
From: Tarwinska, Rena [mailto:rena.tarwinska@forestry.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 03 March 2006 19:01
To: chairman@carronvalley.org.uk
Cc: david@carronvalley.org.uk
Subject: RE: Carron launch / sundry political issues

Niall

Thanks for this, just a quick reply on where things stand at my end:

Prep work for 27.3 (confirmed to David R today):

Allan Chalmers will supply a blown up encapsulated version of interim leaflet for the notice board in carpark. A doublesided notice board with pitched roof is on its way - Andy G will make sure it's in place in time. Alan will also supply 100 copies of the interim leaflet for the day. The forest road potholes will be addressed in time

Branding: Alan, as indicated to you at the meeting, has not had time to write up his notes, but he & Bob his boss have been mulling over a few ideas today, on lines of 'Backcountry on your doorstep' theme. Worst case scenario is we get the interim leaflet headed Carron Valley Trails on the day.

You guys have worked very hard to get these trails made & have also as a community group invited the Minister & dignitaries. Michael & I are content that CVDG take the glory on the day, and see it very much a chance for you to take the credit. FCS as executive arm of Sc Ex, has the role of leading on forest-related issues. So it is appropriate that for this, an event celebrating local success with a Minister other than the Forestry Minister, that FCS is a backdrop, rather than a high profile partner on the day. Having said this, I am very happy to say a few words on the day to congratulate the Group. Obviously, I can't make any policy pronouncements, or comment on anything said by others. There is a lot of protocol that FCS staff have to follow as I'm sure you appreciate.

£5.3k funding: I've paid the bill for the McGregor work, & if you need confirmation I can supply

Joint meeting: I would be pleased to organise a joint meeting of NL & St Co, CVDG, and ourselves to determine a template for future working & tease out solutions. It would be helpful to get a neutral facilitator to help us in this - that way we can get involved without one organisation having to 'chair' the session. As you say, if we end up with a system applicable in other areas, it can only help in the future.

I'm now off to enjoy the winter sun for a week

Thanks

Rena

From: niall [mailto:niallt@██████████]
Sent: 03 March 2006 13:34
To: Tarwinska, Rena
Subject: Carron launch / sundry political issues

Rena

I know you are going on holiday and this is not good timing however, just to recap on our conversation last night and to summarise how CVDG see matters:

Short term

1. Leaflet

Completion and production of the map/ trail leaflet per Alan Chalmers proposed design for opening on 27th March. We accept this is now tight for him however, it is in line with the lead times he indicated he'd need to complete what little work remains (i.e correction of typographical errors / factual inaccuracies and a 2 week lead time for print production

2. Venue name

Agreement on and insertion of, 'the name' - prior to leaflet production. I've no doubt there will be arguments for and against whether this is desirable without the branding necessary to dress it up and I accept this. At the very least, I feel we need a name for the launch.

3. Opening

- i.) Agreement that we all (CVDG, NLC, SC & FC) use our combined efforts / best endeavours to make the 27th a success. As far as everyone outside the FC is concerned, this is a great achievement and the start of bigger things to come. CVDG refuse to let the other issues spoil this day.
- ii.) Resources. I don't know how much you are prepared to help and or what resources you can make available. In terms of absolute necessities, our best low budget shots thus far are: On the marquee front, the offer of 2 large army mess tents from one of the members who is a Staff Sergeant in the REME. These can be joined together. Marty is ordering portaloos today to augment Andy's loo, and also hiring a PA. These 2 will cost us money so if you have anything you can make available feel free to jump in with offers. Rab is attempting to get a large plasma screen and generator but has insurance issues.
- iii.) Visuals. We will have both a slide presentation and a dvd with headcam footage / soundtrack. The slides are done and the soundtrack is being dubbed this w/e so they will be ready in time. The idea would be to have them both playing and to hand out copies on the day with the trail map. I'm sure you'll have FC banners / presentation equipment etc and I guess we should use these.
- iv.) Catering. We'll handle this ourselves and I'm sure we can do this to a high standard. We'll need urns, tables, chairs etc
- v.) Format. Basically, CVDG need to say something, you need to say something and the Minister needs to say something and then declare the place open. We're obviously open to guidance & advice on this one however, because we've got both a Minister (who is also a local MSP) and Cathie Craigie already confirmed and the very good chance of 2 other MSP's making an appearance – it's not something we want to fluff up.

Will send you a copy of the invitees somehow later today – last version I saw was incomplete. If you wish to add to it I guess you need to get that info to me by Monday.

Short to mid term

1. FC funding £5300

CVDG and I in particular, have a continuing problem with this one. It's your call whether you decide to address it between now and the opening so I'll just flag it up once again and we'll leave any further

reference to it for now.

2. Current funding issues

The 2 'offers' in question pre date the FC volte face. I really don't want to get into who said what right now, we both know all that. Whilst we can accept that matters may change over a period of years to reflect evolving circumstances, what we are frankly finding so intolerable is the complete departure from what I would term the spirit & substance of what both we and the Councils understood to be a meaningful partnering arrangement. In essence, we have major problems with what amounts to a complete u turn over a period of a few months when issues like maintenance have been a known quantity for years. It just doesn't stack up I'm afraid.

We wish to see an agreed resolution that will allow these to go ahead. No problem is insurmountable - these don't involve huge sums of money or anything other than minute enhancement to the existing trails. For us, the most pressing issue here is some kind of positive response to the letter written by NLC Planning Director. What I mean by this is a response that does not involve painting both them, CVDG and SC into a corner.

3. Strategic position

Please let us be clear, I make no judgement on you regarding this or hold you personally responsible however, we are now the best part of 3 years down the line and we are right back to where we started. All things considered, we have delivered a damn good product on the ground but it's very much a case of unfinished business at Carron as far as both CVDG and the 2 Councils are concerned. Meanwhile, the FC have variously prevaricated by undertaking and insisting upon: Consultative drop in meetings; Publication of a Recreational Strategy; A joint Council workshop; A Feasibility Study; Consultation, formulation and publication of a National Strategy. Notwithstanding the lack of available capital - none of this has even produced a published statement of intent. We both know this Strategy issue will just get buried in red tape for ever and a day. My point is, are we going to continue playing at this or can we get down to business with you and your colleagues and thrash out a solution for Carron.

You assure me there is no hidden agenda. So, if we assume that is in fact the case and that development at Carron does not run counter to the recommendations for any potential development at Aberfoyle (i.e unless you are going to completely ignore the independent assessments in both of TRC's reports) If the FC have no money, no cost neutral maintenance solution and given that there isn't even a group on the ground at Aberfoyle - why on earth is this completely hypothetical scenario being used as yet another impediment to build upon what we already have at Carron? Whatever happened to Michael's simple question: "Prove that there is a need" We have a structure, we have the will, we even now have a centre (or at least the makings of one) up and running. It ticks all the right boxes, it breaks the mould, two Councils are prepared to throw yet more resources behind it. On any rational assessment, it represents something which is good, something which should be built upon but..... you say there is a maintenance issue which needs resolved. Let us jointly resolve it then!

Unless the FC is deliberately trying to prevent development at Carron the maintenance issue is merely an obstacle to be overcome. The biggest issue for you is maintenance. The biggest issue for us is the continuing lack of a centre, on your patch, where most of us live, to fulfill a need for what you prefer to call the health and well being agenda. From where we stand, this represents an opportunity for Carron and a potential solution to all the questions now posed by the TRC report? The FC talk of so called social forestry - lets see that working across the social strata please. Why can't we jointly sit down and formulate a template / model or whatever you wish to call it, for Carron? If you have any reason why even this cannot be done can you please tell me what it is. This would be a model that makes us an exemplar for the other areas in question - one that could be taken to your Chief Exec as a model for sustainable development. It only requires the will Rena - we've been running concurrently with Lochgilphead and that managed to get flown under the radar no problem - let us some even handedness across the FC estate please.

Speak soon – have a good break

Niall

Niall Thomson
Director
[REDACTED] Systems Ltd

Tel [REDACTED]
Dir [REDACTED]
Fax [REDACTED]
Mob [REDACTED]
Web www [REDACTED]

PLEASE NOTE: THE ABOVE MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED FROM THE INTERNET.

On entering the GSi, this email was scanned for viruses by the Government Secure Intranet (GSi) virus scanning service supplied exclusively by Cable & Wireless in partnership with MessageLabs.

Please see <http://www.gsi.gov.uk/main/notices/information/gsi-003-2002.pdf> for further details.

In case of problems, please call your organisational IT helpdesk

+++++ The Forestry Commission's computer systems may be monitored and communications carried out on them recorded, to secure the effective operation of the system and for other lawful purposes. +++++

The original of this email was scanned for viruses by the Government Secure Intranet (GSi) virus scanning service supplied exclusively by Energis in partnership with MessageLabs.

On leaving the GSi this email was certified virus-free