

CORE PATHS PLAN NEWS

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An Occasional Newsletter

ISSUE 1

Welcome...

To the first issue of the Core Paths Plan News—a catchy title I know.

This first issue of 'The Plan News' is to update all of you who have expressed an interest in Stirling Council's Core Paths Plan either through indicating so on the Paths and Countryside Access Survey or any other way. Some of the info you may already know, some you may not but we'd really like you to read this and then take a look at our website www.stirling.gov.uk/countryside and come along to one of the community sessions we are holding so that you can give us your opinions on the next stage of the Core Paths Planning process—the production of the Draft Stirling Council Core Paths Plan.



Why are Stirling Council doing this?

It's not just Stirling Council but all Local Authorities and National Park Authorities in Scotland that have to devise a Draft Core Paths Plan. 2005 saw the Land Reform (Scotland) Act come into power and this requires us (and all the other authorities) to draw up a plan for a network of paths ("core paths") sufficient for the purpose of giving you reasonable access throughout the area. We have to complete this in draft form by February 2008.

Developing the draft core paths plan

The concept of developing core paths is nothing new for the Council who have been slowly developing path networks with local communities (The Community Paths Project) over the past eight years.

The Community Paths Project

The Community Paths Project saw the Countryside Service working in partnership with all local communities to create, improve and maintain path networks around settlements.

The project saw the Countryside Service ask the different communities where they walk, cycle and ride horses, where they would like to go and what problems exist. The results from each community were used to form an action plan, which was then used to improve and signpost the paths and produce a leaflet.

By the end of March 2006, every community council area outside the National Park had been consulted. However, each community is at a different stage in the process ranging from those that have had leaflets produced to those who have only had their views logged.

More information on the Community Paths Project can be found in the review document that is available on the Countryside Service website (www.stirling.gov.uk/countryside) under Countryside Access Reports.



163 miles of proposed core paths have been identified

Choosing the Core Paths

The proposed core paths included in this plan were chosen from the network of paths identified by the Community Paths Project.

The following criteria have been used to determine what routes become core paths and not everyone applies to every path:

- ◆ Identified by the Community Paths Project
- ◆ Promoted by Stirling Council Countryside Service
- ◆ Currently maintained by Stirling Council Countryside Service
- ◆ Well-used
- ◆ Locally important
- ◆ Usable within 12 months of the draft plan being adopted
- ◆ Signed or waymarked

The Paths and Countryside Access Survey 2006/07 Results so far:

We have had 730 responses from the Stirling Sounding Board and 94 other responses

50% of respondents use paths 1-3 times a week

67% use paths mostly for leisure purposes

Around half of respondents have little or no knowledge of their access rights and responsibilities, but nearly half say they have reasonable knowledge of their local paths

Two thirds of respondents favour the use of circular routes

Most people travel 3-7miles and spend 1-2 hours out

Circular routes and good signage are the most important characteristics of paths



64% of respondents rate good views and 54% rate wild-life as the most feature when using local paths

80% of respondents walk and 15% cycle as their main activity

29% of respondents have heard of the Community Paths leaflets and 27% have used these leaflets

70% mainly use circular routes and 69% go from their homes

There are a number of ways you can get involved in the consultation—most of you will have received a copy of the *Paths and Countryside Access Survey 2006/07*, if you haven't and would like to complete the survey please go to our website and you'll find the link on the front page or phone us for a copy.

You can also come along to one of the open community meetings we are holding (details below) and express your opinions. (Only the closest dates are indicated. For more dates please see the website)

Or take a look at the Draft plan which can be found on the website, at one of the libraries or local offices and you can then complete one of the comments sheets, guidance is provided!

The plan is ready to view on the website www.stirling.gov.uk/countryside and click on Core Path Plan. It will also be available for viewing in libraries and local offices within the next month.

Area	Venue	Date(s)	Time(s)
Bridge of Allan	Allan Centre, Bridge of Allan	Wed 12 July 2006 Sat 15 July 2006	7-9pm 10-1pm
Plean	Balfour Centre, Plean	Sat 19 August 2006 Mon 21 August 2006	2-4pm 7-9pm
Cowie	Cowie Centre, Cowie	Fri 8 September 2006 Sat 9th September 2006	7-9pm 2-4pm
Arnprior	Arnprior Nursery, Arnprior	Sat 16 September 2006 Wed 20 September 2006	10-1pm 6-9pm
Fallin	Alpha Centre, Fallin	Sat 23 September 2006 Mon 25 September 2006	2-4pm 7-9pm
Doune and Deanston	Kilmadock Development Trust Centre, Doune	Wed 11 October 2006 Sat 14 October 2006	7-9pm 10-12pm
Thornhill and Blairdrummond	Church Hall, Main Street, Thornhill	Sat 14 October 2006 Wed 18 October 2006	2-4pm 7-9pm
Killlearn	Parish Hall, Balfron Road, Killlearn	Wed 25 October	2-5pm 6-9pm
Buchlyvie	Public Hall, Main Street, Buchlyvie	Wed 1 November	2-5pm 6-9pm

If you have any further questions or comments please contact the Countryside Team either by phone 01786 442971 or email corepathplan@stirling.gov.uk.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the drop-in meetings.