

## Notes of Carron Valley Partnership Meeting

19<sup>th</sup> April 2007

FCS offices, Hamilton

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### Attending:

Mark Smillie	CSFT
Gillian Barrie	CSFT
Robert Hunter	Stirling Council
Dennis O'Kane	North Lanarkshire Council
John Brinkins	North Lanarkshire Council
Geoff Brown	Scottish Water
Angela [REDACTED]	CVDG
Rena Tarwinska	FCS
Jeremy Thompson	FCS

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### 1) Apologies:

None

### 2) Partner Update

#### FES

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JT reported that the PID had not gone to the April FEMB as more information was required such as details of visitor numbers, justification of maintenance costs, project management. Assistance from CVDG to provide information was requested and a meeting set up. Angela asked if details of the PID could be forwarded before the meeting to allow them time to compile the relevant information.

FCE Head office had given a clear steer that the new cycle trails should be as accessible as possible and that they would not support a large amount of the funding going into a red trail. JT advised the best compromise was for the Tomtain route to be of blue grade with optional red grade features. Karl Bartlett FCS cycle officer Scotland can advise on this trail. JT considered it was important to look forward with the provision of mountain bike trails rather than stay with the current product range found at other trail centres.

The technical sub group for the trail work met in April for the first time and was represented by MS, JT and Jamie [REDACTED] CVDG. Tendering and contract arrangements were discussed and agreed. A further meeting was arranged with Graeme Moore Project manager CSFT to firm up on the detail and make up a brief.

MS suggested that a brief for the designer and engineer should be written and the appointments made to ensure the process does not get held up.

A discussion on who should pay for the planning phase of the project resulted in the suggestion that the partners should contribute to a central pot held by CSFT. Partners asked to confirm their commitment to this and indicate the amount they could contribute. Action all contact MS

The aim is to flag out and cost the routes by the end of June. JT requested he walked the routes before costings were done to ensure that all issues were raised from the landowners point of view.

JT had a site meeting with a local horse rider who raised some useful points on how interpretation could raise awareness and behaviour of other users to horse riders. She also gave some useful pointers to the design of the multi purpose route and how braiding the route at pinch points could improve safety and user enjoyment.

AW expressed concern that horse riders would use the multi purpose route but it was pointed out they have a legal right to use the route.

JT to meet Charlie Allan of Clanranald regarding the progress of the toilet block and offer to assist where possible. JB mentioned that he may be able to offer labour through the Construction Training programme.

JT requested letters of support from the partners to attach to the PID document.

#### North Lanarkshire Council

DK confirmed that their Chief Executive would send a letter of support.  
DK - has arranged for a letter from development control to confirm that planning permission approval is not required for the trail construction.

#### Stirling Council

Confirmed there was no need for planning approval for the trails.  
A letter of support for the project will be sent to JT and CVDG.

Scotland's Finest Woodlands Award – the judges will be visiting Carron Valley on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May to look at the trails and plans. JT, RH and CVDG will attend.

CVDG should also nominate themselves for Lottery award funders

#### Scottish Water

GB – reported that Scottish Water was starting a major signs update with the emphasis on provision of advisory information.

GB- had received an e mail from Fraser McGowan concerned about future developments at Carron Valley and what effect it would have on his business. It was suggested that Fraser should be invited to the open day to see the plans and meet the partners.

#### CVDG

AW reported that she and Jamie had attended a community council meeting at Kilsyth and had a very positive meeting. They see developments at Carron Valley as having an important knock on effect to their own development plans.

AW distributed a list of comments made by various individuals and groups who described the positive benefits of the project.

It was noted that there were concerns about the rough access into the car park at Carron Valley and an interest in developing water sports.

GB- commented that development of water sports would need to be handled carefully in view of access to the water and the current lease with Fraser McGowan and the effect it would have on the fishing.

A discussion on improving the links between the forest and Kilsyth included the possibility of improving access with the possibility of core path networks. The opportunity for training and employment during the project phase and the social benefits to be derived from a major recreation facility. This whole area is worthy of more discussion.

Environmental Justice Fund – Excellent progress with consultation with communities taken place, letters of support received, the bid is well developed with CSFT making the application.

The WREN application has been successful although the award is £35k not the £50k hoped for.

#### Open day

The event on the 12<sup>th</sup> May is now called Bike Fest with the emphasis being on fun and riding the trails in contrast to the official launch held last year. It will also be an opportunity to showcase future proposals to enthusiasts and local people and businesses.

JT – requested a site meeting with CVDG organisers a week before the event to go over arrangements.

CSFT are dealing with the press release.

#### AOB

Partners were asked if they could supply a 42" plasma screen. JT agreed to ask FCS if they had one available.

RT to seek authority from FCS design branch to use draft logos.

Car parking capacity for the event was a concern; this would be discussed at the site meeting.

JT  
16th May 07