

# ANGUS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Note of the Meeting of the Angus Local Access Forum held at Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar on Monday 12 December 2016

**Present:** Gavin Dobson (Chair), Cathy Stephenson, John Hamilton, Kirsty Macari, Gill Lawrie, Barbara Thompson, Peter Fiabane, Antony Gifford

**In attendance:** Paul Clark , Countryside Access Officer, Angus Council

**Apologies:** Alban Houghton, Lesley Anderson, Patricia Harrow, James Gray-Cheape

## 1. Welcome and introductions

GD thanked everyone for attending.

## 2. Minute of Previous Meeting

The minutes of 12 September 2016 were approved as a true record.

## 3. Matters Arising

PC had advised Sidlaw Path Network group (SPN) of the Forum's views regarding 'magic margins'.

GD had attempted to set up a meeting with the owner of Pitnappie Cutting, but had been unsuccessful. After discussion the Forum recommended that SPN should give the new owner of the land more time to settle in before raising the matter again. PC agreed to relay this to the group.

## 4. Access Issues Update

**Lintrathen:** PC advised that he was awaiting legal advice regarding the claim of a public right of way.

**Kinnaber, Montrose** – PC advised that the path works had now been completed and that the arrangement seemed to be working well.

### **Gaigie, Kellas**

PC had revisited the site and noted that the gates were operational. Feedback from the person who had raised the issue was positive. The signage had not however been modified as agreed, and PC had raised this with the owner. JH had also visited the site on behalf of Scotways. He noted that the signage at the southern end of the track was least welcoming. PC concurred with this.

PC had received feedback that the concrete barrier on the core path had been removed, and that horses were bypassing the boulder without difficulty.

The issue regarding 'No Horses' signs on a track that passed through farm curtilage had not been pursued.

**Friockheim Millpond** - BT thanked PC for arranging clearance of the path. She advised that the community group may no longer be taking on maintenance of the area due to a change in membership.

## **5. Membership and recruitment**

PC advised that appointment of AG and JG-C to the Forum had been approved by the Council's Communities Committee, and that Ivan Laird had agreed to step down.

The Council had put a post on Facebook seeking equestrian representatives, and there had been tentative enquiries from two people. JL had been speaking to a national representative of the British Horses Society, who had offered to help find a candidate if necessary.

## **6. Forum operating principles and procedures, and document retention – review**

After discussion it was agreed that PC would update the documents on the basis of previous feedback, and that the revised documents could be considered at future meetings.

## **7. Public open meeting 2017**

There was discussion of potential locations and themes for an open meeting. Ideas included:-

Equestrian issues, possibly located at Auchlishie Eventing, Kirriemuir.

Mountain biking and shared use, focussed on Balmashanner.

Community management of access and community assets at East Haven.

A weekend meeting at the Reid Hall Forfar, followed by optional site visits to the above locations.

An information and awareness raising stand at Forfar Farmers Market.

After further discussion it was agreed that an event at the Forfar Farmers Market was the preferred option as it opened up the possibility of engaging with people who may not be aware of the Forum or access rights. KM agreed that the Council would investigate the possibility of obtaining space at the May farmers market.

## **9. A.O.C.B.**

JH enquired about progress with improvements to core paths. PC advised that the works were progressing but that they were not as far ahead as previously hoped. KM highlighted the fact that there had been some bigger projects delivered this year, addressing particular issues raised by local communities and helping to secure these core paths for the future.

**7. Date of next meeting:** Monday 13 March 2017. Venue to be confirmed.