

Notes and detailed agenda for:  
Steering Group Meeting – Oban to Fort William Walking and Cycling Path

5<sup>th</sup> Oct 2010  
14.00 to 16.00hrs

TBC Venue

Chair: John Lauder

1.0 – Introductions and Apologies

*[Led by Chair]*

*Round table introduction and advise of any apologies*

2.0 – Background

*[Led by Chair]*

A route for the National Cycle Network between Oban and Fort William has been an aspiration of Sustrans and the Scottish Government since 1995. In 2005 Transport Scotland agreed to transfer to Sustrans its land holding associated with the disused Connel to Ballachulish railway. Sustrans and the Scottish Government reached an agreement to design and construct a multi-use path in 2006 and a partnership was formed with various stakeholders including local authorities, Transport Scotland and Forestry Commission Scotland. In 2007 construction began following agreements with land owners. Work is now about to enter its fourth year with continued and enthusiastic support from the Transport Minister and the Scottish Government.

Assuming continued financial backing and subject to land negotiations and with valued support from stakeholders, Sustrans aims to complete the Oban to Ballachulish route by the close of the next spending review (2011-14).

The section from Ballachulish to Fort William will be subject to a study by Transport Scotland.

The attached map shows the sections of route that have been constructed or are in progress at present.

3.0 – Previous Minutes

Confirmation of agreement of previous notes

All outstanding action points should be covered in the discussions in point 4.0 and 5.0 below.

4.0 – Project Progress

Key highlights since last meeting held on **15th June** in Oban Fire Station

*[Led By Clary with relevant contributions from partners]*

- Halcrow of behalf of Transport Scotland are progressing design of the following sections:
  - Connel to South Ledaig Community Link
  - Benderloch to Ledaig Community Link

- Creagan to Inverfolla
- Dallen layby to Sallachan burn
- Sustrans has sent out invitations to tender for the section from Lochnell primary School to Barcaldine Castle Turn. Construction is planned during the autumn.
- Argyll and Bute Council has commissioned the design and land negotiation for the section from Benderloch car park to Dun-na-Mara road end. Planning permission has been submitted and designs / land negotiation are progressing.
- Argyll and Bute Council shall progress a section of the route from Corran Halls towards Dunollie House with a link to Park Primary School in 2010/11 with some funding from Sustrans Short Links programme.
- Transport Scotland is undertaking a review of signage from the trunk road on to the off road sections of path.
- Interpretation works at Kentallen, Portnacroish and Ganavan are due to be installed soon.
- Sustrans has agreed to defer a grant from SNH for further interpretation works during 2010/11. Funding may be available in 2011-12.
- Gateways have been designed for the Sea Life Centre to Creagan Bridge section and fabrication will commence soon; installation will probably be in autumn
- Land negotiations are progressing for the route south from the Sealife Centre and North from Duror village.
- Process of land transfer from Transport Scotland to Sustrans is progressing slowly.
- The Highland Council has commenced work on proposals for Interpretation of the route based on local history around the Red Fox Trail theme – further details / discussion from Alistair Stewart in section 5.
- Sustrans attended the Lochaber Ward Form meeting (23<sup>rd</sup> Aug) and the Oban Community Planning Partnership meeting (8<sup>th</sup> Sept).
- Sustrans submitted the draft maintenance agreements between partners to ERDF and John Lauder has revised it to take account of comments and sent out to partners for finalisation and agreement by November. A meeting has not yet been arranged by HiTRANS
- No progress has been made on a formal opening of the Appin path.

*Discussion of any issues relating to the above that are not covered below, focusing on moving project forward rather than dwelling on the past.*

#### 5.0 – Topics for Discussion

*[Led contributor in brackets at end of each point]*

- Update on Ganavan Ramp section from A&BC
- Update on services signing into Ballachulish.
- Historical and Red Fox Trail interpretation. Alastair Stewart has begun working up some proposals for this, but hasn't been able to prepare any detail so far. How do the local authorities want to take this forward? [Brian Murphy – feedback from Alastair Stewart / Bren]

*Discussion of the above key areas for progressing the route and agreement of actions to take it forward with an agreed lead person.*

#### 6.0 – Partnership and Partners' Roles

*Does anyone feel they have any additional contributions they can offer to assist in the delivery of the project which is not currently being optimised or have inappropriate current responsibilities.*

7.0 - Any other business