
From: niall
Sent: 05 June 2007 07:06
To: 'Michael.Matheson.msp@scottish.parliament.uk'
Subject: FW: PID for Recreational Development at Carron Valley

Michael

Here is the e mail we discussed last night. You also have a copy of the e mail Alan Stevenson is finally responding to.

Reading this it is impossible to tell which "proposals" he is referring to and we strongly question the suggestion that the delay is "due to other pressures on the Boards time." We already have a chapter and verse explanation of the PID process from Forestry Commission i.e the PID has to be approved and adopted by Alan Stevenson before he tables it for Board consideration. The record shows that he rejected the last PID so it could not have been going to the Board anyway. He cannot have it both ways so if this is not the case then the whole PID issue has been a smokescreen from start to finish.

To be frank, this continuing ambiguity typifies dealings with Alan Stevenson and Forestry Commission in general over some 3+ years: The matter was urgent 2 weeks ago and there were a number of specific points in my e mail - points to which it was crucial we had a quick and precise response. He knows this full well and FCS has led the entire partnership a merry dance from start to finish. Whilst others may be hesitant to state it on record, there is not a partner sitting on the Carron Valley Partnership that is not outraged with FCS behavior over this entire fiasco.

There are currently two fundamental issues to consider:

1. What, precisely, is the Board to review? For the avoidance of doubt they should be reviewing the enclosed because this was the 3 year plan that Alan Stevenson and Michael Wall approved in November 2006. The only changes to this were i.) Unilateral removal of the Red trail plans for 2008 - Michael Wall by e mail Nov 06 ii.) Addition of the "Carpark to Tomtain" and "Trimtrail" trails in the Orange section by Jeremy Thompson Feb 07.

The PID we keep referring to is a cherry picked collection of some of the trails from each of the 3 years but it is not the overall plan - effectively it's the Partnerships agreed work schedule and funding target for year 1 - except that in this case FCS unilaterally changed a Red trail to a Blue trail. Even if this PID (in whatever form) had sailed through months ago, FCS has at no time been able to satisfactorily explain to the Partnership how the Board was to be presented with the overall plan as originally approved.

2. In view of FCS flagrant and repeated breach of process how is the Partnership to have any faith that FCS will deliver whatever plan is approved by the Board and how is trust in FCS and the partnership process to be restored?

In short, we have a comprehensive indictment on a whole range of issues and FCS must ultimately be held accountable for it's actions. Regardless of what FES Board are presented with next Monday and regardless of

the outcome we believe it is now imperative that Mike Russell be presented with all the facts in order that his Dept can conduct a thorough investigation. I realise time is short in respect of the Monday deadline - the position is understood.

Thanks again for your assistance in this matter

Regards

Niall

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From: Stevenson, Alan [mailto:alan.stevenson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 04 June 2007 16:31
To: niall
Cc: Wall, Michael
Subject: RE: PID for Recreational Development at Carron Valley

Niall

Thanks for your e-mail.

Nothing has been decided yet. The future of Carron Valley's recreation facilities and their potential for development will be considered at the June meeting of the FES Management Board which will be held next Monday. This will include full consideration of the mountain biking proposals which you have lobbied for over a protracted period. The delay in taking proposals to the Board has been due to other pressures on the Board's time.

I am not going to speculate further on the outcome of the Board's discussion at this point.

Michael will let you have the outcome following the meeting.

Alan

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