

# ANGUS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Note of the Meeting of the Angus Local Access Forum held at Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar on Monday 16 April 2018

**Present:** Barbara Thompson, Lesley Anderson, Fiona Waddell, Peter Fiabane, John Hamilton, James Gray-Cheape, Gill Lawrie.

**In attendance:** Paul Clark - Countryside Access Officer, Angus Council  
Nick Hamilton – Prospective new member

**Apologies:** Patricia Harrow, Cathy Stephenson, Antony Gifford

## **1. Welcome and introductions**

GL agreed to chair the meeting in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair. There were round the table introductions for the benefit of NH.

## **2. Minute of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of 11 December 2017 were approved as a true record.

## **3. Matters Arising**

Pitnappie Cutting – The SPN group had sent a ‘dossier’ of information to the owner. PC had agreed to try to speak to the owner.

Buskhead Bridge – LA advised that there was no update.

Edzell riverside path – Angus Council had put forward a proposal for re-routing the path onto neighbouring land. This had been rejected by the landowner and an alternative solution was being considered.

Seaton Cliffs – BH had obtained confirmation that the Scottish Wildlife Trust monitors the path.

## **4. Access Issues Update**

Old Brechin Road, Forfar – PC advised that the gate and signage were now in place.

Valgreen, Murroes – PC had raised the matter of the ‘No Horses’ sign with the owner of the track. The owner had not been willing to remove the sign and alleged that there had been instances of unacceptable behaviour on the part of riders. PC had agreed to raise the matter with local riders and seek reassurances that riders would take access responsibly, after which the owner may consider removing the sign. NH advised that this was very much a matter of concern for local riders, and that they were expecting the Council to take action. GL suggested that alternative signage encouraging responsible behaviour may be appropriate.

Turfbeg, Forfar – The Council had received a complaint that horses in the field were potentially dangerous and therefore an obstruction to access over the core path. PC had

not experienced any difficulties when he visited the path, but he would make the landowner aware of the concerns.

Pitairlie Plantation – PC had raised the matter with the owner and was awaiting a response.

Thripley – The owner had approached PC for advice regarding claims of a public right of way. PC had advised that there was a recorded of a claimed public right of way, but the precise route was unclear and it was unlikely that the necessary criteria would have been met.

Burnside Estate – PC had received a further enquiry about inappropriate signage including old signs which had previously been painted over. He circulated photographs. He was seeking removal of the signs.

Rossie Moor – PC had received multiple enquiries about a core path and public right of way which had allegedly been ploughed. On inspection it had been cleared of gorse and other vegetation, but the earth surface was largely intact. He had obtained a reassurance from the landowner that it would not be ploughed. GL pointed out that removal of gorse would have improved the accessibility of the path.

PC briefly referred to issues he had been dealing with at Carmyllie and Panmure Golf Club. There was insufficient time available for further discussions.

## **5. Membership and Recruitment**

NH was interested in joining the Forum as a user representative, with a particular interest in Hillwalking and Mountaineering, and knowledge of horse riding.

PC advised that the Forum currently had a full complement of User, Community and Land Manager representatives, some of whom had been Forum members for a considerable time. The operating principles allowed for a rolling membership, with members being replaced after 4 years, but this had not been adhered to due to a lack of applicants. There was agreement that the longest serving members from each group would be asked whether they intended to step down, and that there was support for appointing NH to the Forum. There was discussion over the need for a recruitment drive and how this could be best achieved. There was agreement that social media was a good way of raising awareness, but that there was also benefit in directly approaching club/groups and community councils.

## **6. A.O.C.B.**

BT had raised the issue of an overgrown core path at Glasterlaw. PC had not yet had time to inspect it, but would do so with a view to getting the path cleared.

JL circulated signage she had obtained from NFU relating to control of dogs around livestock.

Other items were deferred until the June meeting due to lack of available time for further discussions.

**7. Date of next meeting :** Monday 11 June 2018 at Angus House, Orchardbank, Forfar.