

PRESS RELEASE

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CARRON VALLEY HOSTS BIKEFEST

The first part of a £1.5 million project to re-vamp the Carron Valley Forest launches on Saturday 12th May.

The BikeFest, at Carron Valley near Kilsyth will mark the opening of three new sections of mountain bike trail, each 1.2km long, and showcase future plans for the venue.

The proposed £1.5 million project will upgrade recreational facilities in the Carron Valley Forest for mountain bikers, walkers and other forest users.

Mountain bikers of all ages and abilities are invited to try the popular mountain bike trail network and enjoy a host of activities on 12th May.

Riders will be able to recharge with a Red Bull at the rider energy station, or relax with a hand-crafted real ale from the local Tryst brewery. A unique outdoor cinema will showcase the latest mountain bike (MTB?) films courtesy of Chilli Video and exhibitors including Endura, Alpine bikes and Scottoler will ensure there are bargains at the trade stalls. A prize raffle will be drawn throughout the day too.

David Russell, Carron Valley Development Group Secretary said,

“We are very excited to be launching our new trail sections and showcasing our plans with this unique event and hope it will make mountain bikers in Central Scotland and beyond aware of what Carron Valley has to offer. “

“In addition to enjoying some of the most popular trails in Scotland, riders can see the plans for the venue and have their say on the future of the development whilst enjoying great food, drink and entertainment in a relaxed, informal atmosphere.”

“We hope everyone from families with small children to hard-core mountain bikers will take their pick of the cycle trails and become regular visitors to this beautiful forest located in the heart of Central Scotland. “

Simon Rennie, chief executive of the Central Scotland Forest Trust (CSFT), a partner in the re-development of Carron Valley is urging locals to come along and try out the new facilities. He said: “The addition of the mountain bike trail will hopefully boost visitors to this part of the forest and get people out in the fresh air.

“The mountain bike trail has been recognised as one of the best trails in Scotland* which is a great boost to the facility and the 12th should be a great day out for all.”

The forest lies in the heart of Central Scotland between Kilsyth, Stirling and Denny. With most major cities in Scotland within 1 hours drive and nearby public transport links in Kilsyth and Stirling, the Carron Valley mountain bike trails offer big country biking in a convenient location.

Since the launch in spring 2006, Central Scotland's first purpose built mountain bike centre is proving extremely popular with riders of all ages and abilities. Almost 11km of trails have been created by volunteers from the Carron Valley Development Group (CVDG) working with the Carron Valley Partnership comprising Central Scotland Forest Trust, North Lanarkshire Council, Stirling Council, Scottish Water, The Clanranald Trust and Forestry Commission Scotland.

For more information on the Carron Valley mountain bike trails, including trail maps, visit www.carronvalley.org.uk.

For more information on Central Scotland Forest, please visit the website at www.csft.co.uk

*Best Mountain Bike Trails, Scotsman Recommended, 18th April 2007

ENDS

Issued by the BIG partnership on behalf of Central Scotland Forest Trust.

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Notes to editors;

The Central Scotland Forest comprises West Lothian, Falkirk, North Lanarkshire, north-eastern parts of South Lanarkshire and eastern parts of East Dunbartonshire. It is an area in which the Scottish Executive is working with many partners to establish extensive new, multi-purpose woodlands and to carry out other environmental improvements.

Further notes

Cyclists wishing to ride the Carron Valley mountain bike trails should park in the Eastern car park near the Dam head, which is signed off the B818 five miles west of Denny.

You are invited to send a photographer to the opening of the Carron Valley cycle trail, at 1pm on Saturday, 12th May 2007. Please report on site to David Russell, who can be contacted in advance by telephone on [REDACTED]

A range of funding partners helped the development of the Carron Valley trails to date. Supportive quotes are listed below

- North Lanarkshire Council
- Stirling Council
- Central Scotland Forest Trust
- Forestry Commission
- LEADER+ (Stirling Area)
- Lanarkshire Environmental Key Fund
- Community Environmental Renewal Scheme
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Stirling Council Local Community Development Fund
- Awards for all
- Stirling Landfill tax trust

"Scottish Cycling is delighted to support the launch of the Carron Valley mountain bike trails. Cycling in all its forms can play a key role in improving the health of the people in this country. And facilities such as this can play a key role in that. They are also important for the development of young riders as we seek to build on Scotland's success at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne and bid to host the Games in Glasgow eight years from now."

"We wish the volunteers who have worked so hard to bring the Carron Valley project to fruition every success with the venture and hope that it will succeed in its aim of attracting new riders - whether social or competitive - to our sport."

Jock Shaw
President Scottish Cycling

Awards for All

"We are delighted to have been able to support this fantastic project which will provide such exciting exercise opportunities for people of all ages, enabling them to keep fit and active, and gain a range of important new

skills and experiences."

Dharmendra Kananito
Director for Scotland, Awards for All

Scottish Natural Heritage

"SNH has been really happy to support this project which has created a great place for getting active in the outdoors in the Carron Valley. We've been particularly impressed by the commitment and drive of the Carron Valley Development Group volunteers, whose efforts have turned a good idea into a first-rate mountain biking facility."

Alan McDonnell
Scottish Natural Heritage

Lomond and Rural Stirling LEADER+

{The press release would need to make reference to the project having being supported by the Lomond & Rural Stirling LEADER+ Programme, a European programme of funding to support pilot and innovative projects.}

"We were delighted to contribute funding towards the bike trails in the Carron Valley as we could see how the project would connect businesses and communities to the natural assets of the area, which is one of our LEADER+ Programme's main objectives. We have been extremely impressed with the Carron Valley Development Group's management of the project and the quality of the completed trails, and wish the group well for their future plans for the Carron Valley."

Anne-Michelle Ketteridge, Lomond and Rural Stirling LEADER+

"North Lanarkshire Forward is delighted to support the development of this ambitious new facility. We have been impressed by the dedication of the development group in driving the whole process. The trail is a much needed facility that will be appreciated by all those that currently enjoy active outdoor pursuits in the area but may also encourage others to embrace a more active lifestyle."

Frazer Scott, North Lanarkshire Forward, c/o Forward Scotland