**South Ayrshire Local Access Forum**

**Minute of Meeting**

**on Wednesday 24th February 2021.**

**Present: Apologies:**

Janice Kirkpatrick Iain Gairns

Jenny Fergusson

Colin Clark

Clive Stacey

Euan Terras

Cllr Ian Davis

Cllr Craig Mackay

Colin Mair

Robin Wilson

Mike Hazlewood

**Attending:** Rachel Shipley, Outdoor Access Officer

Neil Feggans, Planning Co-ordinator-Development Planning & Customers

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| **No** | **Item** | **Action** |
| 1.  2.  3.  4.  5.  6.  7.  8.  9.  10.  11.  12.  13.  14. | **Welcome and Apologies**  Colin Mair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked them for their attendance.  Apologies were intimated as above*.*    **Minute of meeting on 18.11.20**  Minute was proposed by Cllr Mackay and seconded by Jenny Fergusson. Minute was adopted.  **Matters Arising**  Dalquharran.  RS contacted landowner to ask for a note of proposed plans suitable for public view, however, he did not have a version suitable for this, and at this stage did not want to release anything for the Community Council or the public to view.  River Ayr Way, Barskimming-Failford section feasibility study.  Study is nearly completed and report should be available shortly. 4 route options have been reduced to 2. However, options involve use of private land, which the Council is likely to have to lease or purchase. Still to confirm landownership of certain fields adjacent to road, through which some route options would run. RS will contact registers of Scotland to try to find details of ownership. When the Report of the Study is received, it will be presented to the Forum.  Loans – Troon station active travel link.  Phase 2 now under construction – section along edge of Marr playing fields, between Dundonald Road and North Drive.  Cllr McK reported that spur path to school had been closed 24 hours per day, at the request of the contractor, but had now been opened again, outwith school hours, after he raised the matter. ARA still engaged with property owner beside the underpass, to negotiate buying some land to be able to widen path to 5m spec.  MH raised matter of possibility of conflict between golf buggies and walkers/cyclists using active travel link underneath Dundonald Road. RS to raise this with ARA and Golf Section.  Path condition surveys.  Have now awarded contract to consultant to survey path networks developed and promoted by the Council, to audit and report on route furniture and condition, as basis for production of a planned maintenance programme. Surveys will start end of March/ beginning of April. Each local path network should take approx. 2-3 weeks to complete.  Barassie Burn active travel bridge.  The Bridge has been designed and the Council has now secured enough contributions from developers to permit bridge construction to proceed. Council has decided to carry out a targeted consultation, as some concerns have been voiced by residents either side of bridge location. This will be for just certain residents at Adlington Gardens and Reilly Walk and will stress the positive aspects of the Bridge’s construction.  Cllr McK asked where developer was with the target of 300 houses completed. NF answered that he didn’t currently have that information.  Ayrshire Coastal Path at Bennane, road verge maintenance  Maintenance contract for A77 for road and verge now with Amey, which seems to be carrying out sufficient work to allow walkers to use this section of ACP in reasonable safety/ comfort.  ACP route manager had site meeting with Amey and seemed satisfied that they will continue with this level of maintenance.  **Disputed Status of Path, 1 Culzean Road, Ayr**  NF explained the case and the physical circumstances of the Path in detail, exhibiting previous and current O.S. maps of the area, aerial photographs, the cadastral map and title sheet showing the extent of land belonging to 1 Culzean Road, a photo of the misleading sign and Google Street View photos of the House and Path. He informed the Forum a well-used, tarmac path crosses land in the ownership of 1 Culzean Road, outwith, but adjacent to, the ground considered to be curtilage of the house (a low wall at front of the house defines edge of curtilage), before crossing an established footbridge over the Slaphouse Burn and linking into the peripheral path around the Belleisle Mansions development to the north of the Burn. The property owner erected a sign stating “no public access or right of way” and was confronting people trying to walk the route, to tell them they were not permitted to do so. The Council considers that public access rights apply to the path, which is an obvious through route, leading to either Belleisle Drive or to the Esplanade. The property owner disputes the right of public access over the path.  NF examined old maps, which show a through route and footbridge, and, at the insistence of the home owner’s son, had also asked Legal Services for a formal legal opinion as to the status of the Path and the public’s right to use it. Legal Services subsequently agreed that public access rights, as permitted under the LRA, apply to the path.  NF asked Forum members for their views on this matter. After consideration and some discussion, Forum members agreed unanimously that public access rights apply to the path and footbridge. It was further agreed the Path might also form part of a longer public right of way, though there was insufficient information available currently to reach a fully informed view on that matter.  **Windfarm and Forestry Developments and Public Access**  Some concern from local community reps regarding the number of windfarm and forestry developments taking place around Dailly especially and their impact on access routes.  JF raised concern that not enough consideration is given to public access by the developer submitting the application.  NF advised that if any specific route is adversely affected, Planning can take that up with the developer, to seek a resolution. No specific blocked routes were mentioned by Forum members.  RS advised that outdoor access comments/suggestions are submitted to the planning officer dealing with the relevant application and taken into account prior to its determination. Outdoor Access comments are also provided to Scottish Forestry, as part of a composite Council response to consultations on individual forestry proposals.  RW asked if Ayrshire Rivers Trust could be added to list of consultees for windfarms. NF advised that we can ask the Priority Projects Planning Co-ordinator, whose Team deals with wind farms, if he would be prepared to add ART to list of consultees, but it is likely he will wish to confine consultation to statutory consultees only.  **River Ayr Way Temporary Closure**  The Council’s Grounds Maintenance Service is carrying essential bank stabilisation work along a section of the Way. This section of the route will be closed from 1st March to the public, for approx. 6 weeks to allow the work to be carried out safely. A diversion route along Holmston Road is available. The public notice and plan of diversion is available to view on the SAC website, and the notice was published in the local papers to inform the public.  **Vat Recovery Funds – Dailly and Barr Paths**  Local communities at Dailly and Barr have been given funds of some £12k to use in their communities. Some of the funding can be use for public access, to improve local trails or create new sections of routes, though the Planning Service has expressed a preference for improvement of existing paths.  RS waiting to hear from Dailly CC re their proposals.  JF mentioned the potential to add a section of route on the Dalquharran riverside to the Barony Trail.  RS still to contact Barr CC re proposals for the funds, but could possibly be used to improve signage on trails around the Forestry & Land Scotland Changue Forest to the east of Barr.  **Paths Maintenance Update**  **River Ayr Way** – section of fencing at Crawfordston Farm near Annbank to be replaced. Farmer asked for litter/dog waste signs to be put up as experiencing issues with these. RS ordered signs, which can be put onto kissing gates on route.  **Dailly Trails** – Replacement of broken boardwalks in Poundland Wood not completed due to difficulties accessing site with vehicles. JF will discuss with farmer possibility of him transporting materials to site, for contractors to carry out work, when weather/ ground conditions improve.  **Smugglers Trail** – new fingerpost sign installed at end of track from Fullarton Woods to Loans road (B746). Other sign delivered to Royal Troon Golf Club & greenkeeper agreed to install this one at the edge of the beach where route starts to cross golf course.  Hillhouse agreed to install interpretation boards on Trail.  CC reported section with poor drainage on Trail at Collennan Reservoir & offered SAPI volunteers to carry out some drainage work to improve condition.  **Planning Consultations**  Several planning consultations (as listed on agenda) and consequential access issues were discussed.  **Outstanding/ Completed Local Access Cases/ Access Enquiries – Update (tabled)**  RS provided copies of the Access Enquiries database, for the Forum’s information. Clarification was sought and provided in respect of Network Rail’s proposals to replace bridges carrying paths over the Ayr-Mossblown & Mauchline freight railway line.  **NAF/ LAF joint meeting, 26th March 2021**  CC and ET are interested in attending.  **AOCB**  None.  **Next Meetings**  19th May 2020  25th August 2020 – CM suggested a possible site visit for this date  24th November 2020  **Finish** | *RS*  *RS*  *RS*  *RS*  *RS*  *JF* |

RS 08.03.21