

# Inverclyde Local Access Forum

Minute of Quarterly Meeting  
held at 7:30pm on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at the 7½ John Wood Street, Port Glasgow

**1. WELCOME:** Ash Hamilton welcomed everyone to meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

**2. APOLOGIES:**

Shona Morris (Cycling UK / Belles on Bikes)  
Lorna McCartney (Water sport representative)  
Mike Holcombe (Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park)

**3. PRESENT:**

Ash Hamilton (Inverclyde Council – Planning Policy)  
Yvonne Christie (Community Council Representative)  
Councillor John Crowther (Inverclyde Council Representative)  
Alex Wooler (On foot recreational user's representative)  
Sir Ludovic Shaw-Stewart (Ludo Shaw Stewart) Owner of Ardgowan Estate  
Daisy ?

**4. ACCESS AT ARDGOWAN ESTATE**

Ash had previously advised the LAF by email dated 09/08/2019 that he had recently visited Ardgowan Estate and spoken to Ludo Shaw Stewart about the removal of an access route. Ludo Shaw-Stewart was invited to attend the meeting to explain, in person, the issue and why he wanted to reduce access to part of the Estate. He explained that he was trying to sympathetically renovate the Estate and the house and gardens were used for weddings to provide income for the Estate. Regarding the garden, guests expected exclusive use of their allocated area without walkers traipsing through the wedding party. Ludo Shaw Stewart provided a paper of justifications as to why he wanted to restrict access which included: -

**Reasons for Removal of Access**

- to ensure the privacy and enjoyment of the front and rear garden areas for people living in Ardgowan House and those attending commercial events associated with the House.
- to provide security for the B listed castle ruin, which has been subject to vandalism/theft.
- to allow walkers to take alternative access routes, thereby avoiding the paths leading to dead ends.

Cllr Crowther recommended that Ludo Shaw Stewart read the Anne Gloag case.

Ludo Shaw Stewart and Daisy [?] then removed themselves from the meeting and the members discussed and agreed their response, which was to agree to the request. Ludo Shaw Stewart and Daisy [?] were then invited to return to the meeting and were advised of the meeting's decision.

\* **ACTION** – Ash shall email the Estate and advise that the LAF has no issues with the Estate's proposal.

Ludo Shaw Stewart and Daisy [?] were invited to stay for the remainder of the meeting which they did.

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## **5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** Approved

**Proposed** – Cllr Crowther     **Seconded** – Alex Wooler

## **6 ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

### **(a) ILAF Members**

Ash Hamilton will check who previously attended the Forum and will consider whether or not they can be contacted. Noting that previously farmers were interested in sitting on the Forum because they were experiencing access issues via-a-vis the public. It may be worth contacting the Young Farmers and the NFU to see if anyone would be interested sitting on the Forum.

### **(b) Core Path Network Review**

Falkirk has completed its review. Ash will update when more members are present.

### **(c) Litter at Lunderston Bay and the Cloch**

Ash has spoken to colleagues about getting a bin installed however, there is no access for a bin lorry.

Noting that there was more glass at a recent litter pick at Lunderston Bay.

### **(d) National Access Forum June 2019**

Carried forward

### **(e) ILAF Facebook Page**

Carried forward

## **7. ACCESS ENQUIRIES:**

None

## **8. CONSULTATION ON DRAFT GUIDANCE TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES RE PART 1 OF THE LAND REFORM (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003**

The guidance previously issued in 2005 requires updating now that the access legislation has been in force for some time and has tested in court. There is a consultation on the draft updated guidance. The guidance is lengthy and the updates are extensive. Ash is reviewing on behalf of the Council.

**ACTION** – Yvone to revert to Ash by Tuesday with any comments

## **9. GREENOCK WATERFRONT - CONSULTATIONS ON STOPPING ORDER AND CORE PATH AMENDMENT**

The Core Path needs to be realigned around Ocean Terminal. The Council ran two consultations on the Stopping Up Order and on the Core Path Amendment. Objections were received from Sustrans because the alternative route is only 2m wide. Sustrans suggested removing a railing.

\* **ACTION** – Ash will report to the ILAF when he has further information.

Noting that the path will be closed during the development.

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Cllr Crowther has spoken to Cllr Chris Curley who has an engineering background and he is of the opinion that the minimum of 2m should be extended.

## **10. NEW CHAIR**

Alex Wooler suggested carrying this matter forward until more members are present. Noting that Shona Morris is happy to continue a new Chair is appointed.

\* **ACTION** – the ILAF Terms of Reference are to be a topic on the next Agenda.

## **11. UPDATES**

### **(a) Gates**

Mike's gates have been well received and the waymarkers have been installed.

### **(b) Network Rail Bridge Closure**

A bridge has been closed which affects Core Path 41. This is part of permitted development. There is a diversion via Woodhall.

\***ACTION:** - Add James Watt Dock to the next agenda to updated on the marina plan.

## **8. AOCB**

There was no other business.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> Janaury 2020.**