



**Minutes of Dundee Local Access Forum
Held in Committee Room 3, 14 City Square
Monday 25th January 2010, 7- 9pm**

Core Group

PRESENT:

Peter Glen Chair	(Walking Group)
David Martin Vice Chair	(Cycling Group)
George Potts Acting Secretary	Senior Countryside Ranger
Alan Young	West End Community Council
Roy Partington	Scotways
Pam Watson	BHS
Georgina Bowie	Craic

Also in Attendance:

Catherine Houston	Planning Department DCC
Gregor Hamilton	Planning Department DCC
John Whyman	Greenspace Officer DCC

APOLOGIES:

Bruce Forsyth	Outdoor Education
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No	Item	ACTION	DATE
1	Welcome and Introductions Peter Glen, Chair welcomed representatives of Planning Dept to the meeting PG also welcomed John Whyman, currently Greenspace Officer soon to take up the post of Access Officer with the Council		
2	Minutes of previous meeting 23rd November 2009 The minutes were approved by David Martin and Alan Young. It was noted that R. P had not been circulated with these minutes.	GP	
3	Matters Arising from these Minutes Letter to Laura Campbell still to be actioned Celtic Trees - discussion about a trail at Balgay had taken place but no further activity was noted. Heritage Path - GP advised the meeting that the student who was to take up a placement on the forum with the purpose of advancing Heritage Paths research is no longer available to take up the post. GP to enquire with	GP/PG	

the Discovery award at Ancrum as to the progress of the project undertaken by two of their participants.

4 Planning Dept proposal for Riverside Nature Park
PG introduced Catherine Houston and Gregor Hamilton and asked them to describe the new proposal for Riverside N.P.

GH described the site (33 hectares) and gave a brief outline of the history of the Landfill. The estuary beside RNP has several scientific designations - SSSI, SPA, Ramsar, and LNR of these only the LNR applies to the landfill as part of the estuarine habitat.

Current use of the site is mainly Waste Management with a composting area and civic amenity skips. The airport occupies the eastern aspect.

Original proposals were drafted in 1993 and these received outlined planning permission at that time. Concerns over the condition of the site led to significant delays in implementing the plan.

These proposals recognised the importance of the site to wildlife and the conflicting demand of Airport Traffic. This plan afforded a level of protection to the bird population while at the same time encouraging public access

The site was now on the register for Vacant and Derelict land and as such was eligible for funding. This amounted to £1.75 million each year for three years (08 - 11). The dept were required to submit a delivery plan to secure this funding and had £1 million available to develop the site by March 2011.

Catherine Houston issued a map which formed the basis of open discussion on the proposal.

DM raised the matter of the scientific designations as they applied to the landfill area and the influence these would have on the development of the site. Long term plans still included amenity skips and a composting area. CH described the legend on the map and the plans for a path network. There was an exclusion zone associated with the Airport.

Car parking would be off Wright Ave.

Bird hides and interpretation would be the main facility installed. DM raised the matter of access to the shoreline, but the disturbance of roosting / feeding birds by dogs was a consideration.

There followed a discussion on how local people and

GP

volunteers might be involved in helping a council dept to manage the site. This was felt to be important for the stewardship of the area. A budget holder for the management of maintenance was yet to be identified. GH advised the meeting of the steering group and focus group who will develop the plan taking into account feedback from the consultations they are currently engaged in.

DM raised the possibility of mountain bike trails on the site to broaden scope of legitimate users. PW advised that horses would be equally entitled to use the site.

RP quoted the Tully case from Inverness with regard to responsible use by horse riders. There was general support for the idea of waymarked trails with points of interest eg art installations, to encourage people to explore the site.

GH advised that the design of paths and facilities would be centred on low maintenance costs.

Discussion on the natural heritage value of landfill. RP gave an example from Switzerland and AY raised the practice of set aside as used by farmers.

Community woodland could be developed but would need to feature shrubs, not trees to accommodate the requirements of the Airport.

PG gave his thanks to GH and CH for their contribution and to the forum members for their suggestions and ideas.

5 Progress with Access Officer Post

GP introduced John Whyman who is to be the new access Officer on 1st March next.

JW gave his background and experience particularly his work in Dundee since 1993. AY welcomed this appointment and commended JW to the forum.

JW has some access projects within his current role of Green space Officer - Miley, Templeton and Ninewells Hospital Greenways connection.

6 Correspondence

The forum had received an enquiry from Andrew LLanwarne with regard to the Dighty Connect project. It was agreed this was of interest to the forum and members would like to hear more.

7 Actions for AGM

Date of AGM	26th April
Time	7pm to 9pm

	<p>Venue Baxter Park Centre (needs to be booked) Press release and / or advert Tea Coffee</p>	<p>GP JW JW/GP</p>
	<p>Forum members are asked to submit items for the agenda no later than the 12th April.</p>	
	<p>Election of Office bearers. GP to check the constitutional requirements and advise PG.</p>	
	<p>Discussion on invited speakers, GP to action.</p>	<p>GP</p>
	<p>DM can give a short presentation on railway connections. Agreed DM should meet with Angus LAF or Sidlaw Path Group towards extending the old Railway line route as a footpath / cycleway.</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>AOCB PW advised forum that she was holding a Scottish Endurance Riding Club event at Camperdown / Templeton / Clatto and waymarking / stewarding would be organised as part of this event.</p>	
	<p>There being no further business the meeting was closed.</p>	
	<p><u>Note from acting Secretary</u></p>	
<p>9</p>	<p><u>Dates of next meeting.</u> To be confirmed.</p> <p>Provisional dates are: 23rd August 2010 22nd November 2010 24th January 2011</p> <p>With next years AGM suggested for 25th April 2011 Dates to be ratified at AGM</p>	



**Dundee Local Access Forum
Annual General Meeting
Held in Baxter Park, Park Centre. Dundee
On Monday 26th April 2010 7pm**

Present:

Peter Glen (chair) Walking Groups
David Martin (vice chair) Cycling Groups
John Whyman (secretary) Access Officer

Core Group:

George Potts Nature Conservation
Bruce Forsyth Outdoor Education
Ruth Brenik Stobswell Forum
Alan Young West -End Community Council
John McKay Scotways Rep
Pam Watson British Horse Society

Apologies:

Roy Partington Scotways
Neil Gellatly Dundee City Council
Colin Ward Paths For All Partnership

Wider Membership

Kevin Clayton
Georgina Clayton
Andrew Llanwarne Dighty Connect Project
Nessie Cowie Ramblers Association
Maureen Watson Dundee Ramblers Association
Sandra Knight
Kirsty Duncan Dundee Travel Active
Patricia Harrow Angus LAF

Apologies:

Alison Anderson Sustain Dundee
Bob Duncan Convenor Leisure and Communities
Mike Strachan Forestry Commission

No	Item	Action
1.	Chair Peter Glen, opened the meeting and introduced the core group members of the forum.	
2.	<p><u>Dighty Connect Project, Andrew Llanwarne</u> AL gave an illustrated talk on his involvement in the Dighty Connect Project. The project is based in the east end of the city and links in with existing activities there particularly Dighty Environment Group and Broughty Ferry Environment Group</p> <p>AL had attended The Dighty Conference where ideas for the development of the Dighty as a city resource had been invited. This had sparked a wide range of responses from walking, historical and cultural interests. There were also geographical links to the Dighty e.g. Green Circular, North Sea Cycle Trail and the Arbroath Coastal Trail.</p>	

	<p>The project helped identify gaps in provision and promoted the existing routes. The project also identified new developments such as housing which may impact on the route. There were possible links to existing services such as Countryside Rangers in Dundee and in Angus which could be used to develop interests through guided walks. There was also a need to develop circular routes linked to the Dighty to encourage people to access the sites and a need to assess the current maintenance regime.</p> <p>The Dighty Connect Project was given access to an historical map which listed 42 sites of industrial heritage on the waterfront. The Dighty Connect Project was investigating wider links to the Sidlaws and Newtyle Railway track and the Dighty corridor into Angus. There was a prospect of linking into a trail which would stretch from Lumley Den in the east to Branklinn Gardens in the west. It was noted that Dundee was at the centre of these networks. AL reported that lots of new signage and information panels had been put up in the last couple of years mostly funded by WIAT. (Woodlands In and Around Towns) There was continuing volunteer effort from the Dighty Environment group especially at their Wildlife site off Pitkerro Road.</p> <p>Dighty Connect was hoping to develop a partnership with Sidlaw Paths Network Group and Access Officers from Dundee and Angus to expand the paths network through Auchterhouse and beyond. The project had identified a gap with the old iron bridge at Linlathen AL reported that there was the prospect of the bridge being restored. Other issues were the Murrows Burr crossing and the options for alternative routes in that area. The A92 arterial route did create a barrier and there were issues with seasonal Giant Hogweed and bramble at Panmuirfield. The Miley at Harefield Road, there was a need to upgrade and formalise this entrance to encourage access. The Dighty Connect Project had identified opportunities to add to the waymarked routes at Longhaugh Woods and Balmuir Woods</p> <p>AL had visited the South of Scotland Countryside Trails Network to inspire and inform the development of the Dighty Connect Project The Dighty Connect Project and Broughty Ferry Environment Project were collaborating over an "Active Travel" plan project which was community based and targeted the east end of the city to encourage more use of current footpaths and cycleways.</p> <p>AL closed his presentation by inviting questions. GP asked about the issues of promoting access to areas currently infested by Giant Hogweed. Advised that there was a funding bid made to tackle Giant Hogweed. PW asked AL to keep in mind the needs of horse riders when developing a path network into the wider countryside.</p> <p>PG gave a vote of thanks to AL for his informative presentation</p>	
3.	<p><u>Dundee's Railway Heritage Trail David Martin</u></p> <p>DM described the development and history of the railway network in Dundee from the 1830's onwards and the impact this had on the industry and commerce of the city. In particular the jute industry benefited from the volume and low cost delivery of coal to fuel the mills. Connections to the wider countryside were important for bringing agricultural produce to the increasing population of the city. DM's trail looked around the city, for railway architecture and artefacts remaining from the extensive network that had existed in the city. Some of those, for example the Miley, gave access opportunities and there was great potential to link into track beds on the Dundee/ Newtyle Auchterhouse link.</p> <p>DM advised the meeting that a leaflet was at an advanced stage of design and he hoped to be able to issue it in May. Peter Glen proposed a vote of thanks for DM's presentation.</p>	

<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Access Officer John Whyman</u></p> <p>JW had recently taken up the post of Access Officer succeeding Laura Campbell. As such he will be the Secretary to the Forum and took this opportunity to introduce himself to the meeting.</p> <p>JW gave a brief outline of his work in Dundee since he arrived in 1992 and his plans over the next 12 months in his new post.</p> <p>JW to identify paths for improvement and to liaise over WIAT works signage issues and the Dundee Travel Active project. JW interested in promotion of greenspace and involving volunteers in path monitoring, particularly in the parks with a remit to introduce these types of walks to other areas of the city.</p> <p>JW responded to questions from Alan Young (West End Community Council) about access to paths on Riverside Nature Park. JW to arrange an update to be given at the next forum meeting.</p> <p>John McKay (Scotways) asked about the process for improvement of paths identified as part of the Core path plan. Local Access Forum and Community Planning Partnerships to assist in the identification of paths priorities as part of this process.</p> <p>Tactran routes linked to core paths plan, green circular and potentially the Dundee Heritage Railway Trail.</p> <p>Andrew Llanware (Dighty Connect) advised meeting his project was investigating links to North Sea Cycle Route to Core Path 22.</p> <p>JW currently working on identified projects relating to his available capital spend for 2010/11. These included a WIAT contribution.</p> <p>Peter Glen proposed vote of thanks to JW for his presentation.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Minutes Of 2009 Annual General Meeting</u></p> <p>Motion to adopt Proposed DM, seconded Alan Young</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>DM took the meeting through Matters Arising.</p> <p>Core Path Plan - now adopted</p> <p>Heritage Paths Plan no progress, student unable to take up proposed placement to further this project.</p> <p>The discussion with Neil Gellatly regarding winter maintenance of footpaths and cycleways had resulted in a letter to the Director of Planning and Transport. The reply indicated that council policy set these priorities and would need council approval to change them. The meeting generally agreed that the paths had been quite well maintained in very challenging circumstances this winter.</p> <p>Dundee Travel Active - brief update from DTA staff member K Duncan that following last summers doorstep consultation visits a follow up survey revealed that one - third of people had changed their travel habits to walk or cycle more and drive less.</p> <p>Large promotional event on Saturday 1st May 2010. More travel advisors to be employed in the summer meanwhile there was a Travel Active shop in the Wellgate Centre giving out advice/encouragement on travel plans.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Presentation of Annual Report Peter Glen (chair)</u></p> <p>Chair Peter Glen set out the context for the work of the Forum- established as a result of the Land Reform Act (Scotland) 2003.</p> <p>PG reported that the core group members have held their quarterly meetings and thanked the members for their continuing commitment and support.</p> <p>PG advised the meeting that during the year the previous Access Officer and Secretary to the</p>	

	<p>forum Laura Campbell had moved to another post outwith Dundee and that John Whyman had recently taken over these duties.</p> <p>PG invited questions on the activities of the forum over the last year.</p> <p>John McKay (Scotways) asked if the Heritage paths project would remain a target for the forum?</p> <p>PG advised that a student placement was still available and would be actioned as appropriate. Patricia Harrow (Angus LAF) asked if the forum had many live access issues to deal with. PG advised that the forum had been consulted on a planning development which adversely affected a path near Ninewells Hospital. This application has now been referred to the Scottish Government for adjudication.</p> <p>JW reported that he had dealt with some correspondence on blocked paths which fell under his remit as Access Officer</p>	
7.	<p><u>Election of Office Bearers</u></p> <p>As there were no resignations or requirements to change the office bearers those in post were anonymously re-elected to their current positions.</p> <p>Nominations for the core group membership</p> <p>David Martin proposed Andrew Llanwarne (Dighty Connect) seconded by G Potts, carried.</p> <p><u>AOCB</u></p> <p>Dates For Core Group Members Meetings</p> <p>29th November 2010 24th January 2011 25th April 2011 (AGM)</p> <p>Dates proposed by JW Seconded by PG Venues to be confirmed</p>	
8.	<p>Close of Meeting</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.50pm</p>	
9.	<p>Date of Next Meeting - 23rd August 2010 7pm.</p>	



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PRESENT:

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David Martin Vice Chair	(Cycling Group)
George Potts Secretary	Senior Countryside Ranger
Alan Young	West End Community Council
Roy Partington	Scotways
Pam Watson	BHS
Ruth Brenk	Coldside LCPP
John Whyman Secretary	Access Officer DCC
Bruce Forsyth	Outdoor Education

APOLOGIES:

No	Item	ACTION	DATE
1	Welcome and Introductions Peter Glen, Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting		
2	Minutes of previous meeting 25th January 2010 The minutes were approved by David Martin and seconded by Roy Partington.		
3	Matters Arising from these Minutes Email communication with Laura Campbell has passed on the groups' thanks and appreciation.	GP	
	Catherine Houston DCC Planning to be invited to West End Community Council re Riverside Nature Park.	AL	
	Dundee to Newtyle Railway Path has been raised with Sidlaw Path Network Group and Angus Access Forum. There is interest although it is not likely to feature on their Core Path Plan	DM	
4	Matters Arising from AGM of 26th April 2010 The minutes were provisionally approved subject to a typographical correction. Access Officer Capital Projects Budget of £40,000 for path and access improvements. This year it is being supplemented by Forestry Commission funding at Templeton Woods and Ardler Woodland for path	GP	

	<p>improvements in these areas. This allows the possibility for further improvements to signage and surfacing on the Green Circular and altering chicane barriers, but the amount of work depends on timing of support from Forestry Commission which should be clarified in the next couple of weeks. Other budgets are looking to fund access improvements at the Miley and Magdalen Green.</p> <p>Riverside Nature Park The council are looking to improve the access link from Perth Road, under railway bridge, to the Nature Park. The chicane at Perth Road was discussed and the group doubted it was needed here.</p>		
<p>5</p>	<p>Dundee Travel Active Update Personal Travel Planners going door to door. Some improvements planned for the network in the DTA area including crossings and cycle parking. DM suggested crossing of Marketgait from Ward Road to Guthrie Street could be cycle friendly without kerbs. RB asked if cycle parking at Albert Street was possible. Cycle parking also considered to be in short supply at the Bus Station. JW to pass on to engineers. STRIDE getting financial support for the production of the Dundee East Active Travel Map.</p>	<p>JW</p> <p>AL</p>	
<p>6</p>	<p>Heritage Paths Railway Heritage Leaflet completed and 3000 printed, many already in libraries. Launch event on Saturday, 10:30am at Discovery Point. All welcome. Thank you offered to David Martin and Su Nicoll (Designer) for their hard work on the leaflet. Dighty Burn could be the next leaflet. Dighty Connect gathering lots of information for their audio and video projects. JW has contacted Dundee University for a placement in January to March, which may aid its development.</p>	<p>JW</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Outdoor Access Strategy Review The discussion focused on the Key Issues and projects sections of the review. Some changes and additions agreed. More comments are welcome, please pass to JW before 3rd September. Next Access Steering Group meeting on 9th September when a more full draft should be prepared leading to a full consultation document in October.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>JW</p>	
<p>8</p>	<p>AOCB - Request from Rambers Association for volunteers to help with user study in Ninewells Hospital grounds. RP to pass on more details for sending with minutes. - Cycling on pavements is reported as a problem at Perth Road and Glamis Road Ancrum Road (not children and not considerate cyclists). This is illegal unless the pavement is declared dual use, and is not covered by Land Reform Act. Suggested that training is included in Outdoor Access Strategy.</p>	<p>RP/JW</p> <p>RP/JW</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public Transport integration demonstration. Friends of the Earth are organising action aimed at raising awareness of the segregation of Dundee Bus and Train stations on 25th September. 	<p>ALL</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dundee Cyclathon Green Circular charity cycle ride arranged for 12th September. Flyer circulated. Claverhouse Rotary needs more stewards for the event. Names and contact details to John if interested. 	<p>ALL</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cross boundary liaison. JW has arranged to meet Angus Access staff on 16th September. Issues to include Horses and Christmas Trees and Newtyle Railway line as well as other joined up working. 	<p>JW</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Chicanes at Ninewells cycle route. 2 to be moved by October, others this year from Capital projects. 	<p>JW</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Received Mail. Redirected Green Circular. Details to be circulated with minutes, comments to JW 	<p>JW</p>
<p>9 <u>Dates of next meeting.</u></p>	
<p>Agreed dates are: 29th November 2010 24th January 2011 With next years AGM 25th April 2011</p>	
<p>Secretary's note National Access Forum/ Local Access Forums annual joint meeting on 13th October in Falkirk. Agenda attached with minutes. Anyone wishing to attend can car share with JW</p>	<p>ALL</p>

Meeting of 29th November 2010 cancelled due to snow