

Strathard Strategic Partnership

Draft Notes of Meeting held on Monday, 29 October 2018

Present:

Katinka Dalglish (SCT)

Trevor Geraghty (Strathard Community Council – SCC)

Jane Fifield (Strathard Community Trust - SCT)

Peter Sutherland (Aberfoyle Traders Association)

John Hair (Forest Enterprise Scotland - FES)

Susan Brooks (Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority -LLTNPA - Chair)

Michelle Flynn (Stirling Council)

Fiona Jackson (LLTNPA)

Apologies: Simon Jones (LLTNPA); Steve MacDonald (Stirling Council - SC)

1) Welcome

Susan Brooks welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2) Minutes and Actions of Meeting on June 18, 2018

a) Minutes were approved for accuracy and can now be published on SCT and SCC websites.

3) Matters Arising

a) Confirm whether Enterprise Event is to be organised.

Action Michelle

4) Forest Enterprise Scotland

a) John Hair explained that the annual priorities set out at the SSP Inception Meeting are ongoing. He agreed to provide the Strathard News with regular updates on FCS operations.

b) New Forest Approach: John would like to replicate the community engagement approach used to develop the [Beinn Bhan Land Management Plan](#) (LMP), which had proved very effective. He asked if partner agencies would be willing to engage in developing the next Achray Forest LMP alongside the community to ensure all interests can influence design and development. If this proposal is agreed, John will contact stakeholders with proposals and arrange further consultation.

Action John: Provide regular updates to Strathard News

ALL: Feedback to John on LMP Achray engagement proposal

5) Stirling Council

a) A verbal update was received from SC and is attached to the end of these minutes.

b) Due to the continuing flooding issues in Aberfoyle, it is important that communication and consultation channels between the community and SC are clear. Therefore, once formalised, the new CC will confirm the governance arrangement of the Flood Forum, including its membership, accountability and role/purpose.

Action: Trevor/Michelle: Confirm Flood Forum governance

6) SEPA

No-one was available to provide an update as Louise Bond, who had chaired the Strathard Initiative, is no longer in post. The Strathard Initiative had been an ecosystems services project engaging local people with agencies to guide decision about land, forestry and water management to enhance multiple public benefit, such as woodland/forest expansion, peatland restoration, natural flood management and Invasive non-native species control. Phase 1 is complete, and it is understood that the partner agencies are considering how a sustainable Phase 2 can be delivered.

Action Susan: to confirm status of Strathard Initiative

7) LLTNPA

- a) Rural Development Framework (RDF) Planning Guidance will be developed by LLTNPA in collaboration with SCC and will be informed by a range of stakeholder interests/knowledge, including the recent well-attended community consultations led/funded the community in Kinolchar (pending in Stronachlachar/Inversnaid) and supported by SCC, Strathard Community Action Plan and landowners/business/public sector plans. Discussions with SCC over next 2 weeks will decide how the RDF will be progressed.

Action Susan: contact SCC to discuss and propose brief for the work

- b) Core Paths Plan Review timescale below:
- 2018 Oct-Dec Public consultation (12 weeks)
 - 2019 Jan-Feb: Respond to proposed amendments
 - 2019 March: Adopt Plan (subject to outstanding objections)
- c) Outdoor Recreation Plan – to be reviewed in 2019
- d) Draft Camping Development Strategy will be discussed at the Your Park Stakeholder Forum on November 8th (at LLTNPA HQ)
- e) An East Loch Lomond Land Management Forum is evolving, with a focus on deer management, peat restoration and other landscape-scale issues with a membership of land managers.
- f) Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund: second tranche now closed. Noted that it would be useful to have 'spade ready' projects for future short-notice funding opportunities. The community commented that support about funding sources and form-filling would be welcome (note SC's [funding support page](#)).

8) Scottish Power & Energy Network

View Vista Projects in Glen Gyle, Stronachlachar and Loch Ard Forest are being developed; proposals will be submitted to OFGEM's £500m fund to 'positively enhance existing transmission infrastructure in our most protected areas'. Consultation with SCC and SCT and other stakeholders is underway.

9) Update from SCC and/or SCT

- a) It was proposed that SCC, Aberfoyle Traders Association and SCT bring forward strategic issues to discuss, based on the minutes of the respective meetings as it's important that the agenda is driven by the community.

Action Trevor, Katinka, Jane, Peter

10) Any other Business

- a) Feedback on the first year of the Strathard Strategic Partnership would be welcome. It takes time to bed in and ensure meetings focus on strategic plans and delivery issues (not operational details). Perhaps shorter agendas focussing on priority themes accompanied by written updates from member agencies?

Action Fiona to ask members for feedback on role of SSP

- b) Admin support for next set of SSP meetings will be passed on to SC.

Action Michelle/Steve

Date of next meeting TBC

Stirling Council Schedule of proposed works for the Strathard Strategic Partnership Area

Broadband – Shaun Marley

Broadband Projects that I am aware that might take place in the area of the timescale are as follows:-

- Aberfoyle town wi-fi (Jan 19 – May 19)
- BT Fibre cabinet Kinlochard (now –May 19)
- Kinlochard extension (May 19 – Dec 19)
- Inversnaid / Stronaclacher (May 19 – Dec 19)

Playparks – Donna Mills

Have no planned works for this area in 2019/2020. However, a few months ago a section of the play area boundary fence was damaged by a car, we hope to have this repaired over the coming weeks.

Currently discussing with Kinlochard the replacement of play equipment due to the current equipment being close to exploration date.

Network Team – Carlyn Fraser

The Network team (formally Traffic Management & Road Safety) have no works agreed for this area at this time. However, we are currently investigating a request for a pedestrian improvement on Main Street which could come forward within the next year.

Flooding Team – Maria Lucey

Duchary River Monitor:

“Residents of Aberfoyle and surrounding areas may be aware that one of our key river gauge monitoring sites, near Duchray Cottage, is experiencing signal issues. Our service providers have replaced various components in an attempt to get the site up and running again, however this has not been successful. The mobile phone signal in the area has been tested and is patchy. We are currently pursuing the option of connecting the device to an active landline, which will alleviate signal issues. Negotiations with BT and other involved parties are underway. We are also exploring the potential option of a 5G “internet gateway” to be connected to a hub in Aberfoyle. This 5G gateway, acts as a signal booster and is suggested to have a reach of 10 km. Given the landscape, it is unclear whether this method will be as reliable as a landline. Presently we are unable to provide a timeline for resolution. We appreciate your patience in this matter. Further updates will be provided once we have a known timeframe.

Flood warning is the statutory responsibility of SEPA. The council provides public access to river gauges installed for our operational use as an additional service, as we understand that there is currently no warning for the Strathard area and have tried to facilitate as best we can. It is important that Community concerns are directed to the flood warning authority (SEPA) to strengthen the case for their services to be provided locally. We have worked collaboratively with SEPA, over a number of years, to ensure that the need for an official flood warning is recognised. In accordance with the

Forth Flood Risk Management Strategy, the proposed flood warning would not become operational until 2020. We have also commissioned the Trust for Conservation Volunteers (TCV) to undertake community resilience work. We encourage the community to engage with this.”

Service - Infrastructure Delivery – Drew Leslie

- A project at Aberfoyle Primary School is currently being scoped for delivery in 2019/20. The nursery accommodation will be remodelled and expanded and the school house brought into use for school accommodation, to improve the overall condition and suitability of the school. It is anticipated that the works will commence in early Summer 2019 and be phased over a number of months to minimise inconvenience to the school community. Engagement with local stakeholders will begin in November 2018.
- Stirling Council has just signed a lease for the car park at the Inversnaid Hotel. The Hotel plans to do works to upgrade the car park although unsure of the timeframe for the works.

Economic Development – Steve MacDonald

- Ongoing support of Business Hub
- Investment in infrastructure. Capital monies have been allocated to Aberfoyle, principally to support improved signage and interpretation and shop dressing/improvements. Karen and Tracey currently working up design and costings to be submitted to Steve for approval
- Free public wi-fi for Aberfoyle. Funding allocated to install free public wi-fi in Aberfoyle. Trust to sign off.
- Programme of business support activities initiated with STEP.
- Flood alleviation scheme – info provided by Stirling Council