## **Notes of Carron Valley Partnership Meeting**

Friday 23 February 2007

FCS offices, Hamilton

Attending:

Gillian Barrie CSFT Mary Travers CSFT

Robert Hunter Stirling Council

Dennis O'Kane North Lanarkshire Council

David Russell CVDG
Richard Barton CVDG
Rena Tarwinska FCS
Jeremy Thompson FCS
Alan Chalmers FCS

1) Apologies:

Geoff Brown Bell Ingram for Scottish Water (Email to RT not read in

time for meeting)

2) **JT** offered his impressions of CV and the mtb work done so far. He was pleased to see the high quality build and good signage, and noted <u>how busy it seemed with</u> <u>mtbs</u>. He also noted the high numbers of walkers, and said the quality of FCS provision should be improved.

**Deleted:** that it ranked with Glentress as the busiest mtb trails in Scotland

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The proposed CV project would benefit all types of users. He would be looking at a large, phased project. The **first phase**, over 2yrs, would develop facilities for walkers and runners. Develop concept of 'outdoor gym'. There are many sports clubs in central Scotland which could use CV. Intention is to develop key elements to offer something for everyone.

- Carpark at Todholes should be increased to 50 spaces, based on his recent weekend visit.
- The multi-user trail is essential, but reduce from earlier approx 3km. Big advantage at CV is easy trail along the flat.
- Green graded mtb route essential. Schools are already making use of the existing trails, but an easier trail is required.
- Develop red route over Tomtain, taking 18mths.
- Develop the walk up Meikle Bin as a 4-6hr Heritage Walk. Small scale path improvements & waymarking.
- No café building in this phase.

RH commended JT on this proposal, but asked about the café.

**JT** said he had met with two business people based in Stirling, one with outdoor education experience & qualifications, the other had run a medium sized hotel. They, or suitable other, could look after the toilet block, give information, and offer a mobile catering service. Bringing a temporary building up to suitable standard was not good value for money.

**RB** said the plans were very good, but how does this compare with the CVDG version presented in October?

**JT** said CVDG wanted the whole plan completed in two years. His proposal was more phased, but caters for all users from the start. Glentress had taken 7yrs to develop, and was delivered in stages small enough for all to buy into and cope with.

RH said he supported this phased approach.

### Funding:

**MT** is due to meet Angela of CVDG, having already met with Niall Thomson. They would be comparing project vs funders timescales. She indicated she would advise on funding.

**RB** said CVDG plan for £1.6M was broken into 3yrs. Going for year by year approach means we are locked out of some funders for several years. CVDG had already found this. If the 1<sup>st</sup> phase is over 2yrs, it will be difficult to access funds if funders need it spent more quickly than FCS intend. CVDG felt that FCS had endorsed their vision for CV in October.

**JT** said trying to take a practical approach. It is difficult to get funding over 5yrs, but possible over 3yrs. There is no opportunity to directly access £1.6M. The CV development needed a balance of activities to encourage buy-in from future partners.

**RH** confirmed Stirling Council had not ever won £1.6M all at once. Funders will resist such an approach. But opportunities arise and schemes will become available.

**RB** said he accepted this phased approach, but lamented the passing of another season without the backing of any grand plan.

**JT** confirmed he would be working on this vision over the next two months, since it was needed as part of commitment to Concordat.

**DO'K** confirmed his support for JT's version of project. NLC is re-organising in next few months, plus both council and national elections meant less possibility for immediate active support.

JT said there was a need to know what NLC was looking for from CV.

**RB** accepted there had been a huge difference since JT arrived, but he was still concerned.

**JT** said it would be useful to get an outline of funder possibilities. Assuming we were looking for £250-500k over 2yrs, say over 3 financial years, who might supply 50%? Most likely HLF, possibly Europe?

**GB** agreed to sound out funders, preferably keeping to one main funder.

# 3) Update:

**RH** showed a map of the windfarms to NE & NW of CV. He agreed to supply a copy to RT (supplied - RT)

**DO'K** said that the Tak ma Doon carpark was now resurfaced, and the signage will be done next year.

#### 4) Branding

AC went through the background to the CV branding, and the ideas had been developed, and then showed the concepts so far. He issued a handout of the presentation.

Discussion followed on various aspects of the design, and its use for different purposes. Although some reservations, overall the Partnership endorsed the concept as presented. Send any comments to RT to send on to AC

Action AII

# 5) **AOB**

- CVDG proposed an Open Weekend mid-May, to celebrate the agreement of the future 2yr phase. PA sound system, BBQ, drinks. RT said in principle of an open weekend fine.
- DR & RB showed slides of container offered at previous meeting. Possible changing room? CVDG felt it was too good to be used just as a store. JT confirmed he would consider it as part of the overall project development.
- RT supplied copies of the latest mtb trails map for 07, and agreed to supply an ecopy too. (supplied RT)
- 6) Next meeting 2pm Thurs 22 March at Hamilton.

RT 6 Mar 07