

# Minutes of Dundee's Local Access Forum Core Group Meeting

**Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January 06**  
**7 – 9.20 pm**  
**Meeting Room, Olympia Leisure Centre**

**Present:**

George Potts (Chair)  
Miles Witham (Vice Chair)  
Kevin O'Donnell  
Bruce Forsyth  
Albert A'Hara  
Wilfred Lakie  
Peter Glen  
Bill Meikle  
David Hogarth

**Apologies:**

Pam Watson  
Sandy Inverarity  
Robert Watson  
Doug Morgan  
SNH

Allan Thomson  
Joyce Kettles

**In Attendance:**

Laura Campbell, Access Officer, L&C  
Colin Ward, Paths for All Partnership

No.	Item	Action
1.	<b>Introductions and Apologies</b> We welcome David Hogarth to the group. David is the new Scotways Representative. Apologies as above. The forum wishes both Pam and Doug a speedy recovery.	
2.	<b>Minutes of the meeting of 26/09/05</b> A letter of support for the Balgay Bridge project was sent from the Forum. The project has been granted funding and work will go ahead to restore the bridge. This will benefit the Balgay park area in general.  A A'Hara asked for a description of the areas named Riverside East and West in the WIAT bid. It has now been clarified that this refers to Buckingham Point and Wills Braes.  The minutes were proposed by W Lakie and seconded by K O'Donnell.	
3.	<b>Cycle Routes - West Dundee</b> L Campbell has consulted the West End Community Council on the routes. While they were in favour of the routes in general, they felt that the section along Blackness Road was unsuitable due to the large volumes of traffic. An alternative was proposed down Peddie Street, Annefield Street and Annefield Road. There are also problems with this route in that Peddie Street and Annefield Street are cobbled and the parked cars on Annefield Road make it very narrow. L Campbell asked for the advice of the Forum.  W Lakie said that he had received comments from Victoria Hospital and they would prefer if the top road at Balgay Park was used rather than the bottom road. L Campbell said that this had not been considered as it was narrower than the bottom road. M Witham said that it was also less direct and anyone cycling to Ninewells would be more inclined to use the direct route. L Campbell will look at this section of the route again.  M Witham consulted the Ninewells and University Bicycle User Groups. Many of the people on these groups are experienced cyclists and it was questioned if this was our target audience. Some people in these groups feel that the provision of off road cycle paths and cycle lanes ghettoises cyclists. There is no particular evidence to show that there are more on road or off road cycle accidents. It was thought that public perception is important; it needs to look safe for people to use it.  One problem with the Blackness Road route is that people are illegally parking. This creates a potential danger for cyclists pulling out of a cycle lane. However, the cobbles on Peddie Street could make it quite dangerous if it was icy or wet.  The Bicycle User Groups suggested using Perth Road instead of Blackness Road, however, L Campbell said that we still needed a route to go up to South Road Park and there isn't enough	LC

	<p>money in the budget to create two separate routes. This could be looked at as an additional link in the future.</p> <p>It was thought that experienced cyclists will cycle where they have always gone. The idea of creating a route is for inexperienced cyclists. L Campbell suggested that while one route is signed on the ground the map could show both routes.</p> <p>A A'Hara suggested that there should be a trial period for the route and also suggested that it should be checked that when the Mosque is being built access along Blackness Road is not blocked.</p> <p>P Glen suggested that we should distinguish between leisure cyclists and work cyclists. M Witham said that leisure cyclists are likely to cycle slower and use off road routes.</p> <p>G Potts said that Stephen Page put cycle counters along Riverside and these measured around 19,000 cycle trips a year. L Campbell said that the Cycling Officer, Raymond Tully, has put in counters along the new routes so that we can monitor the use of these as well.</p> <p>It was suggested that the gritting of cycle routes is very important. It gives people confidence to use the routes. The Forum members felt that this was something that needed to go up the agenda. In terms of the multi-user routes this is good for pedestrians as well as cyclists.</p> <p>L Campbell to speak to Victoria Hospital and will feed back any recommendations.</p> <p>It was the view of the Forum that the user groups should have the final say on the direction of the route.</p>	LC
4.	<p><b>Woodlands In and Around Towns</b></p> <p>As no one attended from the Forestry Section G Potts gave an outline of the Woodlands In and Around Towns (WIAT) grant that the Council has been awarded.</p> <p>WIAT is a grant aid initiative from the Forestry Commission which assists with the management and maintenance of woodlands. Dundee is lucky in the amount of woodland it has, however the management of these areas has fallen behind. In the case of Balgay Hill management is about 20 years behind. The Council has been granted around £500,000 through the WIAT fund. Most of this will go to tree maintenance operations, however part of the fund will go towards way marking routes, threshold signs and interpretation boards. The interpretation boards will highlight the way marked routes, trees, wildlife and natural and cultural heritage. There will also be new leaflets and events in some of the areas e.g. in Templeton and Middleton. L Campbell said that she thought there would be an opportunity for the Local Access Forum to be involved in assisting with signage and interpretation. The forum felt that this would be a good project to be involved in. A small amount of work is being carried out before April and there wouldn't be enough time to be involved in this. More work will be carried out in the next financial year and there should be an opportunity for the involvement of the forum then. It was thought that it may be useful to get an update at the AGM from the Forestry Section. It would be helpful to get copies of the maps of the locations of the signage and interpretation boards and the paths proposed to be upgraded before this meeting. LC to arrange.</p> <p>P Glen had noticed that Tentsmuir Forest had recently upgraded paths and signage. It was thought that the Land Reform Act has pushed the Forestry Commission to open up areas for access and this has led to increased funding for this type of work. It was noted that Edinburgh and Glasgow have also recently received substantial amounts of funding through WIAT to improve their woodlands.</p> <p>A A'Hara asked about charging for access to woodlands. It was noted that there is provision in the Land Reform Act to charge for facilities such as parking, toilets etc, but not for access, unless this had been done under the 90 day rule prior to the legislation coming into force.</p> <p>C Ward thought that it would be beneficial to involve the Forum and user groups in the project. P Glen thought that Templeton Woods was one area where local involvement could really help. L Campbell informed the group that there is a new officer in the Council who will be developing projects with local people to make areas such as Templeton more user friendly. A A'Hara asked if there was any potential for the Council to put on a bus service to Templeton Woods. It was felt by other members of the Forum that the existing bus services to Birkhill were sufficient.</p>	LC

	<p>B Meikle said that the Sidlaw Path Group may have through routes planned in the area. L Campbell said that she would like to invite the Sidlaw Path Group to the AGM so that we could update each other on important routes in this area. K O'Donnell thought that this would be a good idea as at the moment kids from Ardler/ St Marys etc are walking along roads and unlit paths and there may be safer routes.</p> <p>It was asked if Baldragon Wood was included in the WIAT bid. It is, however it is not likely to be developed in terms of the path network. There may be some improvements to desire lines, however tree maintenance will be more important here first.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Sustrans Update on the Port Authority Route</b></p> <p>John Lauder of Sustrans met with the Port Authority on the 19th of January to find out if they would be willing to give passes to people who turn up on the day wanting to use the route. Sustrans now promote this route on their maps and want to make sure that tourists, visitors and those who do not frequently cycle will be able to use the route. As yet there has been no update from the meeting, but M Witham will inform the group of the outcome.</p>	MW
6.	<p><b>Horse Riding Update</b></p> <p>A meeting is still to be arranged. This will be held before the AGM and there will be an update at that meeting. L Campbell circulated an article from the Courier which highlighted the crossing on the Dundee - Arbroath road at Monifieth. The group had previously discussed the merits of this crossing. C Ward said that the next issue of the Paths For All Partnership newsletter would have a feature on the crossing due to its innovative design. The Horse Riding sub group would like to see a similar crossing from Camperdown to Templeton. B Meikle said that you would need to make sure that the horses had enough space to wait before crossing. This may need to be further back behind the wall.</p>	LC
7.	<p><b>Mariner Drive</b></p> <p>A A'Hara brought it to the attention of the Forum that Tom MacDonald Drive has been brought down to Mariner Drive, taking away part of the wood. The road has gone over a path which is possibly a Right of Way and has gone over the Green Circular. A A'Hara wanted to know if there was any possibility of assuring that paths will not be lost in the future as the medipark expands. There is a need to at least keep the desire lines. G Potts thought that identifying these paths in the Core Path Plan would help to give them some status. It was thought that there was a need to secure, and create new, provision for walkers/pedestrians.</p> <p>It was asked if there was any update on Riverside. This is still a licensed tip and data needs to be collected for a number of years before it can be opened for access. Recently SEPA recommended 1m of topsoil to cover the area. D Hogarth wondered if it would be possible to push for access through this group. The area is currently excluded from access rights for health and safety reasons due to hazardous materials. It was noted that the current signs state that the area will be reopened in 2002. It was thought that there was at least a case to update these signs.</p> <p>In terms of the path at Mariner Drive, the Forum has noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the road is going across this path</li> <li>- the path has been used for at least 20 years</li> <li>- the Forum would like to see efforts to secure this.</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b>National Access Forum- Local Access Forum Liaison</b></p> <p>A copy of the paper by the National Access Forum (NAF) on ways in which it could liaise with Local Forums had been circulated to the group. G Potts had previously made the suggestion that the NAF should send out a note of welcome to the new Local Access Forums and that a central database should be held by the NAF of current contact details for Local Forum members. B Meikle suggested that the minutes of Local Forums could be sent to the NAF to keep them up to date with local issues. It was thought that this would be a huge task for the NAF if every Local Forum sent in their minutes.</p> <p>C Ward said that the NAF was concerned with strategy, advice and the Code. M Witham thought that we should think about what the NAF is there for and how the linkage should work. Anything taken to the NAF would need to be an access issue of national importance. There may be specific issues that the NAF could help us with, but in this instance we could invite a NAF member to one of our meetings. We could also take a specific issue to the appropriate NAF representative to be raised at a NAF meeting. It was thought that this would be the best way forward. L Campbell to respond to the paper with the Forums</p>	LC

	<p>recommendations. It was thought that it would be useful to repeat the National/Local event.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Constitution</b></p> <p>L Campbell and G Potts met with the Councils External Funding Officer to discuss ways in which the Local Access Forum could apply for funding. The Officer looked over the Constitution and informed us that if we wanted to be able to apply for grants that Local Authorities can't apply for we would need to distance ourselves slightly from the Council and suggested some changes. G Potts, M Witham and L Campbell met to discuss the changes. These changes have been circulated to the group for comment with the view to adopt the final version at the AGM.</p> <p>It was felt that the main function of the Forum was to advise the Council. This should be the first objective and refer to the Land Reform Act.</p> <p>The Forum were agreeable with the proposal to extend their remit to in and around Dundee as this gives scope to work in partnership with Angus groups.</p> <p>L Campbell will set a date for comments back on the report.</p> <p>Once the Constitution is in place the Forum will be able initiate, fund and work on live projects.</p> <p>L Campbell to find out if other Access Forums have been successful in funding applications.</p>	<p>LC</p> <p>LC</p>
10.	<p><b>Application from Scott Milne</b></p> <p>L Campbell had circulated a copy of an application form from Scott Milne of the City Centre and Harbour Community Council to sit on the core group of the Forum. S Milne is interested in access issues in general and access in the City Centre in particular. If the members of the group were minded to do so S Milne could be voted on at the AGM.</p> <p>While the members of the group were not opposed to accepting the application and thought that having a City Centre representative could be a positive step they felt that the AGM would be the right place for the vote as a precedent could be set if a member was voted on at another time.</p> <p>The group wanted to make sure that numbers did not rise much above 16, but recognised that keeping flexibility is important.</p> <p>M Witham suggested adding a note into the operating principals or constitution to say that the core group will have a balanced range of representatives.</p> <p>It was thought that the group could invite people along if a specific issue arose in a specific area.</p>	
11.	<p><b>AOCB</b> <u>Balkello Woods</u></p> <p>Balkello Woods are situated to the north of Dundee, at the bottom of the Sidlaws. It was a Community Woodland and was well maintained with a path network, bridleways and car park. The Woodland Trusts 10 year funding has run out and the new land owner is less minded to maintain the area. The Forestry Commission have suggested that they would fund a Community Group to get the work done. The profile of users shows that this area is important to the people of Dundee, especially for access to the Sidlaws. G Potts is keen to link up with an Angus group, such as Auchterhouse Community Council, and Angus Local Access Forum for a possible joint bid and asked if the core group and wider forum would consider supporting this.</p> <p>P Glen said that he would support this view. The walking groups often go out there.</p> <p>It was thought that the Auchterhouse Path Network had proposed paths around this area, with at least one or two linking to Balkello Wood. D Hogarth said that there are 5 or 6 Rights of Way in the area too. He used the car park at least a couple of times a month.</p> <p>It was thought that it would be good to have a leaflet for the trails in the area.</p> <p>B Forsyth mentioned that they often used the area for orienteering, navigation and low level hill walking.</p> <p>The group thought that this would be worth supporting, as long as an Angus group was involved. G Potts said he would take this forward.</p>	<p>GP</p>

	<p><u>Training opportunities</u>  M Witham looked at training opportunities for Forum members.  Helen Todd of the Ramblers Association is looking into running another training event for user group representatives. She indicated that if there were enough spaces Community Group representatives could also attend. M Witham thought this would be worthwhile as the training goes into case studies and covers topics such as involvement in an access forum.</p> <p>Sue Hilder (NFUS) and Janice Gray (SRPBA) will be organising a Land Managers event on the 13th of April. B Meikle said that this would not be a good time for him as he would be lambing at that time.</p> <p>The Paths for All Partnership are about to bring out their new training programme for this year. These events are open to anyone, but there is a charge. If there was a relevant opportunity it may be possible to cover the expense of this through Dundee City Council.</p> <p>P Glen is attending Health Walk Leader training in Alloa in February.</p> <p>B Meikle informed the group that the group that S Inverarity mentioned at the last meeting is the Royal Highland Education Trust. They will not only get children out to farms, but will also organise for farmers to go into schools. This would be a far quicker and easier way of getting the message across to Dundee Schools. They can also supply information boxes to Schools.</p> <p><u>AGM Agenda and Date</u>  Date agreed was Monday 24th April 06.  Agenda to include: Chairman's Introduction describing first year, Core Path Planning, Constitution, Election of members, Meeting dates to be set for the year.  L Campbell to invite Sidlaw Path Network to speak about their work so far and also Access Officer/ Local Access Forum members from neighbouring authorities.</p> <p><u>Fly tipping</u>  G Potts recently found evidence of fly tipping in Templeton Woods. The rubbish that had been dumped contained contact details. GP phoned the Waste Enforcement Officer and a fixed penalty fine will be issued.  If others come across fly tipping in the Dundee area they can call Ron Harris on 01382 432732 with the information.</p>	<p>LC</p>
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**Minutes of  
Dundee's Local Access Forum  
AGM  
Monday 24th April 2006  
7 – 9.15 pm  
Committee Room 1, 14 City Square**

**Present:**

George Potts (Chair)  
Miles Witham (Vice Chair)  
Kevin O'Donnell  
Bruce Forsyth  
Albert A'Hara  
Peter Glen  
Bill Meikle  
Pam Watson  
Sandy Inverarity  
Robert Watson  
Rhona Thomson  
Scott Milne

**Apologies:**

Wilfred Lakie  
Joyce Kettles  
Colin Ward

**In Attendance:**

Laura Campbell, Access Officer (Secretary)  
Eric Hamilton, Forestry Officer  
Ian Whitehead, Greenspace Development Officer  
Gillian Zealand, Sidlaw Path Network Steering Group  
Myra Brown, Sidlaw Path Network Steering Group

No.	Item	Action
1.	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>G Potts welcomed everyone to the first AGM meeting of Dundee's Local Access Forum. The forum was set up in response to the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. There have been quarterly meetings of the forum and G Potts thanked the core group members for the high level of attendance. G Potts gave a note of thanks to the Secretary.</p> <p>G Potts introduced Rhona Thomson to the group. Rhona is the new SNH Area Officer and will be representing SNH at future meetings. G Potts introduced the guest speakers from the Sidlaw Path Network Steering Group and Eric Hamilton, Dundee City Council's Forestry Officer.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting of 30/01/06</b></p> <p>Matters arising from the minutes:</p> <p><u>Cycle Routes</u> The project will start on site on 1st May and should be completed by 22nd July. A budget has been allocated to sign both of the suggested routes in the West End area. W Lakie still has concerns about the route through Balgay Park, but L Campbell and M Witham thought that other alternatives would be indirect routes that people would be less likely to use.</p> <p><u>Sustrans update</u> M Witham updated the group on the recent meeting between Sustrans and the Port Authority. The current situation is that Route 1 will go through the Port Authority area and alternative signage will be taken down. Although the Port Authority did not think that people would be able to get a security pass on the same day, the current turn around time for passes is about 2 days. L Campbell informed the group that Planning &amp; Transportation would be speaking to the Port Authority about a European Funding project and this may open up discussions about the route again.</p> <p><u>Mariner Drive</u> A A'Hara informed the group that the work has been completed.</p> <p><u>National Access Forum - Local Access Forum liaison</u> L Campbell passed on the Forums comments to the National Access Forum.</p> <p>The minutes were proposed by Bill Meikle and seconded by Albert A'Hara.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Constitution, Operating Principles and Communications Strategy</b></p> <p>At the last meeting changes to the constitution were discussed and comments were invited back. The changes allow the forum to be identified more clearly as an independent organisation and can be used to access funding for projects. Colin Ward of the Paths for All Partnership suggested some changes and these were sent out. The constituted was voted in by all, with one abstained vote. B Meikle asked if community councils were kept informed of the forums meetings. LC said that she had not sent out minutes to them, but this is something that could be done in the future and will be added to the communications strategy. S Milne suggested that this should also include the Dundee Civic Forum. The communications strategy and operating principles were accepted with this change.</p> <p>The Local Access Forum website is kept up to date with minutes and information. This is available</p>	LC

	<p>on the Dundee City Council website at <a href="http://www.dundee.gov.uk/outaccess/forum.htm">www.dundee.gov.uk/outaccess/forum.htm</a> There is also other information on Outdoor Access projects on the same website.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Application from Scott Milne</b></p> <p>M Witham introduced S Milne to the Forum. He informed the group that there were three main benefits of having S Milne on the Forum. Firstly he is a regular user of access facilities in the City through walking and cycling, secondly he is the chair of the City Centre and Harbour Community Council and thirdly he is younger than most of the other forum members so could bring a perspective from a younger age group. Scott is also a web developer and therefore has valuable IT skills.</p> <p>S Milne said that with the ongoing central waterfront developments and changes to access in the city centre he would be well placed to keep the Forum up to date on these issues. He is also in connection with different groups who may have an influence on this. G Potts thought that in terms of geographic representation it would be good to have someone from the city centre on board.</p> <p>B Meikle aired a note of caution that the Forum should not be seen to be creating a precedent by electing new members. It was agreed that this could only be done at an AGM. It was also thought that we need to watch the size of the group. Around 16 members is manageable, but we don't want it to creep up too much. L Campbell said that one space on the core group had been applied for by someone at the start, but they had never taken it up, so in effect there is one empty seat available. L Campbell clarified that it was an application to attend core group meetings and not an application to be on the wider forum.</p> <p>The Forum members unanimously voted Scott Milne onto the core group.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Woodland in and around Towns</b></p> <p>G Potts introduced Eric Hamilton to the Forum. E Hamilton updated the Forum on the first 6 months of WIAT work. This has included restoration work at the Camperdown Elm, planting 6 hectares of woodland with the help of local school children and tree work in Camperdown, Reres park and the Law. This year there will be signage and path maintenance work at 10 locations throughout Dundee. About £60,000 will be spent on upgrading paths, signage and providing a car park in Templeton Woods. Eric thought that it would be beneficial to liaise with this group on signage and interpretation through L Campbell. E Hamilton will arrange for maps to be sent out.</p> <p>E Hamilton introduced Ian Whitehead, Greenspace Development Officer, to the Forum. Ian has been working on the TWIG project and is involved in the WIAT project. Ian explained that part of his role is to get community involvement in woodlands and green space. One project he is particularly interested in is community involvement in Templeton Woods and finding out how to encourage more people to use the area. Ian also informed the group that the Community Woods Association would like to offer some people from Dundee the opportunity to visit community woods in other areas of Scotland to see how they are managed and to bring back ideas. It is likely that the trips will be to Inverness and Ayrshire. This would be an all expenses paid trip. Anyone wishing to get involved should contact Ian Whitehead directly.</p> <p>Another bid will be put together this summer for future years funding. This is currently being done in partnership with other agencies - the health trust, SET, Downfield golf course - to apply for work on their behalf. There is potential for the Forum to be involved in the next bid as projects with community involvement are favoured. The bid could assist community groups with training, leaflets, equipment, websites etc. It can also look at educational aspects, promotion and community events and other ways of making woodlands fun and interesting. M Witham asked if it would be beneficial to put in the bid that they were working with the Local Access Forum. It was thought that this would be helpful. The Forum agreed in general terms to assist the bid where possible.</p> <p>P Glen said that one of the main reasons for people not accessing Templeton is signage. E Hamilton confirmed that this was included in this year's programme of work. A A'Hara asked about the paths in the woods in front of Ninewells Hospital which are owned by SET. It was thought that we would need to wait and see what SET are looking for here.</p>	EH
6.	<p><b>Sidlaw Path Network Steering Group</b></p> <p>Gillian Zealand and Myra Brown from the Sidlaw Path Network Steering Group (SPNSG) gave an introduction of their group to the Forum. They cover the area of Muirhead, Liff and Birkhill and were initially approached by Angus Council Roads Dept to help them apply for funding. The project fell through, but has led to other contacts. They have received help from the Roads Dept, Access Officer, Countryside Officer and Angus Environmental Trust.</p>	

	<p>To develop their path network they walked around the area and commissioned a survey of the routes. They came up with a linear spinal route and local circular routes leading off this. There is potential for going further a field and linking up with other routes. Once they had decided on the routes they would like to include they sent a letter of introduction to landowners and invited them to a meeting. After the meeting some of the routes were amended to take into account the needs of the landowners. They are hoping to get the landowners to sign a letter of agreement concerning the improvements that they want to be allowed to stand for a certain length of time. This is essential for funding. Some of the landowners would like to add a disclaimer to this which will not hold them liable and this is holding up proceedings.</p> <p>Paul Clark, the Angus Access Officer, has looked at signposting for the routes and the group are hoping to produce a leaflet in co-ordination with the Fife Health Walks Group 'Its a Doodle'. They have a dedicated maintenance team which includes P Watson, they help to keep the routes clear.</p> <p>G Potts asked if there was any opportunity for the SPNSG to influence developments in Liff and Balkello Woods. Balkello Woods would fall in the Auchterhouse area. There was an issue with a development in Liff Village which was impacting on a Drovers Road, however this has now been resolved.</p> <p>A A'Hara asked if the disclaimers in the Code were not enough for landowners. It was thought that the problem was not allowing access, but was more concerned with maintaining the paths. The possibility of insurance from various sources was discussed, but it was thought that the real problem was not insuring maintenance teams, but insuring that the landowner would not get sued if someone hurt themselves on the path. It was felt that the Code covered this by implying that activities are undertaken at the users own risk. S Inverarity pointed out that the Code is advisory only and has no legal standing. P Watson suggested the group should contact Janice Gray the SRPBA Access Officer as she is able to put forward the landowner's point of view and how to tackle it. L Campbell said that it might also be worthwhile contacting the NFUS Access Officer Sue Hilder.</p> <p>G Potts thanked Gillian &amp; Myra for speaking to the group. There will be many lessons the Forum can learn from this example.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Core Path Planning</b></p> <p>L Campbell informed the group that a Committee Report on Core Path Planning had been approved in February. This now gives us the go ahead to start consultations for the draft core path plan. L Campbell and G Potts have devised a timetable for consultation based on community events, ranger events and community council meetings. In this first round of consultation we will be collecting information on where people like to walk, horse ride and cycle and will be collating this data on a map. Next year we will carry out similar consultations to find out what people think the Core Network should be - as not all paths will be core paths. This will form the draft core path plan which will be put forward for adoption.</p> <p>L Campbell handed round a list of consultation dates and times. L Campbell is looking for volunteers to assist with the process. If anyone would like to help out they should contact L Campbell with their preferred areas, dates and times. The locations for consultations between 26th to 30th June have still to be confirmed, but if people could indicate the area they would like to work in and the best day for them more information will be sent out.</p> <p>The Camperdown/Templeton consultations will include the Western Gateway area.</p>	ALL
8.	<p><b>Horse Riding Sub Group Update</b></p> <p>L Campbell notified the group that there had been another meeting of the horse riding sub group since the last core group meeting. At the meeting we looked at ways of taking forward projects in the West of the city. One positive step since the meeting has been that the WIAT team have agreed to put forward the idea of a Pegasus crossing at the Coupar Angus Road as part of their next bid. The Park Managers were going to speak to Historic Scotland about the possibility of moving the West Gate at Camperdown Park. L Campbell has spoken to SCRI, however they have suggested phoning back in June as management was changing. Their response has not particularly positive to date. P Watson said that she was consulting people on the preferred routes for horse riding in the area. It asked if anyone new how well the east crossing was working. B Watson hadn't seen anyone using it, but K O'Donnell has seen horse riders using it and it seems to be working well. It must be used by the nearby stables. K O'Donnell informed the Forum that keeping the speed limit at 40mph instead of 50mph increased travelling time between Claypotts Junction and Monifieth by 14 seconds. It was thought that the difference would be similar on the Coupar Angus Road and that this would be important to highlight.</p>	

9.	<p><b>AOCB</b></p> <p><u>Riverside</u></p> <p>A A'Hara brought up the issue of Riverside Nature Park. A closure plan, which has been documented and approved in Council minutes, sets out an official opening in July 2007. G Potts and L Campbell had a positive meeting with Pete Goldie, where he explained what was happening on the site. The main problem is that to exit from the licence they need to comply with legislation and this moves on before they complete the work. Core Paths could be designated in this area as the draft plan won't be approved until 2008. R Thomson said that SNH would be keen to be involved in any developments on the SSSI area. Dundee's Local Access Forum looks forward to its first walk on Riverside Nature Park on 1st August 2007.</p> <p><u>Balkello</u></p> <p>G Potts updated the group on the current situation at Balkello Woods. The Forum had agreed in principle to support any grant claims for maintenance, however this has come to a halt due to a public inquiry into the Angus Local Plan.</p> <p><u>Motorbikes</u></p> <p>K O'Donnell said that the signage and information that had been put has been working. It has been quite quiet for the past 4/5 months. This is the time of year when the activity increases again and the Police will need to revisit involvement. The Police have successfully seized a few motorcycles through the use of ASBOs. The Police are encouraging people to report any incidents to them. What they need is a good description of the bike and the person using it e.g. clothing etc. It is important to phone in at the time of the incident. In some cases it is ok to use 999 if you can't get through to 223200. For example if a horse rider was buzzed by a motorbike and it put them and potentially others using the track further along in danger calling 999 would be ok. The advice is the same for people using quad bikes and mini motos too. On some occasions the person is riding their motorbike legitimately with the landowner's permission, however this is usually the minority of cases. G Potts encouraged people to support Kevin and the Police force in their efforts.</p> <p><u>Case Law</u></p> <p>L Campbell updated the group on the new examples of case law that had been emailed round. These are all in early stages, but will prove to be interesting test cases in the Land Reform Act. The first is Archerfield in East Lothian. This is a golf course and hotel development which has erected fencing blocking access. East Lothian Council served a section 14 notice on them requiring the obstructions to be removed. The company are challenging this notice. The second involves a landowner who had put up barriers preventing access by horse riders as the landowner thought that use by horse riders would be irresponsible. Highland Council has served a section 14 notice for the obstructions to be removed and the landowner is appealing against this. The third involves an estate in Stirling where the landowner had locked gates preventing access. After a visit by Council Officers the gates were unlocked, but were found to be locked again a few weeks later. Stirling Council has served a section 14 notice and the landowner is appealing against this.</p> <p>S Inverarity informed the Forum that the Highland case was initiated by walkers. The landowner had maintained paths for wheelchair access and thought the horse riders would damage the surface. P Watson suggested that there was guidance in the Code for horse riders about slowing down to pass walkers and not damaging path surfaces. P Glen thought that while he could see the problems for wheelchair access he did not see the problem that the walkers had. M Witham suggested that there was a need to look for successful models where different user groups were accessing the same areas. P Watson said that there was a project in Clackmannanshire where walkers and cyclists used a path and next to it was a grass surface for horse riders to use.</p> <p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>The dates proposed for the next years meetings are 28/08/06, 27/11/06, 26/02/07 and 30/04/07. These were accepted by the Forum members. It was asked if the meetings could be moved back to City Square in the future as the acoustics are better than at Olympia. It was agreed that the meetings would be held at City Square.</p> <p><u>AGM Agenda</u></p> <p>G Potts informed the group that this AGM would be different to others as we have no accounts to present and no election of office bearers as they are all in post for two years.</p> <p>A note of thanks was given to the Chair.</p>	
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**Minutes of  
Dundee's Local Access Forum  
Monday 28th August 2006  
7 – 9 pm  
Committee Room 3, 14 City Square**

**Present:**

George Potts (Chair)  
Kevin O'Donnell  
Peter Glen  
Pam Watson  
Robert Watson

**Apologies:**

Miles Witham (Vice Chair)  
Sandy Inverarity  
Albert A'Hara  
Scott Milne  
Wilfred Lakie  
Joyce Kettles  
Bill Meikle (late apologies)  
Rhona Thomson (late apologies)

**In Attendance:**

Laura Campbell, Access Officer (Secretary)  
Colin Ward, Paths for All Partnership

No.	Item	Action
1.	<b>Introduction</b> G Potts welcomed the Forum to the 6th meeting of the Core Group.	
2.	<b>Minutes of the meeting of 30/01/06</b> Minutes of the last meeting will be moved for adoption at the next AGM. Matters arising from the minutes: SCRI - LC to contact The Archerfield Case has been resolved with the Golf Course complying with all the actions set out in the notice served by East Lothian council.	LC
3.	<b>A focus for the Forum?</b> LC put forward the proposal that the forum may wish to decide on a project or projects to take forward and work on over the next year. LC made some suggestions to the forum of the types of project they might want to consider and asked them for their input.  PW would be keen to look at the development of paths and trails in the western gateway area. KO thought that the developments at Strathmartine Road should also be looked at. A lack of green space and paths here causes problems. It would be good to look at the provision of green space for young people and alternative routes to the city centre. It was thought that it would be important to put pressure on developers now to include new path networks in developments in the future. The Outdoor Access Strategy could be used to back up any comments on plans. The forum felt that they would be able to apply for funding for path links in this area. CW suggested speaking to planners about planning gain. Core path planning will also play an important role here with routes appearing on local plan maps.  At the Angus Local Access forum AGM it was evident that at the moment they are focusing core path planning on paths in and around communities. LC has met with the Angus Access Officer and has discussed some of the initial findings from core path planning consultations in Dundee where these link into Angus. LC to continue to do this throughout the process.  The idea of funding a Pegasus crossing through the WIAC fund was put forward to the Forestry Commission, however it did not receive a positive response despite being a project that the community would like and would benefit from. They suggested that this should be funded through the Roads Department. The forum agreed that funding for this project should be pursued.  Balkello woods - project to be pursued with Angus. Auchterhouse may be in a position to put in for WIAC funding. Lead would need to come from Angus, but we could support any action.  GP asked RW if he thought there were any problems between jet skis and dolphins and if so would interpretation boards and information leaflets help. RW thought that there was not really a clash. Channel markers have been put out and byelaws introduced by the Council. Signage for the public may be useful at Broughty Castle area. Could involve Broughty Ferry Environment Group.  Group agreed to focus on west & north developments and continue to be updated on other projects. LC to arrange for planner to attend next meeting and bring along maps of the area.	LC

4.	<b>Woodlands Signage</b> LC asked for help in identifying paths that could be way-marked in the areas that are to get new interpretation boards through WIAT funding. Also any points of interest that could go on the boards. The group looked at maps and suggested some paths that could be highlighted. LC to email others in the forum to ask them for any input.	LC
5.	<b>Management Rules</b> LC brought it to the forum's attention that Dundee City Council will be reviewing its management rules to bring them up to date with the land reform act. It would be useful for the forum to comment on how they think this should progress so that this can be put forward to the group taking this forward within the Council as a suggestion. There are several ways this could be done. Edinburgh is considering a more interpretive approach to management rules, while Glasgow have adapted their rules to include the Land Reform Act and Scottish Outdoor Access Code. It is important for the Local Authority to be compliant with the Code. There is a need to get things in order with Council ground before enforcement on other land owners.  It was suggested that other legislation already backs up most of the management rules. KO There is a difference between management rules and criminal law. Criminal Law is limited and restricted and requires proof beyond reasonable doubt. Management rules are easier to enforce due to the way in which they are worded. The Code would have evidential status similar to the Highway Code. They provide guidance that a Council Employee can enforce.  CW suggested this was a good opportunity to bin any rules that were not needed. It is a different way of doing business than most authorities are used to.  The forum recommended keeping management rules but sorting out rules relating to cycling, horse riding, camping and other outdoor activities to include more compliance with the Code. LC to pass these recommendations on to the group reviewing management rules.	LC
6.	<b>Core Path Planning</b> LC gave an update to the forum on the progress of core path planning consultations. Over the summer LC has attended 27 different local events and meetings asking people where they like to take access in their area. This included a week with they Countryside Rangers where a stand was taken to different places across the city to ask people their opinions. This was particularly useful as it targeted people that wouldn't necessarily come along to the other events and meetings. The response has been varied, but most areas have now been covered by the initial round of consultation. LC may be in a position to bring in a draft map of what people have said at the next meeting. GP asked if there were any barriers to people taking access. LC reported that the main ones related to crossing busy roads such as the Kingsway and Riverside Drive.	
7.	<b>AOCB</b> <u>Development of Stannergate to Broughty Ferry</u> Stannergate being looked at by Bridge engineers. They are currently trying to identify funding.  <u>Training &amp; events</u> SNH are holding a free event at Battleby (north of Perth) on 17th October to help people think of ways to promote the Scottish Outdoor Access Code. PG indicated that he would like to go. Anyone else wishing to attend should contact LC asap. There will be a repeat of last years joint meeting between Local Access Forums and the National Access Forum. This will be held on 20th September. 2 places are available. Anyone wishing to attend should contact LC asap. BHS will be holding a training event for horse riding representatives - PW to attend and report back  <u>Alternative to Green Circular through the port</u> Miles Witham's suggestions were put forward. Issues may arise due to vehicle access to commercial premises here. Would need a planning view on this.  <u>Ministerial visit</u> Rhona Brankin, Environment Minister visited Templeton Woods recently to see work being carried out through WIAT funding. PG and Health Walks group were there as was Gillian Zealand from Sidlaw Paths Group. R Brankin could see the political benefit in linking up path networks and was knowledgeable about what was happening in Dundee.	PW
8.	<b>Date of Next Meeting: 27th November 2006</b>	

**Minutes of  
Dundee's Local Access Forum  
Monday 27th November 2006  
7 – 9 pm  
Committee Room 3, 14 City Square**

**Present:**

Bruce Forsyth  
Sandy Inverarity  
Bill Meikle  
Kevin O'Donnell  
George Potts (Chair)  
Pam Watson  
Miles Witham (Vice Chair)

**In Attendance:**

Laura Campbell, Access Officer (Secretary)  
Eve Jones, Planning Officer  
Iain Ross, Development Quality Team Leader

**Apologies:**

Robert Watson  
Wilfred Lakie  
Rhona Thomson

No.	Item	Action
1.	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>GP welcomed the members of the forum to the meeting and introduced Eve Jones and Ian Ross from the Planning and Transportation dept who will be speaking about the developments in the Western Gateway area.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes of the meeting of 28th August 2006</b></p> <p>Woodlands signage will be starting to appear soon. This has stalled temporarily due to cost of signs.</p> <p>Green Circular alternative route. Advice from planning colleagues is that negotiations are ongoing with Port Authority. The route may yet be open to all. Forum to give planning a year to sort it out otherwise revert back to the alternative route.</p> <p>Minutes proposed by KO and seconded by LC.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Western Countryside Area</b></p> <p>SI declared an interest in the subject as he is a landowner in this area.</p> <p>Iain Ross introduced himself as Development Quality Officer and Eve Jones as a specific case officer in planning. IR and EJ went explained to the Forum that the village developments in the west of Dundee were part of the Local Plan, which provides a strategic background for planning developments. This document set out potential areas for 5 village developments: 3 in west and 2 in east. The villages in the East are both underway. In the West there is 1 underway (the Liff Hospital site), 1 in development (the bottom site by the Swallow Hotel) and Planning are anticipating another application for the middle village. Planning permission in full would be granted on conditions in a section 75 agreement being agreed to and signed. The section 75 agreement sets out a formal position on the provision of road improvements, footway linkages, flood storage, education contribution, contribution to parks and future maintenance.</p> <p>An in-depth discussion was based around maps and plans of the sites. The locations of possible path links and green spaces/ recreation areas were looked at. There are particular difficulties with these sites in asking for joined up networks of paths. This is due to different developers applying for each site, starting at different times etc and especially as there is no final proposal for the middle village. There are specific paths that they are asking for from the Liff Hospital and Swallow sites. The possibility of creating a link from Liff hospital to Camperdown Park was raised. This could tie in with Red Squirrel Conservation measures if it included a tree belt to act as a green corridor. LC mentioned that the Core Path Planning project could help to determine where paths should go. It shows the results of consultations where people have been asked where they like, or would like, to walk, cycle, horse ride etc. This could be a useful planning tool. LC to keep EJ and IR up to date with the process.</p> <p>It was noted that in Local Plan documents and maps 'footpaths' should become 'paths' in keeping with the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003.</p> <p>Actions to take forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Forum to keep an eye on planning proposals for new developments and make comments as necessary.</li> <li>• Horse riding sub group to put forward a briefing paper on what provision is required.</li> <li>• Forum to take forward discussions with SCRI</li> <li>• LC to keep Planning up to date with Core Path Planning process</li> </ul>	<p><b>ALL</b></p> <p><b>PW/LC</b> <b>LC</b> <b>LC</b></p>

4.	<b>Management Rules</b> LC circulated draft of proposed changes to management rules. Only changed with relation to Land Reform Act, but any other changes are to be made at the same time. LC consulting others in process and hoping to put forward to Legal Dept soon. Removes need for permit for horse riding. LC to keep the Forum updated on progress.	LC
5.	<b>Core Path Planning</b> LC showed the forum a map showing some of the information gathered for the west of Dundee. By March this should be completed for whole of Dundee area, compiling all the consultation maps and questionnaires onto one map. This will allow analysis of the routes to be taken forward into the final plan. Forum to be consulted at all stages of CPP. Maps to be made available before the next Forum meeting.	LC
6.	<b>Cycling Update</b> MW wrote a letter to Mike Galloway as Vice Chair of the Forum and in his other roles as Sustrans Liaison Ranger for Tayside and Convenor of Ninewells Bicycle User Group about gritting paths and cycleways. A note was made in January that the forum would back the gritting of cycleways. Planning & Transportation sub group committee recently passed the budget for gritting and did not consider cycleways important as it was felt these were used for leisure. However, cycleways across the city are used by many people for commuting journeys. P&T prioritise their budget by volume of traffic; therefore roads are seen as most important. It was also claimed that the path by Riverside Drive never gets icy as it is by the river; however, a cyclist commuting to work was injured when he slipped on ice here. This view was put forward in the letter, but the response was that there would not be a change. The forum agreed that a letter should be sent more widely with the backing of the whole forum asking for this to be considered in next years budgets. It may be possible to get figures from P&T of numbers of cyclists using the routes to back the letter. It was suggested that mention should also be made that as winter progresses if there are not many cold days there may be extra funding near the end of the season and that it be requested that any extra resources be spent on the gritting of major commuter cycle routes. It was noted that the paths in Angus are well treated.  MW attended bicycle forum where the view from many cyclists was that they were not keen on shared use paths. This contradicts the view strongly put across at a recent Cycling Scotland conference in which shared use paths, particularly in urban areas, was seen as the way forward. There is also research to show that this is one of the highest factors in encouraging people to cycle.	MW
7.	<b>AOCB Training</b> LC attended training on Promote the Code at the SNH office in Battleby. The event was based on sharing ideas on promoting the Code through quizzes, games and information leaflets. Some of these would be good for use at events. LC can send out copies of the information received.  GP & LC attended the National Access Forum meeting in Peebles. The Local Access Forum mentioned that they were strong on walking groups and promoting walking. They had virtually no big access issues to deal with. This is likely to be due to the long history of access in the area which has been uninterrupted by the Land Reform Act. Access is seen as a community resource.  <u>Coupar Angus Road</u> GP wrote a letter to Mike Galloway and the Lord Provost outlining the problems caused by the speed of traffic on the Coupar Angus Road. There have been a number of vehicle accidents on the road recently. The response was that in 1995 the speed limit was dropped from 60 to 50 and warning signs have been placed. An investigation will be carried out and they will get back to us.  <u>Update on Court Cases</u> Expecting update soon from Scotways update on the cases currently in court. LC to forward on.  <u>Access issues on the Upper Tay</u> BF briefed the Forum on an issue that neighbouring Forum for Perth & Kinross is dealing with. P&K access forum had a meeting and it was decided that the Forum would facilitate a meeting between land owners & rafters and act in a mediating role.  <u>National Access Forum</u> Golf Courses - GP able to update the National Forum the Dundee did not have issues with this as far as we were aware.	LC

8.	<p><u>Leaflets</u> PW - Cycling &amp; walking leaflets, but nothing for horse riders. PW and LC to work on this.</p> <p><u>Outdoor Access Festival</u> SNH are promoting an Outdoor Access Festival next year between 29th April and 7th May. Events will be held across Scotland. Opportunity for Forum to get involved and promote some of the work that it does. Countryside Rangers will be involved in several events including a walk in Camperdown on the 2nd of May where there will be a marquee and an opportunity for a 'Local Access Forum information stand'.</p> <p><b>Date of Next Meeting:</b> 26th February 2007</p>	LC/PW
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