

Unknown

From: David Bullough [David@tourism-resources.co.uk]
Sent: 06 July 2005 17:55
To: Niall Thomson
Subject: RE: Carron Valley[Scanned]

Niall

Thank you very much for your email, it helps to clarify the points you raised. The walk to Tomtain was very useful, there is definitely longer term potential in this area. I was very impressed by your and Richard's enthusiasm and your professional approach to the trail building project. I will certainly take on board your ideas, the wider issues and potential activity linkages for Carron Valley. I know that Alistair will contact Richard in due course re: IMBA hat.


With regards to direct and formal advice to CVDG at this stage given my involvement with FC, I feel there could be client contractual issues. However do feel free to give me a phone if you want to discuss any issues Informally.

Thank you very much again.

Regards

David

-----Original Message-----

From: Niall [mailto:niallt@
Sent: 06 July 2005 17:54
To: David Bullough
Cc: webmaster@carronvalley.org.uk
Subject: FW: Carron Vallley[Scanned]

Hi David

Firstly, thanks again for taking some of your own time to re visit Carron last night - it was much appreciated.

We did get a sense of what you were talking about with The Bins during the meeting therefore it was encouraging that you were prepared to come up and look at the area from another angle. We hope you'll agree that the Tomtain area (both the summit area, Drumbuoy and the flanks immediately to the East and West are a different ball game. That will be almost like 'natural mtb' if handled properly - especially as the replanting is mostly mixed woodland. The really exciting part is that much of the area around Tomtain and what could be a truly massive contouring descent down to the loch has been clearfelled and this makes it so much easier to plan the lines. It may not be very pretty for a year or two til the trees grow but in most cases they have already been re planted.

The Bin trio have lots of potential but they are quite a way from the base so I personally see them as epic black type territory. Others might disagree but thats the beauty of having a blank canvas - its good fun talking through all the options:-) The ridge ride you mentioned was certainly talking our language - it would be a winner. The Bins, a ridge ride etc do represent a huge opportunity however, they will be big routes due to the mileages out and back and the need to bring them all back towards Tomtain in order to keep the fun factor up for the final descents down through the North Shore sections (for red and black - blue is at least partially catered for already in the form of the trails we're building right now) and ultimately the funpark blue at the bottom.

I know Andy didn't show you this so if you do by any chance go up again

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take a right down to the water immediately after the dam gate and just go along the obvious path you'll pick up (not in your X5 tho:-) You'll be seriously impressed by the green route options along the loch.

The visit from the Blairadam guys was somewhat bizarre given your presence as this was the first time any of us had actually met them. As you gathered, Richard wears 2 hats (both as CVDG and IMBA rep) and that was coincidentally the day he'd arranged to show them round. He has a duty to help anyone - even if they do represent a 'competing' project. I gather they were quite stunned at what we had achieved thus far and the scale of what would be possible at Carron.

We realise you have a job to do in terms of the feasibility study and its objectivity however, your involvement with Clanranald adds an interesting dimension. We wondered if you could be the catalyst to help drive Carron forward in a more cohesive manner?

There seems little point in CVDG making isolated plans at carpark level unless we know what the FC views are in terms of future development, other forms of recreation, Clanranald etc. It would be wrong for us to give the impression the FC keep us in the dark as Michael, Rena & Andy have all been very supportive however, it does seem characteristic of the FC to be very difficult to pin down on specifics.

Personally, I feel the best route forward for the current carpark & road (given that everyone is in agreement that the status quo is simply not an option) is to effect repairs and to make it fit for purpose. Indeed the FC have a duty of care so it shouldn't even be necessary to debate the issue but in the real world - ce la vie I guess :-). Excavating the mtb carpark makes sense at this stage because the lowest trail needs overlay material for that last flattish stretch across the clear fell and that would kill 2 birds with one stone if you'll pardon the pun. We will be putting this suggestion to Rena but we need to find out from Grieves what it will cost. Apparently FC Engineering are visiting Carron tomorrow - ostensibly to look at roads. Beyond that we know nothing, so its back to that left and right arm scenario.

Your Hub idea sounds exciting. If it comes off, one assumes the whole area could also be re designed / re landscaped to a high standard (one that allowed an 'off road' trail from the mtb carpark to the damhead for instance but still allowed a fit for everything else.) We've got the first part of this trail sorted - its so stunningly pretty its shouting out to be done but there is no practical means of avoiding the road once you get to the entrance bridge. Going through or above Clanranald is not possible but it's not exactly like we're stuck for space down there so there are options if re developing the road and carpark were thought through properly.

We wish to move forward with subsequent phasing as soon as possible and Rena has in fact sanctioned all this in principle. CVDG have decided that the Bins loop might not now not be the immediate target but we're open minded and would like Paul to review this once we've broached the more immediate task of taking out the first part of the fireroad climb. Paul scoped this yesterday and reckons it superb - even has a brilliant descent and gobsmacking view within 10 mins of the start.

If you can help advise us in any way that would be appreciated. If you feel this compromises your position - thats understood.

Apologies - this was meant to be a short one!

Best of luck with the rest of your visits - we await the outputs with baited breath and to welcoming you with a bike when the trails are completed!

Kind regards

Niall

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