

## **Minutes of BCCPRG Members Meeting**

**held on Tuesday 9/5/23 at 7pm in the Balloch House Hotel**

Present: Audrey, Catherine, Gillian, Maurice, Karon, Aileen Suter, Robert Layden, Angela, Debbie Gourlay, Carolyn Mackie, Jasmin, Morgan, Rebecca and Dean from Haldane Youth Services.

Apologies: Sally, Obus, Ian.

Audrey welcomed everyone to our meeting.

Matters Arising: No tender issued for Slipway Café' at present.

Riverwoods feedback received. Not enough consideration given to where income could be generated and how the actions in our new Outline Nature Restoration Plan would be funded.

King's Coronation Big Help Out: We had registered our group to try and encourage new members but no hits.

Audrey appealed to those in attendance to consider joining the Committee.

Caroline asked what age they would need to be, and Dean expressed an interest. UPDATE: According to the Group's constitution (which can be read on the website here <http://ballochparkregen.co.uk/about/> ) members can join our Group from age 16.

Our group will have a presence at Lomond Church's Eco Fair to be held on 10/6/23, times to be confirmed, Audrey and Gillian stated they would attend.

### **Governance and Meetings**

Audrey reported BCCPRG's committee proposed a change to how Group meetings are scheduled. Currently Committee meetings are held once a month at Balloch House Hotel and members of the Group and the local community are welcome to attend. However, according to the Group's constitution, all four Committee members are required to attend these meetings for them to be quorate (or decision making). It is unrealistic for all four committee members to attend every meeting, so they propose a shift to monthly Zoom Committee meetings, as well as quarterly face to face Members' meetings to continue at the Balloch House Hotel for members and the local community to join in. Members would also be welcome to join the Committee meeting if there are agenda items that are of particular interest to them. All agreed with the proposal and the next Members' meeting will be held on Monday 7/8/23 at the Balloch House Hotel and noted on website

Request made that we advertise our meetings in the Community Advertiser and Coop noticeboard.

### **Partnership Working and Stakeholder Engagement**

Audrey met with David Adams McGilp, Regional Director, Visit Scotland on 27/4/23 at the Park.

David suggested a number of potential opportunities for income generation, employment and tourism at the Park. He also committed to contacting WDC to explain his concerns for the natural and built environment and to offer his support for efforts to stem the decline of the Park and assist with a new vision for its future sustainability.

## **LL&TNP Consultation on proposed 2024-29 Partnership Plan**

<https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/park-authority/get-involved/consultations/draft-national-park-partnership-plan-2024-29/>

Request made that everyone completes this consultation individually.

### **Haldane Youth Services**

Audrey and the BCCPRG committee and members thanked all the volunteers who helped us on the day of the visitor count. Dean from the UR Turn Project, HYS, gave a short speech about the formation of their Youth Board, meeting to be held on 24/5/23, 7pm at the former Jamestown Primary School Annexe, Karon and Gillian will attend.

### **LL&T Countryside Trust**

Karon had met with Sue Morris from the Trust as they organise the regular successful Walk in the Park. Sue is keen to work with BCCPRG and possibly have some of the walkers featured in our proposed BCCPRG video.

West Dunbartonshire Volunteer Forum to be held on 1/7/23 at Dumbarton Stadium.

Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) can help us with funding applications, governance and other information.

Love Your Parks Week is 28/7/23 – 4/8/23, what can we do, what will the Council do?

Suggestion made that we also contact Simon Jones, LL&TNP.

Audrey will raise the topic of litter prevention and Love Your Park Week with Peter Hesselst, WDC Chief Exec at their meeting on 19/5/23.

Sally has organized a meeting with Jackie Baillie MSP on 23/6/23.

### **Issues and Projects**

Application to OSCR for charitable status, still ongoing.

Visitor Count on a Bank Holiday on 2/5/23 gave a projected number of annual visits to the Park of 1.8million. The previous count (on a Saturday in September 2022) indicated a projected number of annual visits of around 1 million.

Campaign film - should we have young people highlighting problems in the Park? Karon has contacted WDC, Communications Department for permission for WDC staff to be in a film, she has supplied all requested information. Still awaiting a reply. Karon will continue to progress the film and explore alternative options, including a generic film to show to potential funders and a BLOG, Podcasts, Lomond Radio. HYS members said they would work in partnership with BCCPRG on this.

### **Woodland Management Plan Update**

The existing excellent WMP dates back to 2014 and is now out of date. WDC's Biodiversity Officer has been working to deliver actions in the Plan. An updated WMP is needed with a specific focus on invasive species and how these can be eradicated.

Sally and Audrey are meeting with a forestry consultant linked to the Scottish Agricultural College who has indicated Forestry Scotland grants and support may be available for a WMP update and implementation of some plans. Ian Bain, WDC, Greenspace Manager, had stated at a previous meeting he would match fund up to £4000.

### **Benches, Bins and water.**

We have written to Ian Bain to ask if he could apply to Visit Scotland's Rural Tourism Infrastructure Fund, for additional bins and new picnic benches, but have not yet received a response.

Scottish Water will not provide another top up tap at the Park as we already have one in Balloch (at the Tourist Information Centre) other communities are waiting on them.

### **Finance and funding**

£250 was paid to Loch Lomond Fisheries Trust as per April Minutes for support to create the Riverwoods Outline Nature Restoration Plan.

BCCPRG Account Balance £1214.28. £500 is ring-fenced for a campaign film with Turkey Red Media etc.

No funding applications submitted at present.

However, an Expression of interest has been submitted to Nature.Scot's , Facility for Investment Ready Nature in Scotland, (FIRNS) , feedback expected by 23/5/23.

### **Communications and Media**

Volunteers requested for updating our website, Facebook.

Thoughts on how we add to our website. Could Walk in the Park supply photographs?

### **Robert Layden**

Robert asked if we had contacted Disability groups.

Robert suggested we have an Action Plan and having one named contact at WDC rather than contacting different departments. Audrey said this is something we have explored with WDC and our two main contacts there are currently Ian Bain (Greenspace Manager) and Michelle Lynn, Estates Dept.

Robert agreed BCCPRG's immediate focus should be on the natural environment and that we could build on the education side and consider small projects from the Nature Restoration Plan.

Karon has recently contacted Laura Mason, WDC Education Dept, but as yet has not received a response.

Meeting closed.

Date of next Members meeting Monday 7/8/23, 7pm, Balloch House Hotel

