

SCAN Newsletter – October 2007

Hello – I am SCAN's new co-ordinator, Joyce Reid.

I live in Arbroath, where I work as a freelance journalist. My husband and I are also about to open a photographic studio in the town.

If you want to get in touch with me about anything at all, please e-mail
joycereid@scottishcountrynet.org

I'm hoping to meet many of you at the next SCAN Conference on 9th November. Details are below for anyone who has not yet booked a place.

Paths – A Transport Solution

Friday 9th November 2007 : Birnam Institute (by Dunkeld)

Conference theme:

Walking and cycling are not just leisure activities; they are also the primary modes of sustainable transport. It's clear that more people would walk or cycle, thereby increasing the associated benefits for the environment, health, social inclusion and tourism, if there was an integrated, well managed and predominantly off-road provision.

While government targets aim to get people out of their cars, as seen by the policy priorities for walking and cycling, the emphasis in transport planning still lies with providing better road and rail links, rather than path networks. This lack of legislative policy and action plan co-ordination has been highlighted by the current core paths planning process.

This conference aims to explore links between transport and access, discuss ways of overcoming current constraints and barriers and provide opportunities for more collaboration between sustainable transport, core paths planning and wider network development.

An important element of the conference will be to identify specific action points that will form the basis of on-going dialogue with the Scottish Government, Transport Scotland and the Regional Transport Partnerships.

Who should attend:

This conference is aimed at all people who meet at the crossroads of transportation, planning and outdoor access, such as Access Officers, Countryside Rangers, Sustainable Transport Officers, Transportation Planners and Planning Officers. Other interested stakeholders, including project developers and access takers, are also invited.

Registration and Conference Fee:

The cost of the conference is £75 per delegate. This will cover the conference (lunch included) as well as contribute to the organisation of other SCAN information and networking services.

Registration forms can be downloaded from the website

www.scottishcountrynet.org/conference1.htm and should be returned to SCAN by 31st October 2007. Return forms by e-mail to scan@scottishcountrynet.org or by mail to SCAN c/o Aberdeenshire Council

Planning and Environmental Services (Environment Section)
Gordon House, Blackhall Road, Inverurie AB51 3WA

Since this conference is about sustainable transport, it is hoped that people will be able to share car journeys. If you are coming to the conference and would like your e-mail address to be made available to anyone willing or able to car share, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can make up a list to send to all delegates. E-mail me at joycereid@scottishcountry.net.org

Access Fair

A date for your diary – SCAN is organising an Access Fair in November 2008, to be held at the Bell's Sports Centre in Perth. More details later.

Other Access News

Press articles re Donald Trump's golf proposals for Aberdeenshire:

<http://www.theherald.co.uk/display.var.1744882.0.0.php?utag=2770>

<http://www.thisisnorthscotland.co.uk/displayNote.jsp?nodeId=149235&command=displayContent&sourceNode=149218&contentPK=18629601&moduleName=InternalSearch&formname=sidebarch>

Press articles re a debate on the Land Reform Act in Parliament:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/scotland/tayside_and_central/6990290.stm

<http://www.theherald.co.uk/politics/news/display.var.1684814.0.0.php>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2007/09/13/dol1305.xml>

Transcript of the debate held on 13th September in Parliament:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/officialReports/meetingsParliament/or-07/sor0912-02.htm#Coll653>

Briefing to MSPs by Ramblers Scotland:

<http://www.ramblers.org.uk/scotland/accessN/press/Parliamentary%20Briefing%2011Sep07.pdf>

For updates on all access legal cases, see the Scotways website:

<http://www.scotways.com/news/>

Core Path Plans – each authority may be at a slightly different stage in finalising their Plans. Some are available online, some are not. A number are out at the consultative draft stage. Here are some examples.

<http://www.highland.gov.uk/leisure/countryside./countrysideaccess.corepathplans.htm>
<http://www.scotborders.gov.uk/life/environment/outdooraccess/20556.html>

Court Cases:

Gloag v Perth & Kinross Council and Ramblers' Association – a decision is still awaited on the final costs awarded to Mrs Gloag. She has claimed costs of almost £145,000 but some of these are being questioned by Perth & Kinross Council and the Ramblers' Association

The Ramblers is concerned that such excessive costs will put off councils, communities, individuals and charities from contesting land reform cases in the future and is pressing the government to look at mechanisms such as Protective Costs Orders, which exist in England in certain cases where parties are acting in the public interest.

Tuley v. Highland Council – court agreed that Tuley has a right to appeal. He must now decide whether or not he wishes to do so.

Snowie v. Stirling Council – final submissions are to be presented to the court in November

And finally Alex's Car Free Remedy:

One of the Access Officers with the Highland Council, Alex Sutherland, set an example to his colleagues on Inverness Car Free Day on Wednesday 19th September with his own personal triathlon journey to work.

Alex (59) ran, cycled and kayaked the 18 miles from his home at Errogie, Stratherrick to Council headquarters at Glenurquhart Road, Inverness.

Early in the morning, Alex left his house and set off across a dew-wet field, jumped a burn, then ran 4 miles through the wilds of Farigaig forest to Torness.

There he had a "pony express" type change over to his bike and cycled 10 miles to the point where the River Ness flows out of Loch Dochfour and his kayak awaited him. Donning a life jacket, he then paddled down the river, past the occasional surprised heron and early morning angler, to negotiate various weirs and the Ness Islands to finish his journey less than 100 metres from the Council's headquarters at 9 a.m.

Alex is one of many people who took part in AlternativeNess that Wednesday.

He said, "This was an initiative that fits my own outlook and I am delighted that Inverness has taken the lead in Scotland in promoting environmentally-friendly forms of transport.

"I have spent the last 30 years of my working life trying to create better access to the countryside for walkers and cyclists and I believe that it is equally important that everyone should be encouraged to actively use paths, trails and minor roads to improve their personal health and fitness. And if it's possible to do that on the way to work and inspire your colleagues to reduce their carbon footprint then that's a bonus! My only regret is that I couldn't build in a stage which utilised a horse, but Inverness is kind of short of livery stables these days. Still there's always next year."

Less intrepid travellers also played a part on the day, with free Park and Stride facilities available at the away supporters car park at Tulloch Caledonian Stadium and the Co-op car park in Telford Road. Commuters could just turn up, leave their cars and walk to work.