

# ANGUS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Note of the Meeting of the Angus Local Access Forum held at Angus House, Orchardbank Business Park, Forfar on Monday 10 September 2018

**Present:** Peter Fiabane, Antony Gifford (Chair), James Gray-Cheape, John Hamilton, Nicholas Hamilton, Cathy Stephenson, Barbara Thompson, Fiona Waddell.

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

**Apologies:** Angus Grey, Alan Hunter

## **1. Welcome and introductions**

AG welcomed everyone to the meeting.

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

The minute of 11 June 2018 was approved as a true record.

## **3. Matters Arising**

Pitnappie Cutting – PC had spoken to the landowner, who indicated that they intended to graze sheep on the railway line. This would entail erecting a fence, and PC had requested provision of a gate or stile. The landowner had not ruled out the possibility of agreeing to a path, but did not wish to discuss it at present. A fence had subsequently been erected without a gate or stile. PC had attended a meeting with representatives of the Sidlaw Path Network (SPN) and Scotways to discuss how the path proposal could be progressed. Following the meeting SPN were gauging wider community support for the proposal. PC would be repeating his request for a gate or stile.

Buskhead Bridge – No update.

Edzell Riverside Path – The adjacent landowner was unwilling to agree to divert the path onto his land. A revised proposal has been drawn up, fitting the repair onto the available land. This had subsequently been constructed.

## **4. Proposed amendments of Core Paths Plan, Friockheim**

PC referred to the paper that was circulated with the agenda. As a result of discussions over signposting and clearing the core path, the landowner had requested moving the paths onto an alternative route. They considered it preferable to encourage use of the alternative route rather than the farm road, where there was a blind dip and more potential for conflict with farm traffic. After discussion there was consensus that the Forum had no objection to the proposed changes. It was recommended that there should however be consultation with the Friockheim community. There were suggestions for means of consultation if the Community Council was inactive due to forthcoming elections.

## **5. Access issues update**

Valgreen, Murroes - PC had met the owners of Murroes Stable, who had given clients an update on the matter and made them aware of appropriate responsible behaviour. He had requested a discussion with the owner, and hoped that the owner might agree to remove the sign and acknowledge access rights. NH stressed that the sign was currently a deterrent to access rights.

Burnside Estate – The signs had been painted over.

Piperdam – The fence had been moved to allow access over the full width of the track. There was however a constriction beside the gate at its eastern end which was impassable to horse riders and difficult for cyclists to negotiate. PC had requested that further modifications were made at this location.

PC had received enquiries about various changes to fences and gates which were affecting equestrian access on the former Kinpurnie Estate. This was in part due to changes in ownership and fragmentation of the estate. PC was investigating and intended to have discussions with landowners. He thought it might be appropriate to involve the Forum at a later stage.

NH referred to signs in Glen Esk that he had previously referred to. The wording requested that dogs were kept on leads, rather saying that they must be on a lead. There was general consensus that this was no unreasonable. There was also reference to signs elsewhere which warned of dangerous stags.

## **6. Appointment of Vice Chair**

There were no nominations for Vice Chair. There was agreement that this could be deferred to the next meeting.

## **7. Membership and Recruitment**

PC advised that appointment of NH, AG and AH had been confirmed by the Council's Communities Committee. He had not yet arranged publicity seeking applicants for membership, for which he apologised. He would do this and make the information available to members who would in turn publicise it through their own contacts.

## **8. 2019 public event**

There was agreement that the Forum should have another stand at Forfar Farmers Market, in spring 2019. AG would investigate dates.

## **9. AOCB**

There was no other business.

**7. Date of next meeting** : Monday 10 December 2018