

The Board
Fernaig Community Trust
Dunbeag
Strome Ferry
IV53 8UJ

Achmore and Strome Ferry Paths Group

13/05/2024

Dear Board Members,

At the last Achmore and Strome Ferry Paths (ASP) Group held on 17th April 2024 it was agreed we would write to you formally to ask if the Paths Group could be looked at to see if it could be potentially a sub-group of the Fernaig Community Trust (FCT).

For the Achmore and Stromeferry ASP group to move forward and be able to apply for most of the funding streams that may be available a decision needs to be made on the ASP's group status. Most funding streams for path maintenance by volunteers require applications from constituted groups. The ASP group is still informal.

The meeting was attended by our local access officer (Stewart Eastaugh) and he was asked about his experience of different types of constituted groups. Discussion included Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation status which, for example, the Culduthal Community Woods Group has. For the ASP group however not being landowners and being in a very small community where people resources across different groups is tight Stewart suggested that being under a constituted parent group, if there was one, is another way which would allow for greater efficiencies in local resources and insurance costs. It was discussed that if another group with similar objectives already existed and had insurance the work the ASP group would like to take forward may already be covered or if not, adding to an existing policy is likely to result in a saving to the community as opposed to having to take out new insurance for a new group.

The objectives of the ASP group are the maintenance/improvement/restoration of local rights of way and other routes which could involve working with Forestry and Land Scotland (FLS) and local landowners. These objectives seem compatible with the FCT's access objective.

To try and reassure we do not want to create extra work for FCT Board Members. It would be for administrative purposes only. We would apply for any grants, raise money to cover any additional expense for insurance, manage volunteer projects and account for any monies generated and spent ahead of FCT's accounting period. We would be happy to discuss and agree what FCT would require of us were we to become a sub-group.

I wonder if it may be an idea for a couple of people from FCT, the Community Council and the ASP group to meet? It was the former Community Council that supported the creation of the ASP group after they completed a well-supported local survey. At that time, they believed it could become a subgroup of the FCT.

My email address is lsh.howat@gmail.com

Kind regards,

Iseabail Howat

Secretary ASP group.