
From: Geoff Brown [mailto:geoff.brown@bellingram.co.uk]
Sent: 22 August 2007 10:31
To: 'O'Kane Denis'; niall; 'Thompson, Jeremy'; rena.tarwinska@forestry.gsi.gov.uk; mike.batley@csft.co.uk; gillian.barrie@csft.co.uk; 'Brinkins John'; hunterr@stirling.gov.uk; secretary@carronvalley.org.uk
Cc: 'Michael Wall'; Archie MacGregor
Subject: RE: CPV meeting at Hamilton FCS office 23rd August 2pm

Dear all,

Scottish Water are committed to the development of Carron Valley Reservoir area to "promote understanding and enjoyment of the environment by the public." Scottish Water agreed to participate as a partner organisation as part of The Carron Valley Forest Partnership concordat, as this was judged to be the most effective mechanism to achieve collective aims and aspirations. The recent submission and failure of the PID application is unfortunate, but could be seen to be part of the reality of balancing budgets and prioritising projects. It is unfortunate that recent events have overshadowed what was perceived as being a formidable partnership to facilitate "action on the ground". It is felt that the spirit of the Concordat has not wholly been observed, and the submission of the final PID was not agreed by the partnership. The Concordat states that

: "Project Plans will be effective only when agreed by a quorum."

Now that this situation has arisen, a solution is required to put the partnership back on track. It is felt that the project sponsor, Alan Stevenson, needs to explain personally to the partnership the reasons why the board chose not to support the project, and how in his view the project can be refined to gain approval.

Once this review has taken place, consideration should be given to alternative ways to deliver the project. The Concordat presents such a mechanism:

"The Commission agrees to open up commercial and social opportunities in the Forest by way of leases, contracts or agreements, as appropriate, which will be made available for the development of:

- recreational and educational activities,
- development of water based activities, subject to agreement and support from Scottish Water, and
- Other agreed activities"

This option has been raised at previous meetings, whereby FC would grant a 99 year lease to Carron Valley Development Group for a nominal fee, which would then allow recently successful grant bids to be utilised, further grant aid to be applied for, and also fulfil the aspirations of the Concordat. It is recognised that the forest is a working environment and that the needs of other users need to be acknowledged, but this would have been the case if the PID had been successful. There are several advantages to the landowner in that liability, maintenance, project management, evaluation and all future costs would be the responsibility of the lease holder. Obviously, in order to satisfy strategic aims, controls could be built into the lease to guide development.

Scottish Water will continue to support the work of the Partnership, but it has been decided that we will not attend further meetings until the project sponsor and or senior FCS Staff attend a meeting to clarify the PID decision to the partners. It is hoped that this can be arranged either on 27th September 2007, or preferably before this date to enable secured grant funding to be utilised.

It is hoped that this situation is temporary and that we can continue to work together to achieve our concordat commitments.

Regards,

Geoff Brown (on behalf of Scottish Water)
Associate Director

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From: O'Kane Denis [mailto:OKaneD@northlan.gov.uk]
Sent: 21 August 2007 15:24
To: niall; Thompson, Jeremy; rena.tarwinska@forestry.gsi.gov.uk; mike.batley@csft.co.uk; gillian.barrie@csft.co.uk; geoff.brown@bellingram.co.uk; Brinkins John; huntterr@stirling.gov.uk; secretary@carronvalley.org.uk
Cc: Michael Wall; charlie@clanranald.org
Subject: RE: CPV meeting at Hamilton FCS office 23rd August 2pm

Jeremy/ Rena/ All,

In advance of the Partnership meeting this Thursday and in light of item 5 of Niall's recent e-mail below, and the planned attendance of senior officers from other partners, can I ask for confirmation of who will be in attendance on behalf of FCS?

North Lanarkshire and Stirling Councils believe that a clear and open statement of position and aims from all partners is required to allow development at Carron Valley and the partnership to go forward positively. This would be greatly aided by senior FCS attendance at Thursday's meeting.

If this is not possible, North Lanarkshire and Stirling Councils would propose the partnership meeting be postponed until a meeting between the Local Authorities and senior FCS officers could be arranged, to allow the various issues to be discussed which would inform the partnership and avoid a meeting which is unlikely to be able to progress matters at this point.

Jeremy/Rena, can I ask for confirmation by tomorrow lunchtime on which senior officer is intended to represent FCS and in the absence of this, request that this months meeting be postponed until a date to be arranged at a later date?

I apologise for the short notice of this e-mail, however North Lanarkshire and Stirling Council both feel this course of action is in the best interest of the partnership.

Regards

Denis

From: niall [mailto:niallt@██████████]
Sent: 19 August 2007 19:59
To: Thompson, Jeremy; rena.tarwinska@forestry.gsi.gov.uk; mike.batley@csft.co.uk; gillian.barrie@csft.co.uk; O'Kane Denis; geoff.brown@bellingram.co.uk; Brinkins John; huntterr@stirling.gov.uk; secretary@carronvalley.org.uk; Bowden Lorna; group@carronvalley.org.uk
Cc: Alan Stevenson; Michael Wall; kenny.murray@forestry.gsi.gov.uk
Subject: RE: CPV meeting at Hamilton FCS office 23rd August 2pm

07/10/2008

Jeremy

I've looked at FCS proposed agenda and FCS version of the July minutes.

I have 4 points to add and I have to be quite blunt:

1. There is one item missing from FCS proposed agenda - the PID? For anyone that hasn't yet read the FESMB minutes I enclose the 'decision' handed down by FESMB some 10 long weeks ago. I see three PID's in these minutes - two are approved and neatly summarised within a few lines however, in respect of the third - Carron Valley, my antennae detects waffle. I do not see the word "approved" anywhere and I do not see the word rejected. In fact, I cannot understand from the transcript what it is your Board has actually decided Jeremy? The project appears to be in a state of suspended animation...

I responded to Kenny Murrays e mail some 3 weeks ago (also copied to yourself, Rena Tarwinska, Michael Wall and Alan Stevenson) to state CVDG position and to obtain confirmation of FESMB position yet I have nothing in response? The e mail remains unanswered by all FCS recipients and this is most unfortunate because CVDG has now had to return Leader+ funding as a direct consequence of FCS inaction. You'll have seen the e mails from Robert Hunter and Anne Michelle Ketteridge so, let's be clear - CVDG view this as deliberate time wasting - time wasting which only serves to bring FCS into further disrepute. I insist FCS provide the Partnership with a clear position on Thursday 23rd August.

2. I refer to FCS minutes item 2 "it was accepted that the two versions would be filed as a record of the meeting." Come on - let us not descend into complete farce... Even if we assume this to be so, the CVP cannot function if one party is recording minutes inaccurately and another has to issue their version of events to set the record straight. What we need is one version and I suggest the best way to achieve this is to appoint either of the 2 Councils to Chair the meetings and to provide the Minute Secretary.

3. FCS told CVDG that it was a pre condition of the Clanranald lease the toilet block was to be completed before development could take place. I see from item 8 that CR is applying for planning permission to change the cladding but they are due to start construction this month on an 'arch and entrance work.' This is outrageous because I have e mails from FCS stretching back over 3 years telling me the toilet block "will be completed" 05, 06 07. so I cannot reconcile these two issues and in any event: no progress has been made on the toilets in the last 3 months, Clanranald have resigned from the partnership and FCS and CVDG are now receiving written complaints regarding the public urinating in the car park etc, etc, etc. Can you confirm what action FCS are taking to resolve this matter in the time stated ("summer 2007") You can treat this request under the Freedom of Information Act.

4. It is clear we have impasse, it is clear that Rena and yourself are operating under a three line whip and that you have less information to hand regarding FCS decisions than some of the CVP members. For example you say you knew nothing of the Board decision on 25th July - even although it was in the public domain. In summary: the Partners are not idiots so please desist from treating us as such and please desist from wasting further Partnership time and money.

5. In view of 4, the Project Sponsor or preferably the Project Champion needs to appear in person to explain FCS position to the Partnership.

I'm sure the rest of my points can be covered under AOCB

Thanks

Niall

07/10/2008

Niall Thomson
Chairman
CVDG

Tel [REDACTED]
Fax [REDACTED]
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Web www.carronvalley.org.uk

-----Original Message-----

From: Thompson, Jeremy [mailto:jeremy.thompson@forestry.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 17 August 2007 17:00
To: rena.tarwinska@forestry.gsi.gov.uk; mike.batley@csft.co.uk; gillian.barrie@csft.co.uk;
okaned@northlan.gov.uk; geoff.brown@bellingram.co.uk; brinkinsj@northlan.gov.uk; huntterr@stirling.gov.uk;
secretary@carronvalley.org.uk; niall
Subject: CPV meeting at Hamilton FCS office 23rd August 2pm

Please find minutes from last meeting and agenda for this meeting attached.

I look forward to seeing you next Thursday.

Jeremy

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