

Sunart Community Company
Paths Network Working Group

Minutes

Tuesday 9th May 2017 Dail Mhor House 6.30 pm

Present: John Jones (Chair); Izzy Baker; Sue Metcalf; Karl Bungey; Robert Dun; Sheila Wilson; Sheila McKenzie; Morag Jones; Gill Wilson; Catriona Hunter

1. **Apologies**

David Barker; Eilidh-Ann Philips; Richard Laybourne; John Metcalf

2. **Agree Terms of Reference**

Agreed to finalise at next meeting. Comments to be sent to IB.

Group reviewed Action Points from last meeting. Key points:

Audit Template: circulated by IB. Any comments to IB.

Forestry Commission contact: ongoing

Tom an T'Seithin – KB has walked with GPS- there is Walkers Welcome sign. SW has taken photos of route and can provide.

Hydro Tracks – still to be audited. Research needed on Walkers Welcome signs. IB to ask EAP for information on this type of signage.

Longrigg Burn – RD has finished path, looks pretty, all encouraged to walk and provide any constructive feedback.

Leaflets – SM had asked at Tourist Information office about leaflets – informed no leaflets available and cannot be printed.

3. **Paths for All Grant Application**

a and b Group discussed the submission of a grant application to Paths for All. Noted maximum grant available is £1500 and has to be matched by volunteer in kind input. Agreed to put in Expression of Interest for Sunart Paths encompassing Ardnastang beach, Back Road, Hotel Path and Longrigg Burn. Noted that as volunteer input priced at £50 a day for unskilled tasks; £150 a day for skilled tasks and £350 for professional work should be relatively easy across 4 paths for volunteer input to match £1500. (For further information on each path see Minutes 4, 5 and 6 below).

Agreed identified group to be engaged should be 'Communities to get more physically active outdoors'. Noted that all the statements in 'What Difference will Your Project Make' could apply but only two could be chosen. IB to choose two for the expression of interest submission and at next stage emphasis could be placed on highlighting the wide scope of the project in making a difference across many groups.

Project start date to be July 2017; completion date December 2017.

IB to draft Expression of Interest submission and send round for comment before submission by 19 May 2017.

4. Ardnastang Beach

a Landowner permission: Noted IB and RD had met with landowner Andy Goodison. He had given permission to carry out work and agreed to make donation to costs. Agreed letter stating permission granted should be kept as simple as possible.

b Route marking and quote: Noted IB had met with Murdo Campbell and mapped out route for path which would be a bit further up than current boggy path. Some trees would have to be removed. Quote received from MC of £996 for work. Path would be raised up and be 1.5 to 2 m wide. Once work completed would need to settle for about a year and not walked on.

c Other jobs: Noted volunteer tasks would include tree felling, branch clearing, beach cleaning, sign posting and possibly construction of bench. All could be included in volunteering input for grant application as mixture of basic and skilled work. Works in progress would be important during progression of work. Parking to be discussed once path open for all.

5. Back Road

a Route condition: path currently maintained by Community Company and generally condition ok. If aiming for wheelchair all access condition will need Type 2 stones over whole length.

b Possible Costs: RD will measure and estimate for cost of Type 2 stones plus some equipment. Will be included in Grant application but other sources of funding such as Common Good fund to be sought for funding gaps.

c Volunteer Tasks: mainly labour to spread stones, branch clearing

6. Hotel Path

a Route condition: SM has walked and taken photos. James Hilder has suggested use of stones from quarry would help surface of what can be very boggy sections.

b Possible costs: likely to need Type 2 stones to improve path in places. KB will measure area where materials required and produce estimate for grant application. Likely to have be sourced from outwith mine as they currently low in stock.

c Volunteer tasks: labour to spread stones, some cutting back of vegetation.

7. GPS and Mapping

KB gave update on research so far. Three options being looked at:

- Cheapest – app on smart phones, tablets etc using Strava software. Easy to use but only lasts for duration of battery. Ok for shorter walks. Two second hand phones could be provided.
- Using Ordnance Survey mapping system with smart phone etc. Annual sub £20 with unlimited printing of maps permitted. Community licence may be free.
- Garmin route – most expensive, difficulty in getting hardware and software to work well together – most expensive.

KB thanked for research so far. Agreed KB should decide on most appropriate option. Step by step guide on using option could then be provided and a short training session set up in use of equipment.

8. Other Routes

Longrigg Burn as discussed above.

9. Any Other Business

KB suggested possible consideration of creation of raised platform into canopy of Ariundle woods in the upper track. Similar projects in Aros Park, Isle of Mull and Forest of Dean popular with visitors. Members of group enthusiastic and agreed could be looked at some future date.

10. Date and Time of Next Meeting

6 June 2017 at 6.30 p.m.

Main Action Points

- IB to draft Expression of Interest application for Paths for All and circulate for comment by 19 May 2017
- if Expression of Interest found to be suitable for grant IB to draft application for grant for discussion at next meeting.
- KB to measure hotel path to estimate material requirements for grant application
- RD to measure back path to estimate material requirements for grant application
- KB to choose most appropriate GPS and mapping option; produce step by step guide on use and set up training session for group.