

CORE PATHS PLAN NEWS

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An Occasional Newsletter

OCTOBER 2007

ISSUE 6

Welcome to our sixth Core Paths Plan news ...

Ding Ding – Round 2 over and Round 3 begins

The closing date (30 September 07) for comments on the Stirling Council Draft Core Paths Plan has now been and gone. We thought this would be a good time to bring you up-to-date with what has been going on and tell you what happens next.

The Process So Far ...

Well, we have had a busy time over the last 15 months to say the least! Our second round of consultations involved holding Core Path Plan Roadshows, collecting your comments on the Stirling Council Draft Core Paths Plan and carrying out the Paths and Countryside Access questionnaire. Here's a run down of how it went.

Stirling Council Core Paths Plan Roadshow

Between July 2006 and May 2007, we toured the entire Stirling Council area to bring the Core Paths Plan Roadshow to a venue near you. Every community wholly within Stirling Council hosted an afternoon and an evening drop-in session. Residents were invited to come along and have a look at the plan, discuss any matters with Countryside staff and to make comments. We held joint events for those communities partly in the Stirling Council area and partly in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority area.



Dunblane meeting Feb 2007



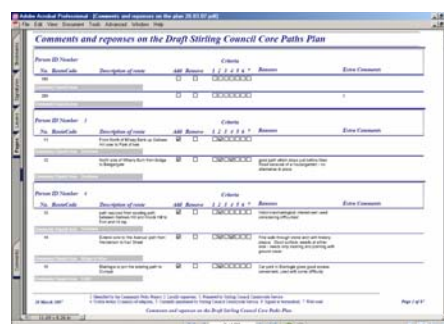
Carron Valley Bike Festival

Thank you to everyone who came along to the drop-in sessions! The turnout was tremendous! We held 44 meetings between July 2006 and July 2007 with a total of 1437 people coming to have a look at our display. Attendance did vary with more people turning out in the west of the area than the east and Stirling but this didn't surprise us too much. The top turnout by far was in Dunblane.

We also went along to the Stirling Farmers' Market and the Carron Valley Bike Festival to catch a wider audience.

Comments

We asked people to tell us if they agreed with the plan or not and to note down any routes they wanted to see added or deleted with reasons for doing so. Every comment has been added to our database so we can see what you, the public, want as core paths. In total 389 people registered comments and generated 734 comments. That's a lot of comments for us to think about!



What the public said—your comments

Paths and Countryside Access Questionnaire 2006/07

Throughout the 15 months of consultation, we asked people to fill in the questionnaire. The idea was to find out what you do when you are taking access and what you would like to see out there. Stirling Council's Research Team kindly helped us put this together and organised for 1300 questionnaires to be sent out to the Stirling Sounding Board. The Sounding Board is broadly representative of the population as a whole with regards to age, gender, household tenure and rural/urban location. 56% of people responded – great stuff!

We also took the questionnaire along to all our events and put them in libraries, local offices and auction marts for people to pick up. People could also fill them in online. Again the response rate was great with 519 people completing the questionnaire.

The responses you gave have helped us shape the Stirling Council core path proposals. Going with what you said, most people go walking for up to 2 hours and cover up to 7 miles and most would like to see circular, easy to use, signed routes.

So what happens next?

Well the questionnaire has given us a general idea as to what you would like to see and the comments have told us the specifics. It's now time to put it all together.

We have gone through the comments and have started to survey all the additional routes on the ground. The Access Officers are looking at the core paths we originally proposed to see what work is needed to bring them up to standard (using gates instead of stiles and signed at both ends etc). The Rangers have been busy surveying all the routes suggested by you to see which ones have potential as core paths. Thank goodness for the late change in the weather-surveying in the sun is much pleasanter than in the rain. Both sets of surveys will be used to assess the cost of implementing the core paths.

Round 3 consultation

The next stage is to take all this information back to you. We want to show you what you said, what we think and find out if you agree with us. We will be holding 3 drop-in sessions to show you what has been going on since the last time. This is your chance to see how things are developing and your chance to let us know what you think.

The meetings will be held at:

Date	Time	Place	Venue
Tues 23 October	2-5pm and 6-9pm	Killlearn	Killlearn Parish Hall, Balfron Road, Killlearn
Wed 24 October	2-5pm and 6-9pm	Stirling	Albert Halls, Dumbarton Road, Stirling
Thur 25 October	2-5pm and 6-9pm	Dunblane	Victoria Hall, Lesser Hall, Stirling Road, Dunblane

Don't worry if you can't make it to any of the meetings. Information will be available from Stirling Council libraries, local offices, Stirling auction marts and online at www.stirling.gov.uk/countryside. If you have any questions, please contact the Countryside Service on 01786 442971 or e-mail us at corepathplan@stirling.gov.uk.

... and then for Round 4 ...

If you don't get a chance to take part in round 3 don't worry. There will be a fourth round of consultation in 2008. This will be your last chance to comment on this version of the plan.