

# ANGUS LOCAL ACCESS FORUM

Note of the Meeting of the Angus Local Access Forum held at Angus House, Forfar on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024

**Present:** Andrew Matthews (Chair), John Hamilton, Irene McGugan, Norma Lyall, Jonathan Dymock, Mike Strachan (Scottish Forestry), Clair Glaister (Scottish Forestry).

**In attendance:** Paul Clark (Countryside Access Officer, Angus Council), Chris Reid (Programme Manager, Forest and Land Scotland), Sophie Cade (Forest Planner, Forest and Land Scotland).

**Apologies:** Kelly Ann Dempsey

## **1. FLS Glen Prosen woodland creation consultation.**

CR and SC introduced the proposals for re-foresting Glen Prosen Estate, which was recently acquired by Forest and Land Scotland, and shared maps of the current design and fencing proposals. The proposals are currently at the concept stage and they are engaging with communities and interest groups before refining them further. The current proposal would involve reforesting the estate in phases, with each are being deer fenced.

Members were generally supportive of the overall principles. Topics of discussion included; the desirability of minimising the use of fences wherever possible; coordination with fencing proposals on neighbouring estates; providing fence crossings on paths and other access routes including hill ridges, and at fence junctions; leaving tree free corridors alongside paths; provision of parking; and the need for short trails and seating/picnic facilities for casual visitors. CR and SC noted members' observations and comments.

FLS would be hosting a recreation and access workshop at Glen Prosen later in the year. It may be helpful for one or two LAF members to attend.

## **2. Minute of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

## **3. Matters Arising**

PC confirmed that he had submitted the LAF's response to the Cairngorms fire management consultation.

## **4. Proposed NAF Chair application endorsement**

IM had submitted a paper proposing to endorse Nick Cole, current Chair of Perth and Kinross Access Forum and LAF representative on the National Access Forum, as a candidate for Convenor of the National Access Forum. It was agreed that ALAF should endorse the application.

## **5. Access issues update**

PC gave a brief update on current access issues.

There had been some progress with work at Ferry Road, Monifieth, but the obstruction had not yet been removed.

A further complaint had been received about the lack of signage to direct people to the unlocked gate on the route to Craig of Balloch on Ballintore Estate. PC had asked the landowner to install additional signage.

## **6. A.O.C.B.**

There was further discussion of access in relation to new forestry planting and deer fences. MS was keen that Scottish Forestry agree a set of principles for provision of fence crossings and tree-free path corridors. PC was willing to work with them to draft suitable wording. MS had been having similar discussions with the Perth and Kinross Local Access Forum. It was agreed that representatives of P&KLAF should be invited to the next ALAF meeting to explore the topic further. IM agreed to put the suggested to the P&KLAF Chair in the first instance.

LAF membership and recruitment was discussed. PC agreed to seek applicants via various Council social media channels. It was noted that several members had not attended any recent meeting (in one case that was because they had other commitments but had agreed to stay on as a corresponding member should their expertise be required). There was agreement that those members should be asked to step down prior to any recruitment. PC agreed to contact them.

There was some discussion of the mention of training for LAF members in the recent NAF minutes. AM was concerned that a need for training might be off putting to prospective members, but IM thought it was more a case of making the relevant information available to members should they need it.

## **7. Date of next meeting :**

Monday 14 October 2024.