route and that we should look at trying to make it into a future Core Path.</p>	All
4	Section 14 updates	
	<p>Since sending a letter to Annathill Farm regarding CP109 fence restriction the land owner repositioned the fence to widen the gap. Access staff consulted with BHS Access Officer and they agreed there was enough room for horse access. This is no longer an access issue and is now classed as a neighbor dispute.</p> <p>Complaints of a locked gate on farm track at Blackridge Farm. Letter to be sent requesting gate is unlocked and prohibitive sign changed or removed.</p> <p>A 'No Horses' sign has been erected on the right of way leading to Crow Wood golf course. Letter to be sent out to near-by residents requesting whoever is responsible to remove it.</p>	<p>CO</p> <p>MP</p>



5	Section 11 updates	
	<p>MP said that the European Championship at Strathclyde Country Park was a success. Two Section 11 notices were required to cover 2 events, one lasting 5 days and the other 6 days. MP noted that the Scottish Government minister were being very fussy which was seen as a positive as it meant there was very little disruption to the general public whilst the notices were in effect.</p> <p>MP thanked the forum members for the support and comments.</p> <p>The Section 11 notice for Carron Valley excluded people from using the downhill runs during an organised cycling event.</p>	
6	Core Path Plan Review	
	<p>Greenspace Development has secured some funding to have NLC's Core Path network surveyed as a result of NLC's Roads department producing an Active Travel Strategy. JP questioned why the council keeps spending money producing strategies when the money could be better used fixing existing problems. Information gathered from the surveys could then be used to review the Core Paths Plan in the future.</p> <p>PC requested the Access Forum is kept up to date with any planned surveys and or reviews of the core path network and timeframes.</p>	
7	Current Projects	
	<p>MP with some background to the <i>CP71</i> Wester Dullatur Farm path upgrade project that fell through. The project was hampered by the various formal permissions required from the stakeholders in the area. NLC re-applied for funding but was rejected as the landowner agreements were deemed insufficient. NLC have given up on SRDP funding and have secured other funding. Contract currently out to tender with bids due back mid December. Work to be complete by the end of March 2019.</p> <p>The <i>Wyndford Road</i> between Wyndford Lock and Garnhall road is officially closed. The Access Officers and several Forum members voiced opinion that the route is a locally important through route and that we should look at trying to make it into a future Core Path.</p> <p>Greenspace Development has secured some money from the Campsie Board to upgrade some paths within Palacerigg Country Park. Contract has been put out to tender with works due to start mid December.</p> <p>£250,000 has been set aside for path and signage improvements within Cumbernauld Community Park. At this moment in time it's not clear to the Access Team who is leading on the project. The Access Team have been out on site with someone from Landscape design to highlight the worst sections of path to be upgraded.</p> <p>Proposals for Dumbreck Local Nature Reserve are soon to be put forward to relevant community bodies for consultation regarding the river restoration and associated path alterations. MP has requested that any path creation/ deletion to be done through Land Reform rather than planning so that forum members, etc. are consulted.</p>	

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	<p>Scottish Natural Heritage is providing funding to open up access to all users along Long Distance Routes. HI has been involved with having the kissing gates removed and replaced with bridal gates along the Clyde Walkway.</p> <p>CO currently working on waymarking routes to Local Nature Reserves within a half mile buffer zone of the reserve. Brownsburn is the first LNR to be signed. Tender to be issued in December with work due to commence end of January 2019.</p>	
8	2018 Walking Festival	
	<p>MP gave a brief summary of this year's walking festival. HI had produced a summary sheet detailing number of participants on each walk etc., which was handed out to forum members. Numbers were down this year from last but mainly due to bad weather. Some walks were cancelled completely due to the severe weather.</p> <p>MP suggested that the dates for next year will be last week of the summer holidays, so mid-August, 2019. PK keen to lead cycling events again next year.</p> <p>MP welcomed requests from forum members to lead walks.</p>	
9	AOCB	
	<p>AG noted 2019 was the commemoration year for James Watt, the designer of the Monkland Canal. Suggested it would be good to see a walk included in the walking festival based around the local area.</p> <p>AG pointed out to forum members that Maggies Bridge is badly damaged and closed off. A structural engineer is going to assess the bridge and look at funding opportunities to have it repaired.</p> <p>PC noted that the first week in February is Library Health Week.</p> <p>IJ - Kelvin Valley Action Plan - expressed concerns over the lack of safe off road routes for pedestrians in relation to core path 29.</p> <p>JP noted that the new cycle path along the M8 was not being well used due to lack of good quality feeder paths to the route. Signage is poor and there is a lack of directional maps.</p>	
	Date of next meeting: <u>6 June 2019</u>	All note