

THE HIGHLAND CORE PATH IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME II 2013-2014

On 23rd April we received confirmation that the application for the continuation of the HCPIP has been approved. This will then be known as HCPIP2. The main difference for this phase of the programme is that there is no flexibility, the projects listed are the only ones that will be funded and the amounts given for each project cannot be increased. The projects agreed in Ross & Cromarty in this phase of the HCPIP2 are:

1. Signposting

The majority of the core path signing was completed in HCPIP1, thus only Mid Ross signs remain to be completed. Many of the posts are already in place. Unfortunately, no response from the manufacturer, despite several reminders have caused delay. Have now submitted a first order with a new company.

2. Community Projects

Again most projects were able to be completed in the previous phases and thus only 3 projects remain:

- Strathpeffer to Jamestown path- the key to this project is the final 10-15m at Jamestown. There was much negotiation between February and June between the current owner, his representatives, the Planning Service, two community councils and the Forestry Commission facilitated by the Access Officer. Agreement was reached to pass a strip of land to FCS ownership with Contin Community Trust paying for re-location of an electricity post. Pressure to spend the LEADER funding had led to getting contractors (MM Millers) to complete 2/3 of the path (545m) by 17th September. The remaining sections will be completed when planning and ownership issues are concluded.
- Milton of Kildary – Working with the Community Wood Trust MM Millers were contracted to scrape & resurface 503m and full construct 316m of new path. Completed on 5th September.
- Invergordon – Polish Memorial Circuit there were some objections to the project by the owner. After the proposals were revised and put to the owner in several emails no response has been forthcoming. Given the time constraints in the LEADER funding this project will not go ahead.

3. Leaflets & Panels

Work on leaflets had commenced in the previous phase but this can now be completed with the following:

- Ross & Cromarty Disability Access group, a booklet of the most accessible core paths. Work has progressed on this and is almost at the stage to be printed. Should be launched within the next month.
- Walks around Strathpeffer & Contin- had discussions with community representatives who are considering and compiling the relevant information.
- Ullapool walks map- had discussion with the community council who are considering the detail required.

4. Community Training Day

A training session in basic path maintenance for representatives of the community groups that have been involved with HCPIP. This has been arranged for 30th November 2013.