

Skye Cycle Way Action Group - Open Meeting

26 April 2018, 6 – 8pm, Kyleakin Village Hall

MINUTES

Present: 33 attendees.

Chaired by Andy Neison. Minutes by Christine Davis.

1 Welcome

Andy welcomed everyone to the meeting, our first in Kyleakin, with a number of new faces.

2 Apologies

Three apologies received.

3 Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes approved with 1 amendment (chair).

4 Matters arising

All matters arising covered in agenda.

5 Route update

5.1 Route options

- Andy Neison and Adele Beck summarised route options. The preferred ('gold standard') route is along the north (seaward) side of the A87 with no road crossings. One crossing point outside the existing 40mph zone (approx. 1 mile east of the Kylerhea junction) may need to be considered if this can be safely achieved.
- Adele had a phone conversation on 26 April with David Devine (Transport Scotland) to discuss plans. Transport Scotland will not support an unsafe crossing; a minimal 250m clear view in each direction will be required as well as traffic calming measures. **Adele** is arranging a meeting for May/early June in Fort William with David Devine to discuss options.
- **Andy Neison** to chase Sustrans re including Skye Cycle Way as part of wider Highland proposals.
- Andy explained that the route is intended to be for all users not just cyclists. We have been advised that a sealed finish is preferable so that Highland Council takes responsibility.
- Alistair McPherson reported that the 40 mph zone may be extended before the bridge
- At recent meeting about 'Heritage Routes' (Andy attended) we were advised to talk to Forestry Commission who may own some of the land. **Adele Beck** to approach. [post-meeting update: Forestry Commission land agent has confirmed that FC own most of the old road on the south side of the A87.]



5.2 Landowner update

- There are 4 major landowners on the route (north side): Marine Harvest, Neil & Kay Graham, Tigh Lusa owners Paul & Jane Lynch, and Breakish Common Grazings. The Skye Cycle Way group's Marine Harvest contact has now left the company, with his replacement starting in May. Jane Lynch reported that there is lack of clarity over ownership of the stretch between Marine Harvest and Tigh Lusa, which is being investigated.
- Alistair McPherson reported that Waterloo Common Grazings may be installing an access path, which the Grazings Committee would give permission for Skye Cycle Way to use if necessary.

5.3 Liaison with Highland Council / Planning

- Alistair McPherson has been liaising with Highland Council to ensure the route becomes adopted into the local area plan. Alastair, Adele Beck and Andy Neison are meeting planning office Mark Harvey on 9 May to ensure no conflicts with future development.

Tom Stephens requested that improvements to the Breakish Committee Road be built into funding packages.

6 Development funding update

6.1 Skye Connect discussion

- Skye Cycle Way representatives met with Alistair Danter from Skye Connect on 9 April. Skye Connect are interested the project as a potential 'beach head' to a wider cycle network that would support active travel and tourism. It is hoped that Skye Connect can help access funding for a Skye Cycle Way project officer. Alistair Danter is talking to the Skye Connect board and will report back.

6.2 Other funds / next steps

- In advance of project funding bids, the group needs small amounts of money for administration, hall hire, publicity etc. We currently have £1500 from Highland Council discretionary fund and a member donation. We may need to form a smaller action group to raise additional funds; anyone interested please contact the working group via Norma Morrison at B&SCC (mail@broadfordandstrath.org). Co-op and Asda Bag Fund were mentioned as a good source of smaller (c. £1k) funds. Major fundraising is on hold until we have more clarity about project officer, route etc.

7 Public engagement activity

7.1 Report of public engagement carried out to date

Christine Davis reported:

- The online survey was launched at end February and has received 268 survey responses by 25 April. Approx 93% of responses are from Skye & Lochalsh area. Overwhelmingly positive response with useful points raised. Approx 50 offers of volunteer help received.



- Press and PR achieved since last meeting: ‘Scotland on Sunday’ article on 1 April (interview with Andy Neison); Skye Times article and related Facebook post very popular; Calum Macdonald was interviewed on BBC Gaelic Radio morning news programme Aithris na Maidne, 22 March.
- Our Facebook page is active and to date has 347 follows / 336 likes. **All** please share, like and encourage others to do so.
- Other public engagement: featured in presentation by Broadford & Strath Community Company (B&SCC) at Skye Connect conference; engaged with Broadford Youth Club fitness challenge which involved cycling on the road; posters have been put up on key locations; project now on B&SCC website; featured in B&SCC newsletter; emails sent to key groups; held stall at Ploc Fun Day on 14 April with opportunity for people to comment.

7.2 Next steps

- Survey due to end 1 May – **Christine Davis** to collate data into report.
- Agreed would be good to have a stand at the Co-op (Norma suggested Friday afternoon) and also have presence at summer community events e.g. Broadford Gala (**Sat 23 June**), Kyleakin Gala (**Sat 11 August**).
- **Christine** to make paper version of survey that could be used at such events, and consider further.

8 Volunteer opportunity

- It was agreed that a ‘hands on’ session clearing the path would be a good way to get people involved and also a pleasant change from ‘sitting down’ meetings. We have volunteers who are qualified to use necessary equipment, and the event would be properly planned and fully risk assessed. **Andy Neison / Adele Beck** to identify a section of path where this would be feasible, and get written permission from relevant landowners. [post meeting update: Neil and Kay Graham have given written permission for a volunteer day on a section of old road adjacent to Marine Harvest.]

9 AOB

- Young people: Lauren Glasgow suggested would be good to engage young people but will need a different approach. **Lauren** to consider and suggest.
- Surveys: Lauren also suggested it would be useful to obtain survey on Marine Harvest section ASAP to help us estimate costs; **Andy Neison** to contact Ian Hay
- Community Councils: Alistair McPherson raised the point that Broadford & Strath Community Company does not have authority beyond their Community Council boundary, which will become problematic when official documents have to be signed. Kyleakin Community Council therefore need to give B&SCC authority to sign on their behalf. It would also be good to involve Kyle Community Council. **Alistair McPherson** to follow up.
- Email notification of meetings: Point raised that not everyone uses Facebook regularly. Advance notice of meetings to be sent by email in good time.



7 Date of next meeting

- Subject to agreement by landowners (item 8 above), it was agreed that the next public meeting should be a path-clearing session followed by BBQ / social. **Proposed date: Saturday 2 June**, clearing starts 10am and BBQ at 2pm. To be confirmed ASAP.

