

Caithness Local Access Forum – Minutes and Action Sheet

Room 1, Caithness House, Wick

Monday, 9 September 2024, 3pm

Present:

Willie Bruce (WB)
Mark Gibson (MG)
Ben MacGregor (BM)
Donna Mather (DM)
Karl Rosie (KR)

Cllr K Rosie in the Chair.

In attendance:

Matt Dent (MD) Access Officer
Rachel Ross, Committee Officer (minutes)
Ms D Daniels, Interested Party in item 4

Item		Action
1.	Apologies Eilidh Willoughby, Jay Wilson	
2.	Notes from previous meeting Minutes agreed to be a right and proper account of meeting.	
3.	Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">A report on the review of Local Access Forums had not yet been to a meeting of the Economy and Infrastructure Committee but would go at some point in the future; andAn update was sought on the Halkirk-Sibster link and the Access Officer undertook to liaise with the Association of Northern Trails Concerning this.	MD
4.	Core path diversion at Gerston, Halkirk During discussion the following main points were raised:-	MD

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it was suggested that the path was less than the stated 60m; • the current route probably only had about 25m of unmade path; • the proposed diversion would mean that public would avoid traffic on the public road; • the current path passed within a meter of the sitting room and dining room windows of the house and footsteps can be heard on stones and it can be quite alarming. • there was a problem with dog fouling from use of the path; • it was queried how the new path would be surfaced and maintained; • the surface of the diversion should equate to the surface of the current path and the current route was only on grass for 25m whereas the proposed diversion would be on grass for 250m; • a double-stand barbed wire fence next to the path would not be suitable; • concern was expressed over trees overhanging the proposed diversion; • it was queried whether the new route would be accessible for horse riders and wheelchair users; • the presence of livestock in the field through which the diversion passed could cause a problem for dog-walker; • in response to a question on whether the path could be diverted round the outside of the garden it was clarified that this would encroach on the land of a neighbouring property; • the number of people using the path showed the need for it; and • privacy can not be a reason for diverting a right of way; <p>The Forum AGREED to recommend that the application was not supported but that Ms Daniels was given the option to return to the forum with a firmer proposal.</p>	
5.	<p>AOCB</p> <p>Attention was drawn to the following additional items of business:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duncansby Head had been quieter this year with less overnight parking; and • Mr M Gibson undertook to find out if the gate in the trail from Auchengill to the Common Grazing had been removed. 	
6.	Date of next meeting	

	The dates for the following 2 meetings were set as 10 March 2025 and 15 September 2025.	
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