

**Notes of Carron Valley Partnership Meeting  
25<sup>th</sup> July 2007, FCS office, Hamilton**

**Present:**

Mike Batley	CSFT
Denis O'Kane	North Lanarkshire Council
John Brinkins	North Lanarkshire Council
Robert Hunter	Stirling Council
Jeremy Thompson	FCS
Rena Tarwinska	FCS
Jamie [REDACTED]	CVDG

**1) Apologies**

Gillian Barrie CSFT, David Russell, Niall Thomson, Richard Barton all CVDG, Geoff Brown for Scottish Water.

**2) Minutes of last meeting**

JW questioned the Minutes, written in original agenda order rather than as discussed at meeting. CVDG had submitted an alternative version, which also included other changes made by them. There was discussion on the purpose of minutes, and it was accepted that the two versions would be filed as a record of the meeting.

**3) Matters Arising**

- RT confirmed that the FCS Recreation Strategy was not yet in the public domain. It would be released as a glossy publication in due course.
- Report by Paul Masson. JT asked for a map. DO'K will send copy to all.

**Action DOK**

**4) Funding**

MB & RH said that, in spite of applications to EJJ (£500k), and CERS (£100k) being turned down, CVP should proceed with the money that was available. No reason from funders for refusal so far, but MB wondered whether, since CERS is to address quarrying areas, CV case not strong enough. Other funds eg landfill suggested, and MB confirmed that Falkirk Environment Trust willing to fund outside geographic area if project benefited LA residents. He said worth checking with Stirling equivalent too. RH said Leader+ (Anne-Michelle Ketteridge) keen for a commercial study to be done, and that E Dumbartonshire Council not yet been contacted, or Falkirk Council itself. JW confirmed available/applied-for funding:

- £35k from Waste Recycling Environmental Ltd (Wren) for '1.4km trail' (CVDG told funder this would be spent by Nov 07)
- £15k Leader+ for 'heritage trail', which closes December
- probably £50k from HLF for 'heritage trail', which depended on the maintenance commitment from FCS. JT said this letter drafted but held back till outcome of PID known.

MB said Wren been relaxed about delays in the past, so long as they are kept informed. JW confirmed that HLF funding can be counted as match funding for the other two.

**5) PID update**

JW said he would circulate three versions of the PID to partners. He questioned why informing the partners of the decision on the PID was so delayed. He complained that, although ratified at the FESMB meeting 24.7, it was still not being presented to the CVP meeting today. RT said that the FESMB meeting was Friday 27.7, and so the decision was not available (*this was a diary error by RT, and the FESMB meeting had been 24.7*).

It was agreed that once the PID was approved, the works can be agreed and tendered, though JT was not in a position to confirm whether the contracts could be let once the funding was approved.

RH asked about collecting partners' contributions to NLC spend so far. DO'K confirmed that it will be through CSFT, who will invoice Stirling Council.

*While the PID paper was being copied, meeting moved to next agenda items.*

## **6) Media protocol**

JW felt the Communication Plan was rather lightweight and focused on the local press only. MB felt the specialist mtb media should be incorporated, and also an email contacts list. JB suggested it should include commitment to monthly articles, and include likely websites. JT assured him that the calendar would include this. MB undertook, via discussions with CSFT staff, to raise profile of CV with other local papers. If partners see potential in any story, tell RT/JT who will liaise with FCS Press Office.

## **7) Visitor counter figures**

CV vehicle counter working, but no figures to report as yet. Calibration was discussed, to better estimate firstly, the number of occupants in each car, and secondly, proportion of recreation users as opposed to contractors/business users. Can use SNH standard for car occupancy, or do local survey.

JW reported that two months data (April/May) had been lost from the bike counters. CVDG contacting manufacturer to see if it can be retrieved.

RH said he is entering the work done at CV by CVDG for the Communities section of Town Planning Institute awards for Quality in Planning.

## **Meeting reverted to 5) PID Update**

Copies of the PID considered by the FESMB were handed out. JT explained that Phase 1 needs £175k funding, plus FD £10k. Assuming the £100k in place, looking for at least £75k. JW queried the PID wording: last sentence in Background on p1 seemed at odds with 5<sup>th</sup> bullet point on p11. JT said he would check. JW queried including landscaping works at the entrance (tarmac, amenity works). MB said this type of work should not be a problem to include for funding. JT confirmed the FCS Landscape Architect will make recommendations for landscaping the CV carpark. RH & JW asked how flexible the plan was. If full funding became available, must there be a year's delay for monitoring/evaluation. JT said that FESMB is understandably very cautious, but as their confidence in the project increases, increasing flexibility will follow. RH asked about commercial interests. He noted there was no such facility included at this stage. JT said this deliberate, and aim is to build the trails first.

JW said CVDG was angry at the inconsistent approach by FCS in supporting projects in some parts of the country and not others. RT explained that there were two key drivers, one is Woodland In and Around Towns (WIAT), aimed at connecting woods with people within walking distance. The other is tourism, and CV is not considered as a destination with potential for developing the local economy. JB disagreed, saying that local agencies were working hard for Lanarkshire to be seen as a destination. It was suggested visitScotland be asked for their opinion. Referring to p14 of PID, he said the threshold visitor numbers after Phase 1 (50-70k visitors per yr) might be reached quite soon. RH felt that the LAs would be prepared to help manage the facility. JB said that if costs were offset by businesses, there would be less risk for FC. There was discussion on possible funding available for development at CV.

JT asked for comments on the PID, particularly any points to help get the project as a whole accepted.

## 8) Partner update

**CSFT.** Contract documents are ready, and just need the figures entered. Bikebus (Paul Tait, Glasgow) keen to be involved in assisting social-inclusion groups. MB will seek support for project from appropriate agencies/charities.

**NLC.** Tak ma Doon Carpark signage will be done this year. The orientation point may include CV, but depends on budget. CVP welcome to be involved in Core Paths designation process. JB pushing Clanranald to build their office, but they are still seeking funding.

**Clanranald** (from JB & JT). Aiming to complete toilet block, but now applying for change in planning permission to have wooden cladding rather than aluminium panels. FCS organising and paying for reedbed construction and connecting pipework. Clanranald using plumber for internal fit out. Drystone Walling Association starting August to construct arch and entrance works. Clanranald now has a world renowned engineer (been involved in World Heritage Sites) assisting with the pallsade. Territorial Army also committed to assist with it, and dates to be confirmed.

**CVDG** Been tidying trail, scattering wildflower seed. Angela [REDACTED] assisting CSFT with HLF bid. JW met Andy Gallacher and JT on site about repairing the damage to the trail. Grieves expected to do the work in next couple of weeks (*firm has since indicated to FCS mid Sept, JW informed – RT*). Group looking to keep their volunteers keen in spite of 'fallow year' of no construction. JW again expressed frustration that CV is limited to green/blue trails, when Mabie still producing black/double diamond black.

**SC** Leader Funding Manager Anne-Marie Ketteridge looking to set up meeting about CV business development. Council had run 47 Core Path consultation meetings, and 46% of questionnaires were returned. This feedback will be incorporated into the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft.

**FCS** RT said the CV hotel has apparently changed hands, though deal not yet completed. JW said new owners were looking to expand, and RH wondered whether they might be interested in setting up at CV too. RT confirmed the Forest District staff involved at CV and their roles. Community & Environment staff (Andy & Rena) responsible for routine checks, and flag up any problems. Alan Smyth of Community Forestry Implementation then manages the maintenance work and repairs. Alan must agree any works proposed by CVDG with them beforehand, since FCS responsible for trails. A meeting between Niall Thomson, JW and Alan is desirable. **Action RT.** JT explained the internal process of FCS project approval. The PID process came into being after the CVP Concordat. Once the PID is formally approved by the Management Board (FESMB), the Project Plan (PP) can be worked up for approval by the CVP. If opportunities arise in advance of planned implementation, eg brown signs, the PP can be altered. He invited CVDG to consider any small project work that could be incorporated into the PP.

## 9) AOB None

## 10) Date of next meeting

Suggestion for alternate evening meetings to reduce time off required by CVDG member. OK by JT & RT, but other CVP members still to comment.

Next meeting 2pm 23 August at FCS Hamilton offices.