

ACHMORE AND STROMEFERRY PATHS GROUP – NOTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22/05/2024.

Present – Colin Parsons, Marion Howat, Claudia Weegan, Sunil Pullperuma, Iseabail Howat

Apologies – Mhairi Macrae, Chris Cartwright, Kath Smith, Mary MacBeth, Kate Biss, Rory Biss

PREVIOUS MINUTE AND ACTIONS ARISING	AMENDMENTS/UPDATES	COMPLETED	WHO	DATE
1. Previous Minute		Approved		
2. AGENDA ITEMS	DISCUSSION	ACTION	WHO	TARGET DATE
3. Local Place Plan	<p>The ASP Group focussed attention mainly on the parts of the Lochalsh Local Place Plan (LLLP) concerning active travel. The Kyle and Lochalsh Active Travel Initiative – Proposals and Recommendations for Active Travel (May 2024) was welcomed, and the group were delighted a footpath along the A890 between Achmore and Stromeferry was highlighted as one of the 6 priority routes included for early selection.</p> <p>Some of the narrative in this report was not completely accurate and the ASP agreed to write to the author initially to ask if these can be corrected by him if the document is in draft form. This wasn't clear.</p> <p>The corrections requested were</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. include that the footpath along the A890 was <u>for pedestrian safety</u> and to provide ease of access. (Section 25 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 gives the Council a power to put in pavements where they agree there is a safety issue for pedestrians and if they have money. The safety criteria would seem obvious as walking the road is the only way to access the station from Achmore area and the only way to access the village hall from Stromeferry. 2. To ask that the preference for a pavement is the northwest side to avoid the need to cross the road twice and as it is more sheltered. 3. Correct the owners of the land the Dairy – Portchullin path crosses 4. Correct reference to Fernaig Community Crofts to Fernaig Community Trust 	IH to email the report author	ASAP	Feedback 19/06/2024

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	4. The Skye and Lochalsh Footpath Focus Group which we have attended in the past – if it is still running.			
3.2.i.) Achmore/Strome Routes	<p><u>3.2.i) Road Update – IH</u></p> <p>Neil Young (Project Manager HC Active Travel) got back to say that “The active travel funding landscape has changed recently and unfortunately communities no longer can access funding to appoint a consultant to conduct feasibility studies”. He kindly offered to help us prepare a brief and appoint a consultant if we obtained funding from elsewhere.</p> <p>Although likely to be a long term aim the group discussed how we might pursue a pavement through Highland Regional Council’s power under Section 25 of the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984.</p> <p><i>“Section 25 Provision of footways.</i></p> <p><i>A roads authority shall provide, wherever it appears to them necessary or desirable for the safety or convenience of pedestrians so to do, proper and sufficient footways for public roads”.</i></p> <p>The group felt informally sounding out our local councillor and asking the Community Council if they would support that there is a safety need for this footway would be a good initial step. It was recognised the Community Council would be busy with the LLPP consultation so seeking their support did not need to be immediate.</p>	<p>Informal chat with Local Councillor</p> <p>Decide when to take to Community Council</p>	<p>IH will arrange</p> <p>ASP Group</p>	<p>19/06/2024</p> <p>19/06/2024</p>
3.6.ii) and 3.6.iii) Rights of Way signage and Insurance	<p><u>Hill Path and gate – Achmore and Strome route</u></p> <p>CP advised the owner is happy for signage to be put in and for a new gate to be fitted. IH advised the gate is available for pre- arranged pick up from Inverness.</p>	<p>Arrange pick up</p>	<p>CP</p>	<p>At discretion of others</p>

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	<p>IH advised Stewart Easthaugh had sent on more potential funding sources and sign examples that can be applied for once the Group is able to do this.</p> <p>He also advised of an online Meet the Funder Event open to anyone to attend.</p>			
3.8.i) Strome Beach Track	<p><u>8.i) Write to landowners again.</u></p> <p>IH wrote again after the last meeting to advise volunteers planned to cut back the vegetation on the path. There has been no reply. It was agreed that we should just go ahead and arrange a day to do this. Saturday 15th June 10.00am - 12.00pm was agreed.</p>	<p>Tidy morning</p> <p>To be put on the Community WhatsApp Group for anyone interested in coming along.</p>	<p>Any ASP Group members able to help.</p> <p>IH</p>	15/06/2024
4. Promoting Paths Group	<p>CP shared a brief he had written to be put on the Strome ferry and Achmore webpage. The group discussed and agreed a narrative.</p>	<p>To be put on webpage.</p>	<p>CP and Mary M</p>	
5. Held items	<p>Not discussed.</p>			
6. Hall fees		<p>Payment to Hall Treasurer.</p>	<p>IH</p>	<p>Every meeting</p>
Date of next meeting	<p>Date of next meeting will be 19th June 2024 at 7pm in the hall.</p>			