

West Lothian Local Access Forum
6 April 2016 at Sutherland Building, Beecraigs Country Park

Present: Chris Alcorn
Andy Gibbs
Richard Toleman
Alastair Morrison
Carol Campbell

Malcolm Hill
Kirsty Morrison
Gordon Allan
Donald Noble

Action

1. **Apologies**
Carl Gilbert (SRUC), Jean Frame, Cllr Conn, Deborah Paton
2. **Chair**
Richard Toleman volunteered.
3.
 - Livestock Worrying Initiative – nothing to report.
 - Quiet Roads Initiative – Armadale to Bathgate, Bathgate Hills and South West Calder figures recorded. All being considered as quiet roads. Proposals to be made available for consultation in May/June. Feasibility will be looking at low cost options – signage and lineage. MH raised question about where traffic, coming to QR's, would be parked. Potentially speed restriction rather than 'traffic free' routes. AM suggested that there were already some QRs in West Lothian - Longridge – East Whitburn?
4. **Access Forum Chair**
 - Advert circulated. Wide coverage sought.
5. **Access Ranger Post**
 - Remit being re-looked at now it has moved 'department'.
6. **Issues**
 - Linlithgow Bridge – rights around a private property – not access related.
 - Kirknewton Airfield – operational airfield so access rights do not apply.
7. **Capital Programme**
15/16
 - Almondvale – bulk of work completed.
 - Academy Link – completed. Golf course road has been designed but seeking funding for delivery.
 - Tippethill – small section still to be designed/agreed with the landowner. Possible CPO?
 - Blackridge South – landowner negotiations still ongoing.
16/17
 - Community Links applications details need to be taken to committee (for info) before publication. Decisions will be made mid-April by Sustrans. WLC capital programme for 16/16 will depend on these results, as approved applications need 50% match by WLC.
 - Philpstoun South Bing – Developer of bing required to contribute £3.5k for upgrade. However, budget now not available as £60k capital budget for 16/17 and £60k for 17/18 now transferred to Countryside Services. GA suggested that Community Council may be able to assist funding through Threemiletown VIF.
8. **Sustrans Community Links Applications 16/17 – as reported above.**
Adoption of ATP – Report going to Council Executive at end of April.

9. Local Development Plan

- 750 objections/comments received during 6 week consultation period which ended in October 15. Core Paths included in new proposed LDP. Preparation overlaps with (draft) Active Travel Plan (draft) and same proposals therefore in some cases. Was scheduled to go to committee in March but didn't happen. Now delayed until after election – September. All comments/objections now have to be considered. Reporter's decision will have to be upheld by council (only had to be considered previously). Development Plan – target for adoption in Spring 2017. DN queried what 'P' meant against a line in the draft LDP – CA confirmed it meant 'proposal' only.
- CA will table all LDP access proposals for discussion at next meeting (about 22/23). Scottish Government keen for a second round of Core Paths Plans – some LA's not going to do.
- RT keen to discuss potential/proposed Core Paths. AM volunteered to send around proposals for access (to be sent to CA who will distribute).
- MH queried timing of ATP and consultation on Quiet Roads Initiative. CA confirmed that ATP was general and then further consultations being done on more specific proposals such QR Initiative.

CA

AM

10. SNH John Muir Way visitor Survey (March 2014-Oct 2015)

- CA reported that survey results going to Environment Committee at end of April. Includes results from year long survey on JMW users (November 14 – October 15) – 60,000 visitors have done whole route. End to end – 4900 – 6000. 1/3 had previously not visited the "outside" before! 240,000 – 300,000 had used part of route (although much of JMW was on existing routes). Detailed spend on route also included.
- CSGNT/SNH considering funding sources for JMW officers.
- MH queried if costs/head of users had been calculated. CA will ask SNH.

CA

11. "Pentland Paths Project" – Edinburgh & Lothians Greenspace Trust & Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust (COAT)

- Pentlands get 500-600,000 visits/year. Audit of 1000+ km in PH done by COAT. Report due end of April.
- CA raised areas of interest to West Lothian as car park area at Harperigg and also potential access link from Kirknewton to Selm Muir. Funding has been contributed by some local authorities & SNH to fund officer to do funding applications for access upgrades.

12. Any Other Business

- CC informed forum of LEADER community events. To circulate dates and venues.
- DN suggested discussing review of CPP at next meeting.
- AG queried who would lead on CPP review – Planning? Ranger? CA hoped that Countryside Services would take on more pro-active role in access/issues/planning.

CC

13. Date of Next Meeting

- **3.00pm on 26 October 2016 at Sutherland Building, Beecraigs Country Park.**