

## **Minutes of the Paths Working Group - 28 August 2018**

**Venue:** Fire Station, Strontian

**Present:** John Jones (Chair); Morag Jones; Karl Bungey; Dean Mann; Sheila McKenzie; Catriona Hunter, Alistair McDougall Alison McDougall, Izzy Baker; Robert Dunn; Sheila Wilson

**Apologies:** Jean Campbell

### **1. Update on previous works**

Beach Path – Being well used by both locals and visitors. Chair recorded thanks to Murdo Campbell for all his help and work on the path. And thanks to Izzy, Thomas, Aiden and Robert for their contributions and hard work.

Longrigg Path – now a bit overgrown. RD mowed 2-3 weeks ago.

### **2. Paths for All Award**

IB reported that £1500 had been awarded which would be used for design and production of leaflet on paths. Noted that there was also c£900 in the pot from the Common Benefit Fund. Agreed that IB would prepare report for Community Benefit Fund on how monies already spent had been used.

IB explained that a report had to be made to Paths for All on recent award by January 2019. IB has drawn up a pro forma on which to capture information. The proposal was to walk the paths recording all relevant information, take photos and map walk on GPS system.

The pro forma would record how many people walking; start and end time; waypoints; viewpoints; bench location; maintenance needs. Group agreed the use of the pro forma.

Agreed IB would identify and circulate six dates for walks using a mixture of days. The first walk will take place on 10 September 2018 – the Fairies Walk – meet 9.30 in the village green.

### **3. Paths Leaflet**

IB reported that Halliwell Productions will do the leaflet following an advert which was placed in Che A Dol. The content will be similar to the previous leaflet produced by Eilidh Ann Phillips. The leaflet will be on paths around Sunart i.e. Longrigg Burn; High Road; Coffin Trail (signposted only); Ariundle woods; Fairies Road; Community Wood; Back Road; Phemies Wood; Beach Path and possibly Carnoch walk.

Noted that there would be training sessions by KB on GPS in September/October and agreed that an A4 idiots guide would be useful.

### **4. Paths App**

Noted that DM was assisting with development of a website for Community Company and is looking into development of a paths app. The app would be available on computers and phones and people will be able to walk to a point with the app picking

up where they were with individuals being able to keep record of their own experience of the walk. We could be guinea pigs for the development of the app by DM's company.

Noted there was a need to agree how information would be sourced and kept up to date. Noted visitors would likely access information from SMAATA with locals more likely to access via Community Council and Community Company website.

Agreed the immediate priority was to concentrate on data collection. This data would be useful for the app as well as the leaflet.

In terms of photos it was noted that copyright stays with whoever takes the photo so there was a need to keep track of who had taken photos used. It was agreed that high quality images taken with digital cameras were really needed perhaps asking someone like Steven Marshall to take the photos. Mobile phones could be used to identify locations from which to take high quality photos with GPS settings.

#### 5. **Path Maintenance and Signs**

There was some discussion about signage and agreement that a standard design with standard information was required. The path walk arounds would identify locations for signs. In terms of maintenance it was noted that Longrigg Path would need some strimming and walk arounds would help identify other areas of maintenance, which were required.

#### 6. **Benches**

It was noted location of benches would be identified on path walk arounds and the work previously done by JC and GW could be used. The wood for benches has been purchased and agreed that benches would be fixed to the ground. IB will check with Men's Shed on storage and fitting of benches. There was some discussion on whether benches should have wooden or plastic legs. Agreed to have one with plastic legs for comparison sakes.

#### 7. **Old School House Plot**

Agreed that a working party day to clear way through the plot was required and would be organised once walk arounds had been completed. CH to talk to Ian Campbell re using land on the river path.

#### 8. **Dates of Next meetings**

Monday 8 October 2018 at 6.30 p.m.

Monday 12 November 2018 at 6.30 p.m.