



CORPORATE RESOURCES

MIDLOTHIAN ACCESS FORUM, ACTION MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 18th Feb 2013 AT THE DALKEITH ARTS CENTRE, DALKEITH

PRESENT:

John Pope (JPo)	Chair – Scotways
Constance Newbould (CS)	British Horse Society
James Innes (JI)	Ramblers Association
Shelagh Jenkins (SJ)	Esk Valley Trust
Kathleen Kirkpatrick(KK)	Scottish Land and Estates
Dave Kenny (DK)	Cycling Officer, Roads, Midlothian Council
John Park (JPa)	Land & Countryside, Midlothian Council - Secretary
Ian Baxter (IB)	Councillor, Midlothian Council
Mike Harrison (MH)	Substitute for DWW (Chair of Midlothian Access Panel)
Lorna Roarty (LR)	Disabled Access (Midlothian Access Panel)

APOLOGIES AND OTHER ABSENCES

Bob Barr (BB)	National Farmers Union - (apologies received)
David Wardrop–White (DWW)	Sustrans, Cycling Touring Club, Spokes (apologies received)
Gilbert Scott (GS)	Federation of Community Councils (no apologies)

ITEM	MINUTE	ACTION
1.0	<u>Introductions</u> JPo welcomed : <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lorna Roarty. Lorna is Vice-Chair of the Midlothian Access Panel- Mike Harrison as a substitute for DWW. Mike is the Chair of the Midlothian Access Panel	
2.0	<u>Minutes of last meeting corrections and business arising.</u>	
2.1	The minutes were accepted as a true record.	JPa
2.2	<u>Business arising</u>	
2.2.1	Item 2.2.2. Mavisbank drainage. JK agreed to continue to chase the Mavisbank Trust regarding the drainage issue along Core Path (7) which adjoins Mavisbank Estate.	JK

2.2.2	Item 2.2.3. Path volunteer work on final stretch of the new access route to the Pentlands through Sir Robert Clerk's Estate had been delayed to land management operations. The route was now virtually complete and signage would be installed by the Paths Volunteer Group within the next few weeks.	All Note JK
2.2.3	Item 3.5. Bowlea Smithy ROW: The proposed site meeting to check the line of the ROW was arranged for the Friday following the meeting.	JPo JPa
2.2.4	Item 10.7. IB reported that issues had arisen in establishing the Permaculture project near Poltonhall. These issues were in relation to security of tenure and funding. IB would keep the Forum informed as to developments.	IB
3.0	<u>Chairman's report</u>	
3.1	Item 3.3. The minutes and notes of LAF/NAF annual meeting which SJ attended in JPo's absence. JPa confirmed that the minutes and reports from the meeting had now been forwarded to Midlothian Access Forum members.	All Note
3.2	Dog Walking Workshop held by SNH in Feb 2013 (aimed at commercial dog walkers): As well as circulating the info to Forum members JPo had emailed or txted several dog walkers. JPo and JPa had also forwarded a poster to all vet surgeries in Midlothian to let as many of the relevant people know about this free workshop.	All Note
3.3	Land Reform Act Review - JPo reported that a response had been sent to the Scottish Government by the due date in Jan2013. The issues raised in the response were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Closure of paths due to wet weather and overuse since the Act - Advice on inappropriate signage - Curtilage around lodges, small dwellings - Commercial dog walking businesses - Ground nesting birds and dogs running free. 	All Note
4.0	<u>Core Paths Update</u> The signage for Core Paths for the Gorebridge/ Temple areas would be completed during the winter months.	JPa
5.0	<u>Disputed routes update</u>	
5.1	Item 1 Locked gate Camp Wood. JPa would continue to make approaches to the landowner to have gate unlocked. It was noted at a recent site visit by JPa that repairs had been done to the adjacent stile.	JPa

- 5.2 Item 11 Parduvine Farm. CN agreed to speak to landowner regarding the locked gate preventing horse riders through farm track. JPa noted that a stile had been installed by the land owner to allow pedestrian tial access **CN**
- 5.3 Item 13 Ford to Stair Arms Hotel. The encroaching vegetation on this route had now been cleared by the path group volunteers **JPa**
- 6.0 **Strategic routes, local path initiatives**
Discussed under AOB
- 7.0 **AOB**
- 7.1 Loanhead Railway Path. DK reported that planning the extension of the current cycle path past Straiton Pond was well underway and linking with Gilmerton Road was viewed as the most feasible option. The work was programmed to take place in 2013/14 financial year. **DK/All Note**
- 7.2 Penicuik to Dalkeith Cycleway at Roslin Glen. DK reported that this section of the path was currently being resurfaced with Toptrek gravel surface. **DK/All Note**
- 7.3 Beeslack High School. DK reported that this school had started up a bike maintenance group. **All Note**
- 7.4 Proposed Roslin – Peebles Cycleway. DK stated that he was continuing with his efforts regarding funding and thus moving the project forward from the planning approved stage. **DK**
- 7.5 National Cycle Route through Esbank. DK reported that it now looked like it was no longer possible to take the diverted route (resulting from the Borders Railway project) along Ancrum Road and would now have to be around Esbank roundabout **All Note**
- 7.6 Code of Conduct on Shared Use Paths. DWW had forwarded a poster published by Sustrans on a Code of Conduct on Shared Use Paths. JPa prior to the meeting had forwarded electronic copies and now distributed hard copies for onward transmission to relevant organisations/ people **All Note**
- 7.5 Fly tipping on paths. JPa reported that recent incidents of fly tipping, where entire lorry loads of unwanted building material had been dumped on Core Paths, had prompted Edinburgh University to ask that this issue, and the burden it had on landowners, be discussed at the Midlothian Forum and to raise this issue, and the financial costs involved, at national level (i.e. NAF and Scottish Government). **All Note / JPa**
- 7.6 Local Development Plan and a Planning Dept presence at the Forum Meeting. JPo suggested that as the Local Development Plan was being put together that Janis Long, one of the key planning officers responsible for the plan should be invited to the next meeting. JK to speak to Janis Long regarding this proposal and report back to the Forum. **JK**

8.0 Cycling access at the A701 near the Asda store.

DWW in his absence asked that the Forum to consider two issues:
- whether it wished to offer Midlothian Council any advice about cycling access at the A701 near the Asda store in the light of Mr Stokes's concerns about cyclists safety (as outlined in his email correspondence to DK and DWW).
- whether it wished to review its visibility to people not members of the Forum (perhaps for example its presence on the council's website and the availability of its minutes) in the light of Mr Stokes's comments, and whether it wished to offer Midlothian Council advice on that issue.

IB pointed out that this was not in his ward and therefore it was difficult for him to become involved. DK however would examine these issues. **DK**

9.0 **Date of Next Meeting** **Wednesday 8th May 2013 10.00 – 12.30, Dalkeith Arts Centre,** **White Hart Street, Dalkeith.** **Distribution of minutes**

John Pope	Chair – Scotways
Ian Baxter	Councillor, Midlothian Council
James Innes	Ramblers Association
Gilbert Scott	Federation of Community Councils
Constance Newbould	British Horse Society
Shelagh Jenkins	Esk Valley Trust
Kathleen Kirkpatrick	Scottish Land and Estates
Dave Kenny	Cycling Officer, Road, Midlothian Council
James Kinch	Land & Countryside, Midlothian Council
John Park	Land & Countryside, Midlothian and secretary
David Wardrop–White	Sustrans, Cycling Touring Club, Spokes
Bob Barr	National Farmers Union
John O'Keefe	SNH
Mike Harrison	Midlothian Access Panel
Lorna Roarty	Midlothian Access Panel
Ian Brown(IB)	Scotways