

Note of meeting of Caithness Local Access Forum (CLAF)
held in the Chamber, Town Hall, Bridge Street, Wick
on Tuesday 2nd December 2014

Present

Chris Hobson (CH), Chair – Land Manager.
Ben McGregor (BM) – Access Taker/User
William Bruce (WB) – Access Taker/User
Carol Graham (CG) – Access Taker/User
David Glass (DG) – Community Group

In attendance

Matt Dent (MD) – Access Officer, Highland Council (HC)
Kirsty Rosie (KR) – Caithness East Ranger, The Highland Council
Alex Macmanus (AM1) – Ward Manager's Office, Highland Council (clerk)

1. Apologies

Traylan Peat (TP) – Disability Access Forum
Cllr. Roger Saxon (RS) – Thurso Ward Member of the Highland Council
Cllr Willie Mackay (WM) – Landward Ward Member of the Highland Council

2. Notes from meeting of 23rd September

Agreed, as presented, by WB/BM

3. Action points from above.

Halkirk to Sibster path – WM to speak with Cllr. G Coghill to ascertain progress of this issue with local community. **ACTION – WM**

Jesson's Bridge – CH has spoken to two of the three land owners involved. Third may be problematic to contact. CH to take forward. **ACTION – CH**

Disability Access Forum (DAF) – Alan McVeigh (AM) was to arrange to forward copies of the notes from the meeting held in PPP on 25th June to CH. **ACTION – AM**

Crosskirk – CH arrange to forward copy of letter to Historic Scotland (HS) to Paul Wheelhouse, Environment & Climate Change Minister. **ACTION – CH**

Ormlie Moors – Motorbikes are a problem in the summer months. Not so prevalent at this time of year. DG is disappointed at the length of time it is taking to find out who owns the land on the moor and surrounding area. RS was to check. **ACTION – RS**

CLAF Membership – Carol Graham and Islay Macleod had their membership ratified by the Council PD&I Committee on 5th November.

Orkney Outdoor Access Strategy booklet – AM1 trying to obtain further copies of this booklet. **ACTION – AM**

4. Local Disability Access panel report

No report available.

5. Core Paths Plan Consultation – Matt Dent.

Matt went over the Core Path Plan review document settlement by settlement with the forum members who gave their comments, recommendations and aspirations in response. Review here –

http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/12153/caithness_core_paths_plan_review_-_consultative_report

Local Highland Council Members were consulted by Matt on 23rd October and he has also written to the local Community Councils, neighbours, grazing clerks. Feed in for this consultation is due by the end of March 2015.

The Plan is being consulted along with and at the same time as the CaSPlan. One aim is to increase/improve the connectivity of the paths. Some paths will be lost whilst new ones will appear e.g. Newtonhill, Sibster. Also look to find out the land owners of each core path.

6. AOB

Yarrows Trail – DG has had members of the public complaining to him about the current state of this trail, very muddy.

Brough – Two walkers rescued from a bog following a route sign posted by a sign supplied by Highland Council.

Complaint – A written complaint has been sent to Highland Council about the CLAF. Chair would contact Council to ascertain the nature of the complaint.

7. DONM

Tuesday 3rd March 2015. 7.00 pm at Newtonhill Croft, Wick