

MINUTES	Lochaber LAF Meeting Monday, 29 May 2017 3.00pm – 5.00pm Lochaber House, Fort William
Chair:	Ben Thompson
Present at the site visit 1.30pm-2.30pm	Ian Stewart, Marion Macdonald, Jackson Anderson, Alastair Stewart
Present at the meeting	Ben Thompson, Bridget Thomas, Jackson Anderson, Marion Macdonald, Ian Stewart
Officials in attendance: Minute:	Donald Kennedy, Access Officer; Stewart Eastaugh, Access Officer [mins]

ITEM	DISCUSSION / DECISION	ACTION
Site visit	Presentation, walk and discussion about the new paths and bridge developments at Glen Nevis led by Alastair Stewart.	
Meeting preamble	In the absence of the Chair an interim Chair was sought and Ben Thompson agreed to act as Chair for this meeting.	
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
2.	Apologies Allan Henderson	
3.	Minutes and Matters Arising Latest published minutes are from 29 September 2011. More minutes should be available as there have been subsequent meetings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retrieve and store. • Gleann Leac na Muidhe access issue - ongoing 	SE/DK SE

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coileitir access issue - ongoing • Inverskillavulin – resolved. An acceptable alternative path has been installed which has been in use for about 3 years. • Glencoe Hospital – access is being accommodated at present. There have been subsequent complaints that have either been resolved or which have not warranted further action [see draft Consultative Report – Item 4] • 	SE
4.	<p>Core Paths Plan Review – West Highlands and Islands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short presentation given on the reasons for and goals of the Consultative Report and the review of the Council’s Core Paths Plan. • Hard copies were distributed to members present • The draft status of the report was highlighted as was the fact that it was not out in the public domain. • Having said that it was agreed that if people learned of its content and wanted to discuss it they should feel free to contact the access officers • Cona Glen discussed as it had been used by members • Polloch discussed as it was the topic of mapped paths that may not be discernible on the ground • Members were asked to comment on the proposals and to recommend additions. • How to respond was discussed. Members were asked to either deposit annotated responses at Lochaber House or to post or email comments to the access officers. • They could discuss comments with access officers too if they wanted. • A deadline for responses was discussed and a month thought a reasonable response time. • Members are therefore asked that if they would like to comment to do so on or by Monday 3rd July 2017. 	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>
5.	<p>Access Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some issues by Arisaig were highlighted and discussed • The Camusdarroch case was discussed in more detail with Jackson Anderson asking about car parking and wild camping issues and solutions and Ben Thompson asking if alternative sites will be sought • Some issues around East Lochaber were highlighted and pictured and discussed • Bridget Thomas offered assistance with the Roy Bridge take-out fence issue 	Bridget Thomas /SE

ITEM	DISCUSSION / DECISION	ACTION
6.	<p>Scottish Rural Development Programme Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DK highlighted the limitations of the scheme which demanded the use of quarried material in path projects. This was felt to limit those areas further away from quarries that supplied path stone which was more expensive as a result. In these areas the use of sorted material taken from the surrounding ground and borrow pits [“as-dug”] was commonly used and accepted. The system of applications was discussed with the deadlines for this year’s applications on 31 May. Applications are dealt with by case officers from one of the government agencies. If there is a public access element case officers will consult local access officers. 	
7.	<p>Access Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DK and SE gave a brief presentation of 2 local projects DK explained the current budget situation and limits on spending Ben Thompson asked about applying to and using renewables money via community trusts 	
8.	<p>Future Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members were asked if they felt that there should continue to be a Lochaber LAF – they did. JA asked if anything had gone wrong while the LAF was in abeyance – it had not It was agreed that the next meeting should follow the appointment of new members And that a list showing the vacancies be distributed And that members recommend replacements It was pointed out that the fate of the LAFs may be subject to review by the Council’s senior officers and as a result of the re-design of Council services. 	<p>SE All</p>
9.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JA asked that a quarterly “Update” be distributed to keep members informed of what was going on. This would summarise items of interest and casework. Should members want more information on the feedback they could contact the access officers directly. It was also agreed that this would be a trial and if it proved too onerous that it could be withdrawn. Details of the access officers contact details to be distributed 	<p>DK/SE SE</p>
DONM	Canvassing for dates of the next meeting to follow the appointment of new members.	DK/SE

