

## Feedback from S Lanarkshire Local Access Forum Meeting 27/11/19

### Background

The Local Access Forum is a body set up under the Land Reform Scotland Act (2003) to allow interested parties to raise issues related to the "Right to Roam" provisions of the Act. It comprises representatives of SLC, Community Councils, and a range of interested organisations e.g. Ramblers Scotland, the Scottish Canoe Association, and the National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS).

Some of the issues raised at the meeting related to other parts of South Lanarkshire and are not covered in this report.

#### Issues in Biggar

JM to work with the Dougie Shannon, the Scottish Canoe Association Access adviser to draft a formal letter to the Access Forum regarding signing discouraging boating at Biggar Boating Pond and Lanark Loch.

#### Issues Close to Biggar

- \* Stonehill Road (between Carmichael and Rigside). SLC have obtained funding for alterations to a gate installed by the landowner. This will restore access for pedestrians and mobility scooters, but exclude trail bikes.
- \* SLC have agreed signage for Carmichael Estate regarding dogs. A dog-walker objected to previous signage, and SLC requested its removal. However, there have been a number of incidents of dogs attacking livestock at Carmichael (most recently some chickens were killed), and SLC now agree that there should be some signage on the estate to remind dog walkers of the need to control their animals. SLC will provide the signs which will be installed by the estate.
- \* There will be some upgrades to the Clyde Walkway in the Garrion Bridge area as part of the road upgrade project.
- \* A community buy-out of the Braxfield Estate near Lanark has failed. It is not known who the new owners are, but it is hoped that they will address the access problems which exist on the estate.
- \* The path between Elsrickle and Walston is being upgraded.
- \* The Smarter Choices, Smarter Places project run by Community Action Lanarkshire has developed travel action plans for the villages in the Duneaton, Leadhills and Crawford CC areas which map active travel routes around the villages.
- \* Presentation on preferred route of Clyde Walkway extension between Lanark and Abington was deferred to the next meeting due to other agenda items.

#### General Items

- \* New Terms of Reference for the Access Forum were adopted. It was agreed that representatives of CCs who attend regularly should have full voting rights on the Forum. CCs and other bodies who do not attend regularly would continue to receive minutes and agendas. The composition of the Forum will be reviewed every two years.
- \* Community Payback teams can be used to make repairs to paths, gates, fences etc on footpaths and public areas and are keen to take on new projects. Community groups can approach the Community Payback teams directly. These teams are fully supervised, and work is of a high standard. Labour is provided free, but the group requesting the work usually has to provide materials.
- \* Fingerposts for footpaths are available from Simon Pilpel at SLC.
- \* SLC have started to install cycle counters on the cycle network to assess usage.
- \* Whitelees windfarm hold a fireworks-free dog walk on Nov 5<sup>th</sup>. This is becoming increasingly popular and attracted around 1000 people + 1000 dogs this year.
- \* The National Access forum has been developing messaging to deter dirty camping close to roads (e.g. the Lowther Hill passes).
- \* Electric bikes are classed as non-motorised vehicles and so can be used on footpaths as long as they can be pedalled and their maximum speed is restricted.
- \* The next Local Access Forum Meeting will be in March.

**Requested Action** BCC to note the content of this report.