

From: Meakin, Brent [brent.meakin@forestry.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 12 June 2008 14:22
To: Robert Hunter
Subject: FW: CVP MEETING 4 JUNE 2008

Robert I had the original e-mail returned.
 Brent

From: Meakin, Brent
Sent: 12 June 2008 14:20
To: [REDACTED]
Cc: [REDACTED] rena.tarwinska@forestry.gsi.gov.uk; BrinkinsJ@northlan.gov.uk; allan.fail@scottishwater.co.uk; hunter@stirling.gov.uk; 'David Russell'
Subject: RE: CVP MEETING 4 JUNE 2008

Jamie,

Each site we have is slightly different in its history and progress. There will be a different legacy of trails and investment in existing infrastructure as projects underway work their way through the system. At the meetings I try to give a broad view of what is happening elsewhere but I can not know every detail, and if you are going to pick over everything then I expect you will find some inconsistencies. The fact remains that FCS do not intend to contribute to the cost of building any more mountain bike trails or to accept the liability for the maintenance of them at Carron Valley. For these to happen a different arrangement is needed for others to progress them such as a lease, as I said at the meeting this same process will apply to many more projects that were being proposed and that is where the consistency is.

The funding you highlight is a good case in point and is consistent with what I have been trying to convey to the partners. The announcements made regarding funding received from SportScotland by the Outdoor Capital for a new downhill trail relate to a proposed development by the Nevis Range Development Company. Nevis Range operate their existing leisure business including the car park, café, gondola uplift, downhill and 4x mtbing facilities on the national forest estate under the terms of a commercial lease for these purposes. FCS will not be investing in the new facility, but will manage our undertaking as land lords through the provisions of the lease. The 'Witches Trail' which is a cross country facility is currently managed directly by FCS as are the existing trails at Carron Valley.

Your closing comments are unwelcome and unfounded, partnership working is a two way process.

Brent

From: [REDACTED] [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: 06 June 2008 01:33
To: brent.meakin@forestry.gsi.gov.uk; [REDACTED]
Cc: webmaster@carronvalley.org.uk; [REDACTED] group@carronvalley.org.uk; rena.tarwinska@forestry.gsi.gov.uk; BrinkinsJ@northlan.gov.uk; allan.fail@scottishwater.co.uk; hunter@stirling.gov.uk
Subject: CVP MEETING 4 JUNE 2008

Brent

At the above meeting you put forward a case where FCS could not directly fund the future maintenance or accept future liability of new mountain bike trails at Carron Valley and this was being applied consistently across Scotland.

When then on the day following the CVP meeting was this released:-

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/highlands_and_islands/7437389.stm

"The £67,000 will help create a 1.7m intermediate-level section at a course used for major competitions."

This is an extreme down hill course for which FCS will be fully responsible for future liability and maintenance.

SportScotland confirmed this be the case today as they stated to me the capital grant was provided to allow the construction of infrastructure and nothing more. This type of trail is far more onerous than a cross country trail to maintain and the risk factor is also considerably greater.

The question is where is the consistency?

I also point you to your own website:-

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-6MQD2A>

The Wiches Trail at Fort William is listed along with Carron Valley as recognised trail centres. Why then is one trail centre being treated differently from another? One struggles with the inclusive, open and transparent organisation that FCS say they are, action like this also throw open questions at the Commission's commitment to engage in genuine partnership working. This type of behaviour is not acceptable.

I look forward to your response.

Regards

Jamie [REDACTED]

CVDG Secretary

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