

## David Russell

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**From:** group-bounces@carronvalley.org.uk on behalf of Robert Hunter [hunterr@stirling.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 12 August 2007 15:23  
**To:** niall; Anne-Michelle ketteridge  
**Cc:** Gillian Barrie; Mike Batley; Charlie Allan; OKaneD@northlan.gov.uk; Jeremy Thompson; kenny.murray@forestry.gsi.gov.uk; BrinkinsJ@northlan.gov.uk; group@carronvalley.org.uk; Geoff Brown; Donald Balsillie; Michael Wall; Deborah Murray; Alan Stevenson; Rena Tarwinska  
**Subject:** Re: [Group] Leader + Funding programme 2007 - Construction of MountainBike Trails in Carron Valley Forest

Niall,

I am appalled at the position that you now find yourself in, which has necessitated the return of substantial funding to Leader+. The damage to the future development of the whole scheme is incalculable and our credibility as government officials in facilitating the implementation of this project has to be called into question, particularly for ourselves in Stirling Council, who host Leader+.

It is now immediately evident from reading the PID 12/07 that there are serious concerns about Carron Valley's potential, already reflected in the high level of visitor numbers being recorded. As a planner and local resident, this was always going to be the case, with a location in the middle of Central Scotland, which was identified more than 30 years ago as a potential Country Park, and since then, as a Regional Park and as a tourist destination on the Campsie Trail leaflet. The superb location, local environment and catchment population, indeed, were seized upon by Jeremy Thompson, appointed by FCS, to help deliver the project.

FCS have clearly staked a lot in developing the 7 stanes, however, it is unacceptable that communities around Carron Valley are to be deprived of enjoying facilities in their local area, through a sudden realisation of the area's potential, with subsequent lack of investment.

The attraction of Carron Valley (and here I am not simply talking about the MTB operation, but the wider countryside, including the reservoir) is a clear vindication of the efforts of the Scottish Executive in terms of promoting recreation, health, social inclusion and sustainability objectives.

I hope, even at this stage, that the situation can be turned around, as the excellent work that you and your colleagues, as volunteers, have done in both helping to develop such popular facilities and providing the catalyst for partnership working should only be met with our praise and support.

Robert

Robert Hunter  
Countryside Development Officer  
Tel. 01786 442751

>>> "niall" <niallt@██████████> 09/08/2007 09:58:00 >>>  
Dear Ann-Michelle

Carron Valley Development Group held an EGM on 7th August 2007 to discuss the moribund situation within the Carron Valley Partnership including our accepted offer of Leader+ funding for this project dated 20th January 2007.

It is with deep regret that I must now inform you of our decision to rescind this acceptance.

As you are possibly aware, the Carron Valley Partnership has been in existence for a period of some 14 months however, throughout this period Forestry Commission Scotland

has been incapable of expediting and processing any agreed Project Plan. Furthermore, and despite specific recent requests to FCS to consider the time limitations on funding offers already received and accepted, CVDG and the other CVP Partners have been unable to obtain a clear position from FCS.

Having worked back from your funds closing date and considering the period of time required for: design, contract documentation, a tender exercise and subsequent evaluation, letter of award / acceptance and lastly execution of the contract works we are now some weeks beyond the point where any contract completion would be possible and it is only fair to other potential recipients of this money that we let you know as soon as possible.

CVDG are highly embarrassed by having to take this course of action however, we hope that you will understand the current impasse is completely beyond our control. We also hope that you will be in a position to re direct the funding to a worthy project and that we might be in a position to work with Leader+ at some point in the future.

With kind regards

Niall

Niall Thomson

Chairman

CVDG

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