

Scottish Borders Access Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 11 November 2014 (2-3.30pm)

Committee Room 3
SBC Headquarters
Newtown St Boswells

1. Welcome and Introductions
William Davidson (Chair)
Walter Douglas (National Farmers Union Scotland)
Neil Mackay (Scottish Borders Council Senior Access Officer)
Beryl Masson (British Horse Society)
Mike Marsh (Scottish Borders Council Access Ranger East)
Douglas Wright (Central Tweeddale Paths and Scottish Rights of Way Society)
Ian Aitchison (Scottish Land and Estates)
Cllr Stuart Bell (Scottish Borders Council)
2. Apologies / Absent
Keith Robeson (Scottish Borders Council Senior Countryside Ranger)
Erica Niven (Scottish Borders Council Access Ranger West)
Susan Kevan (Scottish Borders Council Access Ranger South)
Denise Carmichael (Paths to Health coordinator)
Anne Fraser (British Horse Society Chair)
David Langworth (Melrose Paths Group)
Bill Coombes (Forestry Commission Scotland)
Rory Powell (Buccleuch Estates Bowhill Ranger)
3. Minutes of last meeting of Access Forum
7.1 BM requested that the word 'her' be removed from the first line.
4. Matters arising not otherwise on the agenda
 - **Cavers:** BM asked if there was any progress with negotiations with the landowner. Keith Robeson was dealing with this issue and the request would be passed onto him. There was also an issue with a locked gate at Bonchester Bridge. This would be passed onto Keith Robeson and Susan Kevan.
5. Access issues
NM gave an update on the work undertaken by the Access Team over the past six months. (Hard copy report was given to attendees). The report was most appreciated and it was requested that this was given at subsequent meetings.
6. Paths for health update
NM to forward report from DC.
7. A.O.B
DW raised the issue of the lack of respect by some cyclists for other path users. They seem to have a lack of understanding of the Outdoor Access Code. Some appear without warning i.e. no warning shout or ringing of the bell. A suggestion was a process of education and publicity. Signage was also discussed. NM to contact SNH re: education projects that they may have ongoing and to see if they are to undertake user specific educational projects / leaflet drops on the subject

matter. NM advised that the Access Rangers / Outdoor Education Teams do engage in users most recently at the annual Crucial Crew event (Primary 7 only), however it was possible to investigate further user specific engagement. NM to report back.

WDouglas informed the meeting of the ongoing education and promotion ny NFU regarding dog fouling in the countryside.

NM suggested inviting East and Mid Lothian to the next meeting. This would enable Scottish Borders to continue to forge links with our neighbours.

8. Date of next meeting:

**Tuesday 24th February or 3rd March 2015
2-4pm Committee Rm 3, SBC HQ, Newtown St Boswells**