

Core Path Planning Up-date

September 2007.

Background

All local authorities and the two national parks in Scotland have a statutory duty to produce a core path plan for formal consultation by February 8th 2008. Within Fife Council, the core path plan is being led by Development Services with Community Services undertaking the informal consultations to draw up the draft plan. Guidance on what a core path is to be has been produced by the Scottish Executive and by Paths for All Partnership. A summary is attached with this update note.

Progress to Date

For 3 years now Community Services have been carrying out consultations on core path proposals with the public, land owners and managers and other agencies in Fife. Fife Access Forum approved the procedure as follows:

1. Information gathering consultation with all the public, held in each community in Fife.
2. Use this information to draft a first stage plan, using guidance from Scottish Executive, Paths for All Partnership and Fife Access Strategy to reach decisions.
3. Fife Ranger Service carry out a ground checking exercise based on their strong local knowledge and by visiting all the proposed routes.
4. Update the path proposals to a more realistic second draft.
5. CONSULTATION: - with land owners and managers in each area to get their initial reactions to the proposals. Write to any who do not manage to attend meetings.
 - with the public, by meetings and on the website.
 - with other agencies such as Transportation Services, SNH, Network Rail, Scottish Water, Scottish Enterprise Fife.
6. Use all responses to produce a third draft plan.
7. Feedback information to public, by holding area based user group meetings, circulating plan for their area to all Councillors and community councils, and widely advertising the information on the website.

Development Services have appointed consultants, Land Use Consultants, to produce a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Core Path Plan and also to write the final statutory consultative plan itself. It is expected that the plan will go to Committee early in the New Year before being sent to the Scottish Government.

East Fife.

Third draft proposals largely complete and digitised with a few areas of complex negotiations with landowners still to be resolved.

Central Fife.

Third draft largely complete but digitising and other agency consultations still to be finished.

West Fife.

Second draft consultations almost complete with some late land owner comments still being sought. Third draft to be finished by early October.

For all of Fife.

Proposals sent to Councillors and community councils and feedback meetings to be held in October and November. Individual consultations on paths will continue up until the point at which the Core Path Plan for Fife is approved by committee.

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Website: www.fifedirect.org.uk and search for core paths in search box.