



Forestry Commission Scotland

Mr Niall Thomson
Chairman
Carron Valley Development Group

Scottish Lowlands
Forest District
Bankhead Steadings
Braxfield Road
Lanark ML11 9BU

Ref: ENV21/70
24th April 2006

fescotlow@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Tel: 01555 660190
Fax: 01555 660191

Dear Niall

Forest District Manager
Michael Wall

FCS NATIONAL CYCLING STRATEGY

Thank you for your letter of 7th. Although I understand that Rena Tarwinska may have relayed some of the information to you when the strategy was posted on the FCS web-site, I can now respond to your specific questions as follows:

1. Responses to the Tourism Resources Company report on cycling priorities for FCS land should be made to mtbscotlandstudy@forestry.gsi.gov.uk. The information was available on 13th April.
2. Your avenue to make representations is to submit comments as above.
3. The study background section of the TRC report describes its brief.
4. The FCS National Cycling Strategy will be a policy document so the 'author' will be FCS.
5. I understand that a draft of the strategy will be available by October 2006. Normal practice is to summarise representations in appendices.

I think the time has now come to leave behind the issues of the past and move forward positively with all organisations that have a recreational interest at Carron Valley. I have given some thought to this and am minded to include the relationship between CVDG and FCS within a wider 'partnership'. Therefore, we are proposing to establish a 'Carron Valley Partnership' involving FCS, the two local authorities, Scottish Water, Central Scotland Forest Trust, yourselves and Clanranald Trust for Scotland plus others if they wish.

The partnership would function via a 'Concordat' that would provide a framework for agreeing, specifying and monitoring recreational developments at Carron Valley Forest. The partners would form a management group to build an annual programme of work, and perhaps a longer-term indicative programme that would gradually firm up year by year. The annual programme would provide a clear indication of intentions so that funding could be allocated against projects with the assurance that all relevant factors had been taken into account, and that the necessary partners were officially 'signed up'. To ensure that responsibilities and commitments were fully understood in advance of starting any particular project, we would agree

details such as lead partner, funders, specifications, time-scales and maintenance obligations within 'project plans'.

Rena will be sending draft copies of a Concordat with an invitation to prospective partners to a meeting to discuss and, hopefully, finalise the document.

I hope that you will see this Concordat proposal as a positive move on behalf of FCS. In my view it is essential to re-establish good relations between FCS and CVDG. Therefore, I would ask that you tone-down the style and content of correspondence with my colleagues and I. Forestry Commission Scotland people work with many dozens of community partnerships with whom we have an amicable and productive relationship. The eventual effect of combative correspondence, is to make productive working much more difficult and to erode the potential of any partnership. My experience of working with agencies, businesses and communities is that the best results are achieved with good relationships between the individual people involved.

I do hope that you will feel able to meet with us in a renewed spirit of mutual ambition for Carron Valley and forgive my speaking with frankness in response to your own.

As I say, Rena Tarwinska will be in touch shortly and I look forward to agreeing a Concordat.

Yours sincerely



Michael Wall
Forest District Manager