

## UNCONFIRMED MINUTES

### National Access Forum – 47 th meeting

Battleby: 30 January 2019

**Present:**

	<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
1.	David Henderson Howat	Convenor - National Access Forum (NAF)
2.	Janice Winning	Secretary - National Access Forum (NAF)
3.	Helene Mauchlen	British Horse Society Scotland (BHSS)
4.	Colin Shedden	British Association for Shooting and Conservation (BASC)
5.	Kevin Lafferty	Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS)
6.	Stephen Jenkinson	Kennel Club / Scottish Kennel Club
7.	Simon Pilpel	Local Access Forums (LAF) contact
8.	Davie Black	Mountaineering Scotland (MS)
9.	Kenny Auld	National Park Authorities (LLTNP)
10.	Matt Buckland	National Park Authorities (LLTNP)
11.	Jamie Smart	National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS)
12.	John Duffy	Paths for All Partnership (PfA)
13.	Insp. Alan Dron	Police Scotland
14.	Helen Todd	Ramblers Scotland (RS)
15.	Jonathan Kitching	SAPOE
16.	Eddie Palmer	Scottish Canoe Association (SCA)
17.	Karen Ramoo	Scottish Land & Estates (SLE)
18.	Alan Macpherson	Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
19.	Mark Wrightham	Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
20.	Bridget Jones *	Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
21.	Douglas Wright	Scotways
22.	Eleisha Fahy *	Scotways
23.	George Menzies *	Scotways
24.	Roger Scrutton	Scottish Sports Association (SSA)
25.	Gillian Kyle	Sportscotland

\* in attendance as additional representatives

**Item 1 – Welcome** – the Convenor opened the meeting with a welcome to all attending.

**Apologies:** Paul Timms (Cycling UK Scotland), Andrew Hopetoun & Lois Bayne-Jardine (HHAS), Frank Spencer-Nairn (ADMG), Angus Duncan (LAs), Rona Gibb (PfA), Stuart Younie (MS), David Clyne (CNPA), Kathy Velander (Wild Scotland), Eileen Stuart (SNH). Roy Barlow (WTS), Steven Dora & Malcolm Duce (SG).

**Item 2 – Minutes, Action points and matters arising from previous meeting**

1. Minutes: -The minutes of the previous meeting (26 September 2018) were approved.
2. Action points & matters arising –

**Summary action points:**

**AP 46/1:** Kevin Lafferty to make contact with FISA working group and report back to NAF regarding developments with regard to public safety and forest operations. *On-going*

**AP 46/2:** Secretary to organise the seventh meeting of the sub-group, well in advance of the launch of the guide on 21 November. (Now arranged for Friday 26 October) *Discharged:*

**AP: 46/3** Mark Wrightham agreed to bring a paper to the next NAF meeting identifying the possibility of co-designing aspects of the Code with 'Young Scot'. *Discharged:* Agenda item 5.

**AP: 46/4** The Convenor to write to SG providing feedback from the NAF discussion on the importance of the revised guidance for local authorities. *Ongoing:* letter sent 1 November 2018, but no reply yet.

**AP: 46/5** The Convenor to refer to the importance on continued monitoring of LAF activity in his letter to SG about revised guidance for local authorities. *Discharged:* letter sent 1 November 2018.

**AP 46/6:** Secretary to convene a small group in November to develop plans for the Joint NAF/LAF meeting, to be held at Battleby on 5 April 2019, and focussing on ways to improve the effectiveness of the NAF/LAF network. *Discharged:* Meeting held, 11 Dec. 2018, draft programme prepared, agenda item 11a).

**AP 46/7:** Helen Todd to write a paper for the next NAF meeting outlining the barriers to getting Core paths on OS maps and potential ways forward, and suggesting a revised remit for the sub group. *Discharged:* Agenda item 7.

**AP 46/8:** Secretary to write to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park to request a update paper on the second year of the camping management by-laws, and to invite a LLTNP official to present the paper. *Discharged:* Agenda item 4.

**AP46/9:** David Clyne agreed to write a discussion paper on the external funding challenges for public access post Brexit. Angus Duncan offered to assist. *Discharged:* Agenda item 6.

**AP 46/10:** Jamie Smart and Karen Ramoo to bring a discussion paper on; 'Access in and around livestock' to the next NAF meeting. *Discharged:* Agenda item 10.

**AP 46/11:** Convenor to circulate a draft response to the Scottish Forestry Strategy consultation to members for comment prior to making a submission from NAF. *Discharged:* Consultation response sent 23 November 2018.

### **Item 3 - Reports from Convenor and Secretary**

#### **i) Meeting with FCS**

The Convenor and Helene Mauchlen met with FCS on 11 October to raise awareness of the importance of ensuring that FGS schemes are Code compliant with respect to horse access. FCS agreed to further training of local staff to help prevent unnecessary obstacles to horse access in and around new planting and during woodland management, making use of the PfA/SNH 'Outdoor Access Design Guide'.

#### **ii) Orkney Local Access Forum – annual conference**

The Convenor reported that he attended the Orkney LAF annual conference on the 30 November and gave a talk about the development of access rights since the introduction of the legislation 15 years ago and the current work of the National Access Forum. He

also heard about the work of the LAF and in particular the current review of their core path network.

**iii) Mountain Biking and Enduro Activity – sub group**

On 21 November the Convenor along with Kevin Lafferty, Karen Ramoo and Graeme MacLean attended the 'Downhill Mountain Biking in Scotland' conference in Aviemore to launch the 'Unauthorised Mountain Bike Trails – a Guide for Land Managers and Riders'. He reported that the Guide had been very well received with good media coverage. Plans to further promote the Guide and key messages to landowners and the mountain bike community were planned for the Spring.

**iv) Membership - LAF representative vacancy**

Simon Pilpel explained that he has been the LAF representative on NAF since 2008 and was now handing on the role. He had circulated the nomination form to SOAN and local authority contacts and to date a couple of expressions of interest had been received. The secretary had also circulated the nomination form asking for expressions of interest by the end of February. It was agreed that the Convenor, Simon and Angus Duncan would assess the nominations with a view to naming a representative at the NAF/LAF joint meeting on 5 April.

**Item 4 – LLTNP Camping Management Byelaw 2018 Annual Update**

Matt Buckland introduced this item outlining some of the highlights of the second season of the camping management byelaws. There are now 300 low cost camping pitches available in the Park, in addition to other providers (FE, community and private camp sites). The good weather had brought a huge increase in visitors with 25,000 people camping in the camping management zones (an increase of 50 % from 2017 and a 70 % increase in children camping). A visitor survey of 1700 campers had been very positive with high levels of satisfaction. Surveys found that 61% of visitors originate from Scotland, with 61% coming from less affluent areas suggesting that the permit areas were not discriminating against those who are less well off.

Matt explained that visitor feedback is used for reporting and to inform management decisions, e.g. targeted communications or ranger activity. More rangers had been employed since 2017, allowing for greater face to face contact with visitors and other stakeholders. Feedback had suggested improvements are still required to the website, and issues such as littering, fire lighting and inappropriate toileting still exist. A total of 900 people had been found to be contravening the byelaws; however, all but 12 then complied either moving on to campsites or moving out with the zones.

In discussion, Simon Pilpel asked of the 12 cases reported how many had been prosecuted. Matt reported that there had been some fiscal fines and some cases were ongoing. Davie Black asked where the byelaws were being breached and if there was any correlation between this, environmental damage and other problems. Matt said he hoped further analysis of this year's data would provide answers to these questions. Roger Scrutton asked how the increase in camping numbers compared with visitors to the park in general. Matt thought that there had been an increase across of visitors across the Park e.g. visitor numbers to the Balmaha visitor centre had doubled in the last 5 years. A visitor survey was planned for this coming season along with an increase in the number of people counters as key locations.

Karen Ramoo noted the ongoing problems with litter and fires and asked what the park was doing to tackle these issues. Matt explained that the rangers have been promoting the Code and a new litter prevention manager would be looking at recycling and other measures. In terms of dealing with human waste they were looking at packs to give away similar to

successful campaigns in the Cairngorms and American parks. They were keen to work with partners to promote collaborative action on tackling human waste across the park.

Kevin Lafferty asked what were the key challenges from car boot camping and campervans and was this still an issue. Matt said there were a growing number of campervans visiting the Park and that staff are preparing a survey in March for motor home and campervan users. Issues to address include; waste and grey water disposal, and they were investigating solutions with existing local businesses to help solve the issue.

Jonathan Kitchen inquired where the 900 individuals identified as contravening the byelaws ended up after being moved on. Kenny explained that they are usually directed to a campsite or they just move slightly further out of the Camping management zone. He added they were working with Visit Scotland to promote Wi-Fi hot spots so visitors can book when they arrive. Alan MacPherson asked if there was evidence of displacement to areas out with the park e.g. Perth and Kinross. Kenny Auld explained that this would be monitored this year to see if visitors were choosing sites out with park and if there were any knock on effects.

Douglas Wright asked about the age ranges of the individuals contravening the byelaws. Matt confirmed that they were all adults. Eddie Palmer asked if any of the byelaw contraventions were water based. Matt stated that the byelaw contraventions were all land based usually individuals arriving by car. Kenny Auld confirmed there were no kayaking incidents or issues.

The LLTNP 'Outdoor Recreation Plan' is being updated this year. In relation to this Helen Todd asked if there were possibilities of sharing what action the Park was doing on litter prevention. Matt agreed, adding they were looking beyond the Park's 'take your litter home' to more joined up messages. Kevin Lafferty mentioned the recent National Lyme Disease conference, promoting tick awareness and asked if this is something the Park could promote. Kenny agreed, saying they wanted to promote positive messages about visiting the outdoors. Simon Pilpel asked how much revenue is generated from the camping provision. Matt explained that with the £3 admin fee the campsites run at a loss.

Helen Todd noted the positive indications that people from less affluent areas were accessing the Park to camp but suggested that these are the people most impacted by the byelaws. She suggested there was still a need for more camping facilities. Kenny Auld said that as well as the planned provision and the opening of the Loch Achray campsite in March they were encouraging community projects to look at more camping areas. He added however there was a balance required; too much provision can affect the visitor experience and lead to environmental degradation. Opportunities for dispersing visitors throughout the Park were also being sought.

The Convenor invited LLTNP to make a similar presentation in a year's time. Matt welcomed input from the Forum and welcomed on-going discussions and input to a stakeholder meeting in June.

**AP 47/1:** Secretary to note item for future agenda January 2020 and to circulate the stakeholder meeting details in due course.

## **Item 5 – Promoting Scottish Outdoor Access -**

Mark Wrightham informed the Forum of the recent and proposed activity to promote the Code, including incorporating priorities for Code promotion to young people, and requested comments from the Forum. He added that awareness of the Code had peaked in 2018 following TV promotion campaigns; since then there had been a more targeted approach with awareness stabilising at around 43 %, although it was higher amongst those who

regularly use the outdoors. He said that early discussions with Young Scot to look at Code products for a new generation of access takers had been positive and he welcomed feedback from the Forum on a number of areas;

- Whether to target young people with no prior knowledge of access rights?
- What should be the target audience (11 – 25 year olds) or specific groups?
- Which messages from the Code should be included?

In discussion, Karen Ramoo recommended focusing on problem areas e.g. livestock worrying, adding that the Code needed to be made more interactive and more appealing. Stephen Jenkinson asked if SNH could focus on areas such as radio and TV, and avoid duplication. Mark agreed the need to target messages where there are problems and work with partners to make more of the products we already have adapting these to target young people as appropriate.

Kevin Lafferty suggested a targeted approach; to outdoor leaders, forest schools and kindergartens, (utilising established networks, e.g. OWL) and well as simplified SOAC messages for sports coaches and outdoor leaders. Kenny Auld suggested tying into the wider health agenda and developing responsible access messages for specialists working with young people. He recommended simple messages about the benefits of access to the outdoors linked responsibilities. Jonathon Kitchen warned against pushing 'responsibilities' too hard as this can turn young people off. Instead he suggested working in partnership e.g. possible involvement in the joint conference between SAPO and heads of outdoor centres at the end of the year.

A number of suggestions were made about target audiences including;

- Young teens (runners, cyclists and those walking the family dog) target this group via their activity.
- Young paddle boarders (a new sport with low awareness of other users)
- 'Young scot' card holders; Use the reward scheme to promote wellbeing and outdoor access as a fun, free activity to do with friends. Highlight who else is using the countryside and the need to respect other users.
- Young mountain bikers, promotion of the very popular MTB quiz.

A number of Forum members expressed disappointment in the low awareness of SOAC amongst the public and supported broad campaigns to raise general awareness around SOAC and responsibilities. Individual organisations were thought to be better at taking forward targeted campaigns. Questions were raised about the tag line 'Know the code before you go' and if it was still as relevant. Would Responsible, Caring, and Considerate be an alternative? Mark Wrightham explained that the SOAC Website remains a key resource for raising awareness of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, but suggested there were specific issues that could be highlighted e.g. access with dogs, local information etc. He noted the challenges involved in achieving high percentage awareness of the Code, and that many commercial advertising campaigns would regard the current level of 'brand recognition' as a considerable success. He also reminded the Forum that SOAC promotion is also a responsibility of the local authorities.

Alan MacPherson said that SNH welcomed further thoughts on the proposed work with Young Scot. A number of members expressed an interest in inputting to this work including; Kenny Auld, Kevin Lafferty and Jonathan Kitching.

**AP47/2:** SNH would take forward the co–design work with Young Scot to increase understand and promote responsible messages and report back to the Forum in due course.

## **b) Website and wider campaign work**

The SOAC website has now been revised by SNH and transferred to a new Web platform but still retains its individual identity. Mark Wrightham asked members to view the website and provide any feedback. A major area for promotion this Spring is the seasonal campaign on 'responsible access with dogs', and he welcomed thoughts on shaping this for radio and social media. Other planned code promotion includes; 'Unauthorised Mountain Bike Trails - a guide for land managers and riders', Code promotion around the Curriculum for Excellence, camp fires, campervan use and drones.

Forum members highlighted the following areas for SNH to consider;

- to think about local messages rather than sticking too slavish to the code
- greater use of social media and promotion of key messages in general.
- address issues around the conflict between dogs and horses conflicts
- look for opportunities to enhance and widen campaigns (e.g. livestock worrying), target different audiences, i.e. young people
- need to have broad campaigns to reach those that are unaware of the Code
- undertake research to find out if people understand their responsibilities when taking outdoor access.
- Research how people currently find out about the code i.e. which are the most effective mechanisms.
- Promote the 'Calendar' of what happens at each time of year to raise awareness of land management etc.
- E-bikes to be considered as a separate topic e.g. opportunities for messages at point of sale
- Work with other relevant organisations to help develop guidance on particular topic areas with particular emphasis on the user perspective.

In conclusion, NAF members welcomed the proactive work that SNH is undertaking to further promote the Code and to improve engagement with young people in this process.

**AP 47/3:** NAF members are invited to provide feedback to Mark Wrightham on the revised SOAC Website. <https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/>

## **Item 6 – Funding Challenges for Public Access post Brexit –**

The Convenor welcomed Bridget Jones (SNH) for this item, saying that the paper had been a joint effort by himself, David Clyne, Angus Duncan and SNH staff. Bridget Jones explained that the Improving Public access (IPA) scheme 4<sup>th</sup> round was now complete and as a result the £3.5 million budget was allocated. She suggested there was likely to be an interim scheme before a new approach to funding is developed. The Convenor asked for comments on the paper.

Stressing the benefits of public access Helen Todd, welcomed the additional funding to increase the number and value of applications. Davie Black highlighted that local authorities are the key point of delivery for recreational activity therefore we need to know the shortfall in local authority funding required to uphold access rights and maintain paths. Simon Pilpel agreed, arguing that is why Scottish Government monitoring is so important. We now no longer have an up to date picture on what local authorities are spending and we need this to show the current trends and plan accordingly.

Kevin Lafferty mentioned the importance of combined public and private funding and in particular seeking funding for public access from transport budget allocation (£80 million SG allocation to fund walking and cycling). He added there was a need to promote the benefits of public access more and that this was an on-going role for NAF. The Convenor agreed highlighting the need for greater capacity building in dealing with new funding applications such as the work of the Outdoor Access Trust.

Kenny Auld highlighted potential funding contributions from power companies, wind power, hydro and from developer contributions. He welcomed the success of the IPA scheme and said there was a need for further funding for small projects that landowners and access officers could apply for. Stephen Jenkinson said there were opportunities from public access schemes to help resolve local issues, e.g. maybe a better route could solve a problem and we should consider this along with new provision.

Jamie Smart said that it was noticeable that those local authorities without access officers were no longer taking forward projects on the ground and that there was a need to ring fence funding for public access in local government. Other members asked about advice on sources of funding for access. John Duffy explained that Paths for All had a lot of information on funding sources and that he would investigate this further. Kenny Auld offered to share any information to the SOAN network

Bridget Jones explained that SNH would be undertaking a review of IPA, talking to partners and applicants about what had been delivered and where. Changes to the schemes post Brexit had the potential to make funding a bit easier, through some standardisation, simpler forms etc. She would be happy to report back to the Forum and seek input from members at the September meeting. Helen Todd asked if the Forum could take a more advocacy role in funding for public access. The Convenor agreed, as this principal had already been adopted in NAF's response to the SG consultations on; Support for Agriculture and the Rural Economy and Scotland's Forestry Strategy (2019 - 2018).

**AP 47/4:** Secretary to note IPA review as an agenda item for the September meeting.

**AP 47/5:** Convenor to write to SG highlighting the importance of the IPA scheme and pressing for its continuation.

### **Item 7 – Mapping Scotland's Paths -**

Helen introduced the item explaining that Ramblers Scotland was still at the early stages of this project in terms of vision and potential outcomes. Their vision is for people to be able to work out a route from maps and know that the path will be there. Their aim is to have many more paths mapped not just the Core path data set but other well promoted data sets that are currently not on maps. To start with the project would focus on lowland Scotland where most people live and it would focus on digital mapping. She also highlighted the benefits to landowners and public health that would arise from the project, the opportunity to involve volunteers and suggested that Forum members could be part of the steering group.

In discussion, Douglas Wright pointed out the big discrepancy between local authorities who sign Core paths and others who don't. Signage along with mapping is another way of letting people know about paths and he asked if NAF could ask Scottish Government to ensure that local authorities sign paths. Helene Mauchlen offered support for the project, explaining that if a path is mapped and signed it helps get horse riders off the roads. Stephen Jenkinson agreed, having paths on maps was a better way to promote responsible access, people then know where they should go and helping people do the right thing then prevents conflict.

Jamie Smart offered support in principle stating there can be huge issues for land manager if the paths are not available on the ground especially in and around livestock. He said there should also be provision to change the route in certain circumstances. Matt Buckland talked about the potential of using data capture and photography to improve usability and also supported the approach of directing people on other paths to reduce conflict and the ability to make amendments to the routes mapped.

Kevin Lafferty said the scoping work would be valuable, suggesting the use of a nationally agreed path grading system. Other members supported this idea and the need to include the wider route network which was thought to be just as valuable as the core path network and had more potential as a business case proposal for OS. Alan Macpherson said there was less emphasis on paper maps, and asked about the use of social media and the potential of using apps to promote path networks. Helen Todd said that discussions were ongoing with a number of organisations to help define various criteria e.g. 'what a path is' etc. and she welcomed further input from members to help define the project.

**AP 47/6:** Helen Todd to provide brief update to the Forum in May.

## **ii) Core path and OS mapping sub group**

George Menzies was keen to clarify that the existing Core Path and OS mapping sub group would not be abolished in favour of this larger project. He stressed that the work of the sub group to deliver core path mapping is one part of this larger project and that the technical and resource issues remaining were not insurmountable.

The Convenor reminded members that the Core Path data set was now available on the SNH website on an 'Open source' backdrop rather than on an OS backdrop. He explained that OS remain concerned about the digitisation variations within the data set, the low commercial return in view of the costs involved and that Core Path Plans are currently being reviewed by local authorities. He asked whether the Forum should reactivate the Core Path Sub Group. Douglas Wright said that the work of the sub group should progress and that Scotways were keen to remain involved in this group. Other members also agreed to the reactivation of the sub group. The Convenor suggested that a paper be brought to the next meeting outlining what had been achieved by the sub group to date and what might be the possible actions for the future.

**AP 47/7:** The Forum agreed to consider a paper at the next meeting that would summarise the work of the Core Path mapping sub-group and provide a basis for discussing next steps.

## **Item 8: SORA Mediation Update -**

Eddie Palmer provided an update on the SORA mediation proposal. Various meetings had taken place with a range of organisations and there was general agreement that mediation is a good thing. Eleisha Fahy explained that mediation is currently used in a lot of different situations but is possibly underused in the land use sector. The Scottish Land Commission is intending to use it in tenancy disputes and SORA is keen to use it in long standing access disputes. They continue to seek examples for a pilot scheme.

Karen Ramoo said that SLE is supportive of the approach and keen to see a pilot study undertaken. She expressed reservations over funding and stressed that the outcomes should deliver workable solutions that benefit both parties. David Henderson Howat asked about the use of 'pro bono' mediators if any existed. Colin Shedden explained that facilitated mediation had worked well at Findhorn Bay between wildfowling and those opposed to shooting within the nature reserve to reach a compromise. Douglas Wright said that Scotways would support the pilot mediation study and any training session on the use of formal mediations for National and Local Access Forum members. In terms of cost Eddie thought that there would be approx. two days preparation and 1 day of mediation required for small cases, adding that cost was an issue and the assumption should be that mediators will charge for their services.

The Convenor suggested that a small working group of interested members develop ideas around funding and examples of what would be required and report back to the May NAF meeting. Douglas Wright, Karen Ramoo, Jamie Smart, Helen Todd, and Mark Wrightham expressed an interest in participating in this, along with Eddie and Eleisha.

**AP 47/8:** SNH to discuss mediation in access disputes at a forthcoming meeting with the Scottish Land Commission.

**AP 47/9:** Forum working group on mediation to report at the next full NAF meeting and a brief update to be included in the NAF/LAF meeting agenda.

### **Item 9 – LAF Issues – Motorhomes and Campervans**

Items raised by Local Access Forums would be a standing item on the NAF agenda. The issue of motorhomes and campervans had been raised by the Scottish Borders where unauthorised overnight parking, was resulting in problems with littering and waste.

Mark Wrightham said this was not an isolated issue as it had arisen on the North Coast 500 and SNH had received a number of requests for guidance from members of the public. He added that SNH would therefore like to develop some concise guidance for the website for motor home users. Informal camping and overnight parking was often necessary in order to take access and need not cause problems if carried out responsibly. Davie Black agreed giving examples of hill walkers using campervans responsibly to access mountain areas. Mark suggested there was a need to engage with key stakeholders e.g. campervan hire companies.

Matt Buckland outlined plans for the LLTNP where a survey was planned with the intention of developing a bespoke page on their website for motor home and campervan users. Alan Macpherson suggested working with the tourism sector more generally to target visitors with campervans from overseas.

Kevin Lafferty said that FE had seen an increase in demand for camping in FC car parks and would support a consensus around campervan parking. Others agreed that this was a growth area requiring appropriate infra structure e.g. waste facilities at garages. The £6 million tourism infrastructure fund was one source of funding to deal with some of these issues.

Alan Dron also referred to the road problems experienced in Skye and Lochalsh and although the police put out generic messages it was the sheer numbers that caused the issue. Jamie Smart added that there is real issue for land managers who are unable to access fields due to irresponsible parking. He offered to pass on guidance from the campervan & motorhome professional association on the topic of 'Freedom Camping'.

**AP 47/10:** SNH to develop messaging for Code website with input from interested Forum members.

### **Item 10: Public Access In and Around Livestock**

Karen Ramoo introduced this item following apologies from Gemma Cooper. She highlighted that livestock worrying is an on-going issue from dogs either off the leash or left to roam. In spite of a number of high profile campaigns to prevent worrying the NFUS and SLE were still seeing an increase in the number incidents. She argued for a stronger approach to tackle the issue head on especially in peri-urban areas or country parks. She suggested; new targeted approaches, stronger partnerships between SNH, SPARC (Scottish Partnership

Against Rural Crime) and others, as well as a role for the National Access Forum to drip feed messages all year round and come up with new agreed messages.

Jamie Smart added that the Code is unclear for the general public who don't fully understand what 'under close control' means. There was a need for change to provide simpler messages. There were also issues also around dog fouling and a need to expand the messages to cover access around other livestock

Stephen Jenkinson explained that an 'all party' group in England provided a number of solutions which could work here in Scotland. These included providing more local information such as alternative routes around cattle, a traffic light system, and up to date signs – these approaches had resulted in a reduction in incidents. He added that more should be done to explain what is responsible dog walking, e.g. preventing your dog from approaching livestock, and 'stop look and listen' always keeping dogs on short leads, when near livestock. He suggested that SNH could build on the work from England (the dog walking code), to stop using the term 'close control' (which does not have a clear meaning) and to work with local access officers to give them confidence to move away from sticking strictly to the text set out in the Code. The important thing is to convey messages that are effective in preventing livestock worrying.

In discussion, Forum members supported the need for strengthened messages, especially on enclosed farmland, but also noted that a review of the Code would probably not be helpful or desirable in addressing this issue. Helene Mauchlen warned against over stigmatising dog owners as the vast majority were responsible. Colin Shedden asked if the increase in the incidences in dog worrying related to any decline in general Code promotion. Alan MacPherson said that there was now better reporting so it was difficult to make direct correlations. He also suggested that a key group to target would be professional dog walkers.

The Convenor suggested that SNH along with a small group should explore the scope to develop different messaging. Stephen Jenkinson, Karen Ramoo, Jamie Smart and Alan Dron agreed take forward this work with SNH and report back to the Forum.

**AP 47/11:** SNH and a small group of Forum members would look at messaging and report to the next NAF meeting.

**AP: 47/12:** Secretary to circulate 'The Dog Walking Code' from England.

### **Item 11: Forth Coming meetings — prospective agenda items**

#### **a) NAF/LAF Joint meeting**

Forum members supported the draft programme for the NAF/LAF Joint meeting including the focus on sharing experiences between the LAFs and the overall theme of improving the NAF/LAF network. There was support also from BHS, PfA and others for a stall in the market place to promote leaflets, guidance etc in relation to access. Objectives and expectations for the day would be captured early on and revisited during the day. There would also be updates from NAF members e.g. the Mountain Bike sub group, lessons learned from Drumlean, mediation, and engaging with young people and work with Young Scot.

**AP 47/13:** Secretary to finalise the programme with LAF representatives and speakers.

#### **b) May 29<sup>th</sup> meeting agenda items:**

- Mapping Scotland's paths – the next stages (Helen Todd)

- Brief update on new agencies replacing FCS ('Scottish Forestry' and 'Forestry Land Scotland') and implications for NAF membership (Kevin Lafferty)
- Invite Visit Scotland to present an item on the value of outdoor access in selling 'Scotland' as an international tourist destination – this could cover, e.g., the Year of Scotland's Coast and Waters (2020), bike tourism disability access and working with business to promote responsible access.
- Funding for Public Access post Brexit - update
- Electric bikes
- A presentation from Lee Craigie about her work as the new Active Nation Commissioner for Scotland.

**AP 47/14:** Secretary to invite the Active Nation Commissioner and a Visit Scotland representative to the May NAF meeting.

### **Item 12 – Any Other Business**

29. Helen Todd highlighted the current 'Coul Links' Public Inquiry and the potential impacts on public access. Douglas Wright updated the Forum on the Manson case in Midlothian saying that a recent appeal to the decision had been withdrawn and that the barriers are being removed. Jamie Smart mentioned the impact professional dog walkers were having, with one NFUs members experiencing 3 groups 3 x a day. The resulting cumulative impact could result in considerable financial penalties.

### **Date of Next Meetings -**

**NAF/LAF - Joint meeting Friday 5 April 2019**  
**NAF - Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019**  
**NAF - Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019 (potentially at Oatridge)**

**Close** – The Convenor thanked all those attending, and closed the meeting.

### **Summary Action Points**

**AP 46/1:** Kevin Lafferty to make contact with FISA working group and report back to NAF regarding developments with regard to public safety and forest operations. *On-going*

**AP: 46/4** The Convenor to write to SG providing feedback from the NAF discussion on the importance of the revised guidance for local authorities. *Ongoing:* letter sent 1 November 2018, but no reply yet.

**AP 47/1:** Secretary to note item for future agenda January 2020 and to circulate the stakeholder meeting details in due course.

**AP47/2:** SNH would take forward the co–design work with Young Scot to increase understand and promote responsible messages and report back to the Forum in due course.

**AP 47/3:** NAF members are invited to provide feedback to Mark Wrightham on the revised SOAC Website. <https://www.outdooraccess-scotland.scot/>

**AP 47/4:** Secretary to note IPA review as an agenda item for the September meeting.

**AP 47/5:** Convenor to write to SG highlighting the importance of the IPA scheme and pressing for its continuation.

**AP 47/6:** Helen Todd to provide brief update to the Forum on the 'Mapping Scotland's Paths' project in May.

**AP 47/7:** The Forum agreed to consider a paper at the next meeting that would summarise the work of the Core Path mapping sub-group and provide a basis for discussing next steps.

**AP 47/8:** SNH to discuss mediation in access disputes at a forthcoming meeting with the Scottish Land Commission.

**AP 47/9:** Forum working group on mediation to report at the next full NAF meeting and a brief update to be included in the NAF/LAF meeting agenda.

**AP 47/10:** SNH to develop messaging for Code website with input from interested Forum members.

**AP 47/11:** SNH and a small group of Forum members would look at messaging and report to the next NAF meeting.

**AP: 47/12:** Secretary to circulate 'The Dog Walking Code' from England.

**AP 47/13:** Secretary to finalise the programme with LAF representatives and speakers.

**AP 47/14:** Secretary to invite the Active Nation Commissioner and a Visit Scotland representative to the May NAF meeting.