

Scottish Borders Access Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 24 January 2012 (2-4pm)

Scottish Borders Council,
Committee Room 1,
Council HQ,
Newtown St Boswells.

1. Welcome and Introductions
W Davidson (National Farmers Union Scotland) – Chair; David Langworth (Melrose Paths Group); Lindsay Menmuir (Buccleuch Ranger); Erica Niven (SBC Access Ranger)
2. Apologies / Absent
I Aitchison (Scottish Land Estates); Denise Carmichael (Paths to Health coordinator); JHunter (Borders Disability Forum); Linda Mays (British Horse Society); Andrew Panter (Scottish Natural Heritage); Douglas Wright (Central Tweeddale Paths)
3. Minutes of last meeting of Access Forum
Correct, unless any comments are sent electronically
4. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda
Erica Niven gave an update on work from the Access team/ranger service:
 - Payback Sports Facilities Fund have awarded money to the Criminal Justice team for work on the path network as it is felt that the path network supports sports e.g. running, cycling.
 - 2 members of staff attended the Outdoor Show in London for four days, for the third year running. The stand and trip was funded by Cycle Scottish Borders, St Cuthbert's Way LEADER project.
 - Paths Around Jedburgh booklet reprint was completed for autumn 2011.
 - Euan Calvert was surveying a path at Edins Hall Broch. He met people who were doing a laser survey of the broch that will be put on the Historic Scotland web site as a virtual tour.
 - Susan Kevan and Denise Carmichael are working on an easy access booklet in the style of the paths around booklet.
 - Erica Niven will have the Paths Around Selkirk booklet completed before the end of March 2011.
 - Nether Horsburgh has been purchased by Forestry Commission Scotland. It will have tree planting and path schemes.
5. Core Path Planning Update
Not updated
6. Paths to Health Update
See December 2011 report attached
7. A.O.B
 1. The chairman would like to ask the group if they would agree to a reduction in the number of meetings held in a year. Extra meetings

could be scheduled if there was an important matter to discuss.

ALL: vote

2. Questions were raised about the statutory nature of the forum. Are we required to hold a certain amount of meetings each year including an AGM? Does an AGM have to be open to the public? Do the group wish to have a wider access forum each year? If so we felt that the demarcation between the formal meeting and the drop in session should be clearer; discussed with reference to the busy WAF last year.
 3. John Hunter has resigned as chairperson of the Borders Disability Forum. As such he wishes to stand down as their representative on Scottish Borders Access Forum. We wish John well and thank him for all the insight he has given the group over the years.
 4. Lynda Mays has stood down as the British Horse Society representative. We would like to thank Lynda for all her input to the forum's discussions and wish her well.
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8. Date of next meeting
TBC as above vote.