

Countryside Access Forum
Wednesday 12th September 2007
Islesburgh Room 11 – Lerwick

Minutes

Present:

Maurice Anderson	NFU Shetland (Chair)
Ian Walterson	A.S.C.C
Simon Smith	Scottish National Heritage
Malcolm Johnston	Disability Shetland
Emma Georgeson	SIC, Planning
Sheila Johnson	SIC, Planning
Claire Linton	SIC, Administration
Pete Ellis	RSPB
Sue White	SCFWAG
Howard Towll	Shetland Amenity Trust
Vic Hawthorne	SIC, Planning

Apologies

Melanie Henderson	Equestrian Association
Barbara Henry	SCFWAG
Alex Miller	Shetland Anglers Association
Misa Hay	Visit Shetland

1. Introduction and welcome

Maurice welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table.

2. Apologies

The apologies above were noted after the meeting.

3. Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes from the previous meeting on 16th May were approved by Ian and Malcolm seconded them, there was one spelling mistake instead of A.C.C it is A.S.C.C. There was some discussion about point 6 of the previous minutes about dog walkers not keeping their dogs on leads. It was pointed out by Vic that it is not a legal requirement for dogs to be on leads but it is suggested that they are and there are signs suggesting so.

4. Feedback on Draft Core Path Plan consultation

The three-month consultation period for the Core Path Plan (CPP) has just finished. Maps were sent out to Community Councils, access forum members, grazing committees, and displays to all leisure centres. The consultation period was advertised on the radio, council website, posters in shops and through Landwise. Emma and Sheila held “drop in” sessions at leisure centres throughout the isles and also attended every agricultural show in an attempt to target as many people as possible.

It was thought that it would be a good idea if Pete, Paul and Sue could come into the office at Grantfield and look through all the new comments from the consultation on a map.

Clickimin Loch path is too narrow for cyclists and disabled walkers so there needs to be a way of making the path wider.

5. Next Phase of Draft Core Path Plan

Sheila passed round maps of a smaller scale to give an idea of what the maps will be like in the Draft CPP. The purple lines showing the routes need to be thicker and lighter so they are easier to see and a different colour from the roads. Smaller maps work better than the originals but that means there will be a lot of maps in the Draft CPP. The time scale of the Draft CPP with maps and amendments to be finished and put to committee in November and be ready for next meeting in December. Everyone is happy with what Emma and Sheila are going to do with the maps.

6. Access Improvement Scheme

Vic said that there have been 62 completions since the start of the financial year. The CPP routes have been prioritised and other routes are being looked at. There are almost 200 routes in the CPP.

Malcolm spoke about a meeting he went to in Fife where they took him round a path that had not been made properly and was dangerous to walk over and the contractors had no previous experience of doing this type of work before and when they finished the work there was rain for two weeks and it washed the path away.

7. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting to be held in December 2007, the correct date will be given nearer the time.