

EAST LoTHIAN COUNCIL

PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Minutes of the meeting of the **EAST LoTHIAN LOCAL ACCESS FORUM**
held on **1st August 2018** in the Saltire Rooms, John Muir House, Haddington.

PRESENT:

James Wyllie (Chair) .. NFUS	Keith Burns.....Cycling UK
Paul Chandler..... NTS	Bill CuthillScotways
Jane Henderson ELC Councillor	John McMillan.....ELC Councillor
Constance Newbould .. BHSS	Ken ReidIndependent co-optee
Thomas Stanley..... Landowners	Jon Swift.....AELCC

ATTENDING:

Neil Clark..... ELC Countryside	Eamon JohnELC SCL Manager
Jill Mackay..... ELC Communications	Nick Morgan.....ELC Countryside
Iain Reid..... ELC Roads	Linda WigleyNTS Ed. and East

APOLOGIES:

Paul Armour..... Dunbar Golf Club	Liz Poulson.....FCS
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ACTION

The Chairman welcomed Linda Wigley, who is the NTS General Manager for Edinburgh and the East, and the members of the Forum introduced themselves to her.

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on 25th April 2018.

The minutes were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting, proposed by John McMillan and seconded by Jon Swift.

2. MATTERS ARISING.

2.1 Jill has been struggling to find a publication to submit the articles from Forum members. Most local magazines and papers already have someone contributing to a walking slot. Eamon suggested “Mud in Your Eye”, the East Lothian Countryside Rangers’ newsletter. Nick will talk to Duncan Priddle about this. **NM**

2.2 The Chair suggested that articles could be sent to magazines produced by the organisations represented at the Forum. John is keen to promote responsible access and notes the benefits to the local economy and health. The Chair is keen to help John to promote the interests of the Forum. **JM/JW**

2.3 The Chair has been in touch with David Afleck about the production of a leaflet for the Robert Noble Centenary Walk and is waiting for a response.

2.4 The Chair has written to Eamon and Councillor Goodfellow saying that the view of the Forum is that there should also be an east-west walking route to connect the

proposed cycle route between Drem and Gullane to the existing core path 464 where it would have met core path 357.

- 2.5 Nick will send details of the new access gate into Yester Estate to Ken to put up on facebook. **NM**
- 2.6 Ken has put details of the Section 11 Order for the Golf Open Championships at Gullane onto facebook.
- 2.7 Nick will send details of any new path projects to Ken when they are completed for the facebook page. **NM**
- 2.8 Jill has been in touch with the CSGN who promote the John Muir Way. There are grants available for business along the route. She will send a link for Nick to circulate. **JM**
- 2.9 Jill has also been in touch with Country Living magazine. They may be able to publish some of the walks.
- 2.10 Neil has been in touch with the new Commercial Director at Dalkeith Estate and will arrange a meeting. **NC**
- 2.11 Linda Wigley updated the Forum on the Newhailes Revival Project, which started last year. So far the play park has been completed and the doocot, ha-ha and flower garden walls have been restored. New signage and interpretation has been installed. Linda is developing a 5-year master plan for Newhailes House grounds, which will include restoration of the water garden and diversion of the core path.
- 2.12 The Chair said that the Forum has always been supportive of what the NTS want to do at Newhailes, but there has always been concern that the proposed diversion of the core path seems too long and an option following the ha-ha may be better. Jon pointed out that the core path cannot be diverted via a planning application and asked if a formal application under the Land Reform Act had been started. Nick offered to meet Linda to talk about the core path and other access at Newhailes.
- 2.13 Nick has sent a link to Forum members of the Forestry Commission's video on Lymes Disease.
- 2.14 The Chair is still keen for members to suggest someone from their organisation to speak at a future meeting. **All**
- 2.15 The Gullane walks leaflet has recently been reprinted and is available in the village.
- 2.16 Jill suggested that it may be possible that one of the Junior Rangers, or Green Angels from Knox Academy may be able to attend Forum meetings. Neil will ask the Countryside Ranger if this would be appropriate. **NC**
- 2.17 The Chair is still keen to invite a Senior Planner to a future meeting to learn about what they require for active travel from new developments.

3. EAST LoTHIAN'S LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN.

- 3.1 Nick ran through the history of East Lothian's Local Development Plan and its associated documents, particularly those that are relevant to public access provision.
- 3.2 Iain remarked that he was pleased that the Local Transport Strategy acknowledged the benefits of active travel. The strategy supports a lot of different agendas.

- 3.3 Eamon commented that although the Local Development Plan identifies sites and gives indicative requirements, there is still the opportunity to comment and influence the plans when individual applications are submitted.

4. FORUM FACEBOOK.

- 4.1 Ken reported that recent posts on facebook have included the Section 11 exemption orders for the golf championships at Gullane, a link to the video about Lymes disease and the Provost's lunch to celebrate the path wardens award.
- 4.2 Ken asked that people like the pages, which will mean that they are shared with more people.
- 4.3 Any relevant pictures or stories to be sent to Ken for inclusion. **All**

5. 'PATHS IN EAST LOTHIAN' PUBLICATION.

- 5.1 The Chair was disappointed that Nick hadn't been able to produce any new walks sheets. He is keen that we keep producing them.
- 5.2 There was discussion about whether we can promote routes that are not core paths or rights of way. It was decided that if there are short links required to complete a route, or a well known path then we can include those. Any such route would have to be considered on its merit and avoid nettles, fences, or other obstructions.
- 5.3 Although there was some discussion about some landowners not recognising the right of responsible access, Thomas cited examples, such as Yester Estate, where landowners had been very good in providing public access.

6. ACCESS OFFICER'S UPDATE.

This was circulated in advance of the meeting and Nick ran through it.

- 6.1 Ken noted that each of the Section 11 Orders for the two golf tournaments ran for four days. This was considerably shorter than when The Open was held at Muirfield in 2013. Nick had already noted this and will not be expecting any future exemptions for The Open to run for as long as the previous one.

7. ACCESS ISSUES UPDATE.

A summary of access issues was circulated in advance of the meeting.

- 7.1 There had been eight new issues since the last meeting. Most of them were locked gates all have been resolved, other than one, where we are still trying to find out who the landowner is.

8. MEMBERS' UPDATES.

- 8.1 Jane reported that at the CAPP meeting in North Berwick the issue of cyclists riding on the pavements had been raised. It was thought that foreign tourists are misinterpreting the route of the John Muir Way. Jane will send details to Neil, who will look into this. **JH/NC**

8.2 Jill reported that colleagues in Environmental Health had asked her to put a post about blue green algae onto facebook. It turned out to be one of the most popular posts in a long time, with the most hits and shares. It is interesting to see what captures the imagination on social media.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

9.1 Now that we no longer have Jennifer, James ask the Forum members if they thought that the number of meetings should be reduced to cut down the workload for Nick. After some discussion it was decided to keep the meetings at four a year.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

Wed 31st October 2018 from 2pm – 4:30pm.