

**Notes of Carron Valley Partnership Meeting 30 November 2006
at FCS Hamilton office**

Present:

Lorna Bowden	North Lanarkshire Council
Denis O'Kane	North Lanarkshire Council
Geoff Brown	Bell Ingram for Scottish Water
Richard Barton	Carron Valley Development Group
Angela [REDACTED]	Carron Valley Development Group
Charlie Allan	Clanranald Trust
Rena Tarwinska	Forestry Commission Scotland

LB explained that DO has replaced Mark Forrest, and he will attend meetings in future for NLC.

RT asked for any comments on notes of previous two meetings, and apologised for their late submission to CVP.

- 1) Apologies from Niall Thomson (CVDG), Mike Batley (CSFT), Robert Hunter (Stirling Co).
- 2) Partner Update.
 - Clanranald. Shuttering has been removed from the completed base of toilet block. More delay with college: joiner/tutor is off sick with no replacement in place. If no word by 8.12, Clanranald will erect structure themselves. Still looking to erect by end Dec. Carpark nearly done, and CR asked about landscaping plan which he's not yet seen. RT will get from Andy Gallacher - **Action RT**. Clanranald applied for planning permission for café/retail on site, but were refused café till fort up and running. NLC also refused food van because of potential mess from litter. Clanranald were still looking to include sustainable energy eg wind turbine, in their development. LB offered information and a contact in NLC for renewable energy - **Action LB**.
 - CVDG. Recent AGM voted NT and RB as Chairman & Vice Chairman respectively. AW is now Treasurer and Fundraiser, although Rab Young will act as Treasurer for remainder of this phase. He is liaising with Stirling Landfill Tax officer about funding. 06 trail build complete this week, though won't open till harvesting finished in area. Some work still to re-instate trailsides. CVDG gave well received presentation to Alan Stevenson Head of Tourism, Recreation, and Communities for Forest Enterprise Scotland (FES), and Michael Wall Forest District Manager. CVDG are looking for clearance on what can be done, and are keen to progress plans for 07, since they are being offered money from funders. So far the offers include Leader+ £15k, Landfill Tax (private operator) £50k, Heritage Lottery £50k for multi-user heritage trail at lochside, Awards for All £10k. The meeting with Nicky Whitaker, Funding Officer for FES was less positive, and CVDG are unhappy with her attitude which they saw as dismissing the importance of CV in the wider context of FCS projects.

LB said that planning permission will be needed for the next phase onwards. RT explained that this initial phase was agreed with NLC as under permitted development. RT will formally agree with NLC on protocol for in-forest works. Contact is Bob McKinnis - **Action RT**

RB asked whether the Project Initiation Document required by FES Management Board would be for discrete stages of the project, or for the whole project. RT said the feasible extent of the project had still to be determined.

- Scottish Water – Nothing additional to Agenda item 4
 - FCS were completing a series of smallscale clearfells some of which impacted on mtb trails at CV. They were identified in the recently approved Forest Design Plan, and were opening up streamsidings, and additional views out from the forest.
- 3) RT explained FCS position.
- It was a positive step that Alan Stevenson accepted the merit of developing a mix of green, blue & red graded trails at CV for general mtb users, and that it could be considered a special case for FCS. This did not mean that FCS formally supported it. A case must still be made to the Management Board who may yet turn it down.
 - The intention was that CSFT would act as project managers ie seek and apply for future funding, tender the work, and manage the finances. AW expressed concern as to the future role of CVDG. RT and LB stressed that community & user support was essential for the project to be successful. The intention was to take the burden from CVDG, and give it to CSFT as the project had grown beyond what volunteers could be expected to implement.
 - It had been recognised by FES senior management that the workloads in Scottish Lowlands Forest District merited an additional member of staff at same grade as RT. Now confirmed as Jeremy Thompson, who would be given projects to develop and manage, including CVP and recreation development of CV Forest. Start date is early January. RT will maintain an overview but be less involved in detail.
- 4) GB explained pilot interpretation project for reservoirs in the Crawford/Elvanfoot/Biggar area of South Lanarkshire. With Leader+ funding, a consultant was developing interpretation, and the concept could be applied to CV in due course. He handed out copies of drafts for interp boards and a template for a poster, and asked for comments by end Dec – **Action All**. He will also email report – **Action GB**. RT suggested CVP ask Scottish Water to look at allowing public access over dam at east end. This agreed by those present – **Action GB**
- 5) AOB – RB requested earlier write up & distribution of notes of meetings. RT agreed – **Action RT**

Dates of meetings for early 07 were agreed:

25 Jan, 21 Feb, 22 Mar, 19 April, 23 May, 21 June. If any meeting not required, the date can be cancelled.

RT
4 Dec 06