

Inverclyde Local Access Forum

Minute of meeting held at 7pm on the 28th of January 2021
Via Zoom

Chair: Alex Wooler

Minutes: Ash Hamilton

Present:

Yvonne Christie (Community Council Representative)

Ash Hamilton (Inverclyde Council – Planning Policy)

Councillor John Crowther (Inverclyde Council Representative)

Kieran Wild (Active Travel Officer – Sustrans)

Lorna McCartney (Water sport representative)

Mike Holcombe (Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park)

Alex Wooler (On foot recreational user's representative)

Giulia Canata (Equestrian representative)

Ludo Shaw Stewart (Landowner representative)

Apologies:

Shona Morris (Cycling UK / Belles on Bikes)

1. WELCOME: Ash welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: Approved

Proposed - Lorna McCartney **Seconded** - Alex Wooler

3. Forum Chair

It was agreed that Yvonne would act as forum chair for a period of 1 year.

4. Terms of Reference

To inform a review of the forum's Terms of Reference (TOR):

Action: Ash will provide a web link to the existing TOR. Yvonne to circulate a copy of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park TOR.

5. Core Paths Plan Review

Ash outlined the partial Core Paths Plan review undertaken in 2016. It was agreed that there is limited capacity to carry out a full review this year.

Action: Ash to circulate the methodology used to develop the 2009 Plan so that this can be reviewed and updated, where necessary.

6. Ardgowan Estate – Proposed Core Path Amendment

Ludo outlined a proposal to re-route a section of Core Path 13, which runs through the estate, in order to protect the privacy of an estate property and avoid contact between walkers and estate vehicles. At the end of the meeting, Ludo excused himself to allow the forum members to discuss the proposal. There was concern that the proposal would mean part of the core path being re-routed along the adjacent road, which would result in a significant loss of scenic value for walkers. Ash noted that even if the core path were re-routed, access rights would still apply to the existing route. It was agreed that it would be helpful to understand this proposal in the context of the wider access plan for the estate before a definitive view could be taken.

7. Mapping Scotland's Paths project

Ash gave an overview of the Ramblers Associations 'Mapping Scotland's Paths' project, which has been collecting information on paths in the western Central Belt area, including Inverclyde. The project seeks to create a free dataset of paths for the public to enjoy.

Action: Ash to circulate a web link.

8. ACCESS ENQUIRIES:

- **Cliff Terrace Rd** – Lorna noted that a white cottage with metal railings in front has blocked an entrance to Cliff Terrace Rd.
Action: Mike agreed to visit the site and report back.
- **Kip Marina** – Ash has spoken to the marina manager who agreed to either remove the signs or alter the wording to make it clear that access along the core path was not being restricted. Ash advised that the signs have now been removed.
- **Gryfe Reservoir** – Ash noted that an access adjacent to the Gryfe reservoir will be temporarily closed to enable Scottish Water to carry out works. It was noted that this closure would not unduly restrict access in this area as a second, unrestricted, access is available within 60m.
- **Corlic Hill** - Ash advised that several access queries/complaints have been received about restricted access related to the development of the wind farm. It was noted that once the development is complete, all access will be reinstated, with a potential new access route being discussed.

9. Active Travel Infrastructure Projects

- **Greenock Town Centre Connections**

Kieran pointed out that while an updated plan for the West Blackhall Street project has been completed, traders continue to be concerned about impacts on local business. A meeting of stakeholders is scheduled for February 2021.

- **Gourock- Greenock - New Cycle Path**

Kieran advised that development of the new dedicated cycle path from Gourock – Greenock would begin shortly, with works expected to take 3 months.

10. Planning Applications

Ash highlighted two large-scale residential planning applications in Kilmacolm, which could potentially affect walking access on open fields immediately to the north of the village.

- 20/0245/IC - West Of Quarry Drive Kilmacolm: Residential development to include access, roads, open space, landscaping, drainage and other associated works (planning permission in principle) (major) - [20/0245/IC | Residential development to include access, roads, open space, landscaping, drainage and other associated works \(planning permission in principle\) \(major\) | West Of Quarry Drive Kilmacolm \(inverclyde.gov.uk\)](#)
- 18/0322/IC - Land At Planetreeyetts, Kilmacolm: Proposed residential development of circa 100 units including 25% affordable and associated infrastructure, landscaping and open space | - [18/0322/IC | Proposed residential development of circa 100 units including 25% affordable and associated infrastructure, landscaping and open space | Land At Planetreeyetts Kilmacolm \(inverclyde.gov.uk\)](#)

11. Greenock Esplanade

Lorna and Alex pointed out that walkers continue to use the esplanade cycle path and asked if more cycle path signage could be provided along this section.

Action: Kieran to look into additional cycle signage provision.

12. Cloch Road

Giulia noted that there is a lack of bin provision along Cloch Road, which is resulting in rubbish being left along the road and shore. She asked if additional provision could be provided.

Action: Ash will discuss with the Council's Grounds Maintenance team.

Giulia advised that local residents are cutting the vegetation along the verge of Cloch Road, with cuttings being left on the path and shoreline.

Action: Ash to identify who owns and maintains the verge.

13. Gantocks

Ludo noted that he recently wrote to Stuart Jamieson (Interim Service Director Environment & Economic Recovery) about the ongoing litter issue at the Gantocks, but had not heard back yet.

Action: JC to look into this.

14. UPDATES:

Muirsheil Regional Park

Mike noted that the increased recreational use of the Park during lockdown has raised a number of issues, including the lack of parking provision. He also noted that increased quad bike use is having negative effects on livestock, with an open field gate on Woodstock/Maple road in Greenock providing access for many off-road users. Mike further noted that the Park Authority will be disbanded in March 2021.

15. AOB

Giulia notes that there are several tree planting proposals coming forward around Kilmacolm, which could potentially affect access routes.

Action: Ash to check whether tree-planting proposals require planning permission.

16. Date of Next Meeting

TBC