

Notes from the Carron Valley Partnership meeting held on 19 April 2007

Present: Rena Tarwinska (Chair), Jeremy Thompson (FCS), Mark Smillie (CSFT), Gillian Barrie (CSFT), John Brinkins (NLC), Denis O'Kane (NLC), Robert Hunter (SC), Geoff Brown (Bell Ingram for SW), Angela [REDACTED] (CVDG)

Partner update

FCS

- PID needs more information to go to Board – Nicky Whittaker (FCS funding) wants more information on visitor numbers, main tenance, funding strategy and project management. Still waiting for Alan Stevenson input, so might be other input needed. JT wants meeting with CVDG to get input on above subjects, preferably next week – can do an evening. PID planned to go to the Board on 15 May (2007?). AW sought confirmation that the PID has been worked on since the draft we were given at the last CVP meeting and asked for a copy of the latest one. JT said he would email a copy.
- First "technical sub group" meeting has been held with Mark Smillie (CSFT), Jamie [REDACTED] (CVDG) and Jeremy Thompson (FCS), JT found it a useful meeting.
- Tomtain red route – JT seeking input from Karl Bartlett on balance of technical difficulty on route. Some discussion about it being classed as a red route but suitable for blue route riders! AW sought confirmation on what grade JT was proposing it as – told red. MS says awaiting this input should not slow down work on contracts.
- JT had meeting with local horserider, Elspeth English, who was concerned about horses being scared by MTBs and is keen to ensure MTBers and horeseriders are appropriately educated on etiquette for riders and cyclists.
- JT talked about the need for a separate horse crossing at the viaduct on the orange trail. AW expressed view that this trail was not planned for horses, only walkers and cyclists because of health and safety reasons. JT and MS said it was not possible to prevent horses using the trail under Access Legislation and that CSFT has some experience of horses, cyclists and walkers using shared 2.2m wide path.
- JT to meet with Charlie Allan to ensure that the toilet block is open by summer, if need be FCS will take things into their own hands to get it finished. FCS has already offered to dig out the reed bed. JB suggested he could investigate use of manpower from Motherwell and another college that NLC works with if the trouble was getting labour for Clanranald. JB also suggested community service as an option for getting non-skilled labour.

CSFT

- MS unclear who is funding Paul's work for input to the tender specification and what procurement rules governed letting of this work to Paul. AW put forward CVDG's suggestion that FCS, CSFT, NLC and SC should each put in £2.5 – 3k to a "CVP working fund" and this should be used for Paul. All four organisations agreed, MS happy with this arrangement and action on JT to confirm all partners funding.
- Seems to be little problem over procurement, main contracts will have to go to tender to fulfill funding requirements, but scoping work by Paul can go as single tender action.
- Process will be for MS and JW to draw up contract specification then it will be sent round the partners. As per the concordat if FCS and two other partners are in agreement then it is approved. Final say is with the landowner, i.e. FCS.

NLC

- Letter of support from Chief Executive still in progress, will send out one from Chief Exec's department signed by Maureen McConechy on Friday 19 April in the meantime.
- DO'K will send out letter on 19 April confirming planning permission for trails not needed if more than 25m from road.

SC

- Development control see no need for planning approval.
- Letter of support from Chief Executive in progress.
- RH taking funding issue through SC Tourism but has agreement for £2.5k already.
- RH has nominated CVDG for the "Tim Stead Trophy" as part of "Scotland's Finest Woodland Awards 2007". Simon MacGillivray, co-ordinator of the awards, would like to meet with RH and a CVDG representative at CV at 3:30pm on 3 May 2007. Action on AW to let RH know that someone will be there.
- RH also informed the meeting that National Lottery are looking for nominations for various "best" awards and thought CVDG might be interested. Closing date 27 April 2007.

SW

- Commenced signage update programme to comply with Access legislation. Prohibitive signs will be removed and new advisory sign board will be put up at dm.
- GBrown is pushing SW to do some work on interpretation at CV.
- GBrown had meeting with McGo wan, fisheries owner, who was concerned about rumours of what was happening at CV. Suggested it would be a good idea to invite him to open day to allay fears.

CVDG

- Gave update on CVDG attendance at Kilsyth Community Council meeting
- Gave update on CVDG contact with Routes to Work. JB suggested Wise Group is another option. CSFT have experience of working with both organisations.

Funding

- AW gave update on progress of EJJ application.
- AW informed the meeting that CVDG had been awarded £35k from WREN

Branding

- JT has included purchase of brown signs in the project plan.
- AW asked if CVDG could use draft CV branding images for open day presentation acknowledging that it was draft. RT unsure and to get back to CVDG with answer.
- MS suggested that CVDG could have a logo based on the branding if we wanted, brand picture with name underneath.
- Branding to be worked on through the summer.

Open day

- FCS has agreed to pay for catering in conjunction with other partners (thought this had been agreed at the last meeting!)
- CSFT has drafted press release and will circulate to partners prior to release

- AW asked who was providing what for the open day, CSFT will organise and pay for two portals. Each partner to email AW with details of what they're doing.
- RT asked who the organiser is and who is sorting out risk assessments etc. General agreement that the partnership is the organiser although a acknowledgement that CVDG has done most of the work. JT said that FCS would be responsible and wants site meeting between JT, Andy Gallagher and CVDG to discuss risk assessments etc.
- AW notified the meeting that the open day poster was available and thanked JB and Steven Malaney for their work on it. RT expressed concern that there was no FCS logo on, AW explained that there were too many logos to have them all on the poster so only the sponsors of the event were included with a web address to link to trail funders.
- RT also expressed concern that the open day was a "bikefest" because she thought it was a CV thing. AW said no-one would be excluded, all welcome but the idea had started from getting people to ride the new trails and that false expectations might be raised if walkers and horesriders thought there were some new paths for them.

AOB

- DO'K informed the meeting that NLC has some 42" plasma screens available (not in time for the open day) that they are seeking homes for and asked if they would be any use for CV. RT immediately accepted.

Outside the meeting

- AW asked JT if the PID could in any way stop progress at CV – JT said no.
- RT sympathised with AW over the amount of work going into the EJF application as she is in the process of applying to that fund on behalf of a community that FCS is working with.