

## **ABERDEENSHIRE LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM**

### **NOTE OF 14<sup>TH</sup> MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15 JANUARY 2007 AT THE BARN AND BUSHEL, THAINSTONE CENTRE, INVERURIE**

#### **Present**

Ken Thomson (Chair)  
Cllr Jim Anderson  
Molly Atkinson  
John Brownlee  
Peter Dawes  
Bill Dow  
Cameron Ewen  
David Finlay (deputising)  
Alan Harper  
Tom Johnston  
Gordon McKilligan (deputising for Iain Taylor)  
Brian Martin  
Robin Payne  
Owen Vaughan

Alison Mitchell attended as an observer.

#### **Council officers present**

Jamie Hunter, (Law & Admin adviser; minutes)  
Linda Mathieson (Environment Planner – Strategic)  
Colin Miller (Access Officer; support)

#### **1 Introduction and Apologies**

Introductions: Robin Payne (Acting SNH representative)

Apologies: Cath Clark (PFAP), David Fyffe, Robin Maitland, Kelley Miller, Iain Taylor.

Agreed to add Item 8(0) [AWPR] to agenda.  
Agreed to take Item 8(3) [Access issue near Dyce] in private session.

#### **2 Minutes of Meeting of 20 November 2006**

Agreed.

#### **3 Matters Arising**

General agreement that the afternoon training session had been useful, both in format and topic, and to let other LAF's know this via Paths For All. The same topic will be the theme for the SCAN spring 07 conference.

#### **4 Communications**

Badges issued to members attending.

Leaflets: suggestions had been considered and alterations made accordingly. The pictures used were now a little clearer. Distribution at Annual Gathering approved.

LM requested that members provide details of their expertise and skills for future reference. Agreed in consultation with Chair & Vice Chair that related material agreed by Members for public information would be put on the website.

Chair will be speaking at the City LOAF and may go to the next Cairngorms LOAF meeting.

#### **5 Annual Gathering**

Agenda now set out and members generally satisfied with programme. Jeremy Rowan Robinson to chair the Q&A session. SNH speaker to be arranged by Robin Payne.

Agreed that refreshments to be moved to the start of the Gathering. The 'breakout' session will now be at 20.25 rather than 20.20. Time over-runs to be avoided. ALOAF members on Panel to be: Robin Maitland (David Fyffe as Reserve – agreed in absentia), Peter Dawes and John Brownlee.

CM to organise press release. Members should encourage attendance and remember to bring their badges.

#### **6 Core Paths Plan**

LM reported that information has now been gathered and the 'sifting' process is underway. Each route will be graded green, amber or red at this stage as a determination of its initial feasibility. It is expected that this phase will take four officers around eighteen days to complete. The final maps from this stage should be complete by late January/early February. JB emphasised need for ALOAF involvement. 19 February provisional date for ALOAF to view and comment on the data on these maps at Gordon House. Next steps are consultation with land managers, community councils etc, focus groups, ground-proofing. Ultimately, paths proposed as core paths will be those providing a best match to the selection criteria.

## **7 Council's Access Strategy: Capital Projects**

Referring to spreadsheet supplied, LM talked through some of the proposals. The budget is currently £60,000 (50%Council/50%SNH). Some of this will go towards work on Nortrail. The 2006/07 budget was unusually large and funding will not be as high for 2007/08. The Chair is to be invited to the next Nortrail conference.

## **8 Access Advice**

### **(0) AWPR**

PD updated group. Response received to earlier representations by PD. Only been consulted on the southern part of the route. So far there only appears to be one proposed track closure. KT, PD and others will submit a response to the Scottish Executive in time for the 9/2/07 deadline.

### **(1) Access issue, near Dyce** (in private session)

### **(2) Privacy Issues**

LM reported that the worksheet is now a working document for Council use, to be revised over time in the light of experience of Council and ALOAF.

### **(3) Mains of Inverebrie Woodland**

OV reported the issues as found by the ALOAF panel. Concluded that responsible access should be recommended. Panel's report approved with some minor changes.

### **(4) Menie Estate**

So far four separate applications have been made but determination on them will not be made for some considerable time. Various views were expressed on what action ALOAF should take. It was decided that those members who had an interest in the proposals should visit the site. KT will ask to be put on Council's mailing list re this development proposal. With regard to disabled access to buildings, etc., Bill Dow reported that the Aberdeenshire Central Access Panel has asked for an access statement and the Council will be consulted.

### **(5) Planning etc (Scotland) Act**

JH talked through the proposals in the Act as well and the new process for major planning applications within Aberdeenshire Council. Both of these aim to achieve greater community involvement.

There then followed a discussion on the role to be taken by ALOAF the result of which was that it should not seek consultation on every application but

keep itself aware of those applications which may have implications for access rights.

**(6) Access Issue, Ellon**

CM informed the forum that Aberdeenshire Council was considering its position on public access concerns at a site in Ellon, and may need to seek ALOAF advice regarding access rights, perhaps before the next Forum meeting. An ALOAF working group was appointed, comprising TJ, BM, KT and OV. This group would await further contact from CM before taking this forward.

**9 Events Training, Information**

28/4/07 – 7/5/07: Scottish Outdoor Access Festival  
-- includes 2/5/07 "Meet the Keeper", Haddo Estate.

**10 AOB**

No items

**11 Agenda for next meeting**

-- Communications.  
-- Cath Clark (Paths For all Partnership) will report on other NE LAFs.  
-- Bob Reid to be invited to a future ALOAF meeting.

**12 Date of next meeting**

19 March 2007.