

Colvend & Southwick Community Council

Local Place Plan Team

Meeting No.13 on Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 2:30pm in Colvend Public Hall

Present: S. W. Pain (Convenor), D. Reilly, R. Morriss, M. Rosindale, G. Clingan (NTS), K. Morley (SCAMP)

Apologies: J. Coates, P. Shaw

1. Minutes of the 12th Meeting

These minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting on 2nd April

Action carried over from 2nd April:

RM to discuss with Clive Sinclair why the Black Loch path does not appear to be open (the finger board has been removed) and whether it can be reinstated and the path re-opened?

– Note: RM has subsequently discussed the re-opening of the Black Loch path with C. Sinclair, and that is not possible, and will not now form a part of the LPP.

2. National Trust Scotland

The convenor welcomed Mr Gareth Clingan (GC) from NTS. The invitation followed a talk that he had given in the Colvend Hall on Friday 22nd March. GC had received a copy in advance of the parts of the draft LPP which referred to the NTS, and had submitted a slightly revised text by email. The revised text had been seen by all team members and was accepted.

GC restricted his comments to the NTS land at Rockcliffe & Rough Island.

- Rockcliffe Pier: It was confirmed that emergency safety repairs would be carried out this year from the NTS budget, but longer-term repairs would be necessary, and the NTS would need to seek funding for this.
- Core Path maintenance: With the advent of more ranger resources, the Core Paths would be maintained, but not the other paths that had appeared as short cuts, although GC & the rangers would be walking those in the near future to decide whether the maintained path network could be expanded. In particular they would look at the possibility of maintaining the viewpoint near Kippford.
- Rough Island: Rewilding would take place at some stage in the future in order to re-create a haven for nesting birds. The bracken would be kept down by use of a small number of cattle using the newly developed “no-fence” technology. It is likely that some archaeological investigations will take place.
- Signs: The NTS plan to replace the removed sign at the west end of the Rockcliffe beach, and also the GlenLuffin Car Park sign, although these may be just boards, rather than the current roofed signs. SWP asked for the Community Council to be notified in advance, as it might wish to seek some additional funding to allow a more appropriate design to be installed. Further interpretation boards will be placed at places of interest around the Jubilee Path area.
- Working parties: The NTS will forward details of their volunteer working party dates to Mr Julian Stanning to enable these to be publicised via our 5 WhatsApp groups.

The convenor thanked Mr Clingan for his interesting input.

3. Solway Coast and Marine Project

Karen Morley (KM) from the D&GC, representing the Solway Coast & marine Project (SCAMP). Her invitation arose following DRs attendance at the SCAMP launch meeting.

KM reported that SCAMP currently had £2m funding to create a research centre based at Stranraer examining Marine habitats around the 200miles coast of Dumfries & Galloway, during the next 6 years. In particular, they would be looking at oyster beds, sea grass, salt marshes & coastal woodlands. KM indicated that they were also in the process of seeking funding from the National Lottery for a further £20m project to be completed over 10 years for landscape restoration. This would include salt marsh restoration in suitable areas. Landowners were likely to be compensated for loss of productive land where this is proposed. It was confirmed that the RSPB at Mersehead would be consulted on the saltmarsh developments. KM said that they were looking for sites for seagrass planting (ideally in subtidal or intertidal inlets) and were particularly interested in Kippford.

The tidal undercutting of trees adjacent to the A710 at Sandyhills was mentioned by DR and safeguarding of the road at this point was thought to be a good project to include in the LPP.

Core Paths: D&GC are working with Scottish Upland Partnership to develop the Gretna – Stranraer long distance path to Castle Point beach. A review of Core Paths is coming up, and the team raised awareness about the LPP plans for a new path to Bainloch hill and improved / safer access to Castle Point beach.

The convenor thanked Ms. Morely for her interesting input.

4. Grant Applications

The LPP Fund grant of £1,741.71 has been received. The £4,500 grant offer from the D&G Coastal Benefit Fund has been accepted and the Community Council have agreed to the LPP Team's proposal to supplement the funding. However, D&G Council have withheld the transfer of funds whilst an issue is sorted out about the transfer of LPP Fund money to pay for some of the shortfall. This means that the SoSCH project for the Housing Demand & Needs Assessment cannot start until the funding is received.

5. Draft Plan development

SWP had circulated the latest stages of the draft LPP (additions & changes highlighted in red), together with a sample of what the Draft LPP display panels might look like. The amendments to the text and the format of the display panels were agreed.

SWP indicated that the deadline for any further changes to the panel design would be at the next meeting, as thereafter the panels would need to go to SignRight (Dumfries) Ltd. for printing. SignRight have pre-ordered the 5mm Foamex board to minimise delays.

6. Date of next meeting - Tuesday 30th April at 2:30pm in Colvend Public Hall

Simon W. Pain

LPP Convenor

28/4/24