COALFIELD
Communities Landscape Partnership

HERITAGE FUND

Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership

Delivery Group

Meeting 15 - Minutes

Date: 17th April 2024 **Time**: 2pm -3.30pm **Venue**: MS Teams

Attendees:

Colin MacDonald (CCLP Project Supervisor)	Rufus Sullivan (The Cumnock Tryst)
Jenna Cains (Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere) Chair	Alex Wallace (Ayrshire Railway Preservation Group – Director)
Kate Dickens (CCLP Project Officer)	Matt Cross (Coalfield Environment Initiative)
Carolann McPhillimy (CCLP Project Officer)	Peter Livingstone (EADHA)
Colin McKee (Heritage Projects Coordinator, East Ayrshire Council)	

Apologies:

Thomas Clancy (University of Glasgow)	Yvonne McFadden (University of Strathclyde)
Christine Keenan (Strategic Lead - Environment, East Ayrshire Leisure Trust)	Reg Briers (East Ayrshire Woodlands)
Becca Barclay (Archaeology Scotland)	

1. Welcome and Apologies

   Jenna Cains (Chair) welcomed everyone and put in apologies as listed above.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

   Minutes from meeting of 17th January 2024 were distributed and there were no amendments. Jenna Cains proposed and Rufus Sullivan seconded.

3. Actions and Matter Arising

   From previous meeting:

   Action 1: Carolann to arrange a site visit to Skares with Lyndy and Becca and keep Kate in the loop – COMPLETED

   Action 2: CCLP team to send out Post Delivery Risk Register to each partner to ask for any specific additions - COMPLETED

4. Feedback from Board meeting of 24th January 2024

   No particular issues or comments to be made. Congratulations on completed projects and successful events. Next meeting with the Board is on 24th April. Next meeting with HLF is on 15th May. Hope for more feedback then.

5. Project Updates and Project Supervisors report

Supervisors report sent out with agenda. Discussed possible CCLP extension and legacy of individual projects at last HLF meeting on 12th Feb 2024. Colin MacDonald asked for project partners to continue reporting on project activity.

Colin selected the Lost Villages project as a highlight from his report. The exhibition is currently on at The Baird in Cumnock until the 4th May. A Special Viewing was held on 15th March Exhibition Special Viewing Hosted By East Ayrshire Leisure Trust - Coalfield Communities. There is also a Book Launch for 'Memory, Mining and Heritage – Voices From Ayrshire Communities', this Friday 19th April 6:30pm -8pm at the Barony Centre, Auchinleck.

Carolann shared with the group that Cumnock History Group celebrated their 10th Birthday on the 19th February with 46 members attending. Founding member Bobby Grierson who sadly passed was fondly and well-remembered on the evening. Community History Triumphs Again - Coalfield Communities. Carolann had also attended the Scottish Tourism (SCOTO) Conference in Dumfries on Feb 29th. It was a great day for sharing of ideas and networking.

Coalfield To Wildwoods – Peter reported that there have been some serious challenges to the success of the nurseries. Due to extreme bad weather, the polytunnel at Littlemill PS was lost. There was also vandalism and break in at the Knowe Garden Centre in Auchinleck. Items were stolen but they have managed to salvage the trees. Focus is on planting current tree stock and working hard to secure planting sites. There has been some success with this as he has established a partnership with The Woodland Trust to provide 100% funded tree planting packages. 4 farmers/private landowners, including the Dumfries Estate have come forward. An example is 1.5km of hedging to be planted, but requires £5k of match funding to purchase protective fencing. Carolann suggested that Peter contact Elaine Stewart (CRT) to access 9CC funding in Sept/Oct. Colin McKee offered the support of EAW Modern Apprentices for planting of the hedge.

Peter is also in contact with the Ochiltree Maidsafe Charity group who are keen to take part in events and tree planting along the Lugar, possibly in the autumn.

Further tree planting sites have also been identified with help from EAC Housing and EALT. Peter has a site visit next week with Laura McMeekin from EALT who can provide volunteers for tree planting along the River Ayr Way at North Limmerhaugh.

Planting opportunities at Skares are back on. Awaiting more details from Lindy at FLS (Forestry and Land Scotland). This will be a large scale community planting event and practical help will be needed. Elaine Stewart has offered The Zone help after the grass cutting season. Colin McKee offered online promotional support via CCLP to attract volunteers and suggested Peter get in touch with QTS regarding Corporate Away Days planting sessions.

Stuart Douglas has been back helping Peter after illness. Springtime events were advertised in all the obvious places but few volunteers and no new vols attended. The team are looking forward to attending the Hannahston Nature Day on 4th May.

Action 1 – Peter to contact Elaine Stewart regarding 9CC funding for fencing.

Action 2 – Colin McKee to provide Peter with contact details for QTS

Action 3 – Peter to contact Reg Briers at EAW to organise working together on the 1.5km hedge planting project.

Ayrshire Railway Preservation Group (ARPG) – Alex Wallace introduced their project, they are trying to redevelop the railway at Dunaskin, Waterside after giving up the leased buildings. This involves restoring and redeveloping the current wagon shed into a museum and depot for narrow gauge railways. All work is being undertaken by volunteers. They are currently in seeking planning permission for the shed and working with architects on the designs, so that quotes for the works can be tendered. A business plan has been completed and submitted to funders. A recent visit from Historic Environment Scotland was positive and they hope to get through the planning process.

There will be 2 Open Days on the 26th May and another date in June TBC, plus they will be open for rides every Sunday from 11am – 4pm during the months of July, August and September. Last year's Santa Train sessions had a capacity of 600, the group reached 570 with excellent feedback and valuable funds generated.

The group have been donated £3000 for fencing and there is potentially room for hedging plants along this. The group are also seeking to extend the track usage by an extra mile opening up ground for further planting.

Action 4 – Alex to arrange site visit with Peter Livingstone to look at potential planting opportunities on their ground.

Perfect Peatlands – Progress on a legal agreement with FLS has been slow as solicitors continue to review and deal with requested changes on both sides. Additional requested documents have been submitted to FLS, still waiting to conclude and sign agreement.

Coalfields For Pollinators – Emily Hay was on site yesterday at Dunstonhill, Patna conducting surveys and undertaking additional wildflower sowing. They have extra ground lined up for additional sowing. New Cumnock Community Council (NCCC) have given support to a new project that will transform a demolished housing site in the village. Although out with the CCLP boundary, it reflects the success of the CCLP project and provides a legacy. 9 hectares of ground will be planted with trees and sown with wildflowers with support from EADHA. The site will also house a permanent art installation created by Andrew Sneddon. Former street signs will be installed on the site remembering what was once there. NCCC were enchanted by this idea and excited about its connections to family heritage. Matt gave special thanks to Colin MacDonald for providing support with this.

CEI are also working with FLS and Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) on a large scale sowing project along the Dalmellington to New Cumnock road, just metres from the CCCLP boundary.

Additional sowing at sites in Auchinleck, Muirkirk and Glenbuck Heritage Village will be taking place in the next couple of weeks and autumn.

Healthy Ayrshire Rivers - due to a lack of engagement and external input that was required, the project is being restructured. They now have volunteers trained in Riverfly Monitoring techniques.

Musical Celebration – Approval has been granted to utilise underspend on the next phase of the project. An audience development programme will be submitted to Colin MacDonald. The

next phase has 3 main aims; to showcase the work of CAMPS (Cumnock Arts Make People Smile) who are based at Cumnock Arts Centre (previously named Barrhill Community Centre); 2 local composers have been commissioned to write poems set to music and performed by the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland; Robert Burns Academy pupils will compose 15 new pieces based on aerial photos of Cumnock. All this work will be performed at the 10th birthday of The Cumnock Tryst festival 2nd - 6th October 2024. There are still tickets remaining for the launch of the festival this Saturday 20th April at the Boswell Centre.

The group are also planning their exhibition at The Baird in Cumnock from Sept – Dec this year. It will showcase 10 years of The Cumnock Tryst and the Musical Celebration CCLP project.

Action 5 – Rufus to send Audience Development Programme to Colin MacDonald.

Sense of Place – the project is almost complete and has consisted of many Sense of Place workshops delivered to groups leading to Learning Journeys. Filmmakers have been commissioned to work with 2 of the groups on short films. Cumnock Juniors Enterprise will focus on the Townhead grounds and goes into editing in May. The Recovery Group at The Boswell Centre will focus on wild swimming and are editing their film now.

GSA Biosphere are hosting the second Nature Day at Hannahston Woods on Saturday 4th May. CEI and EADHA are attending. There will be Hannahston Alpacas, Owl Magic, nature activities, tree planting, DRIFT coffee and lots more.

They have collaborated with Loch Doon Walkers on a Loch Doon Flyer, they have 7000 copies which need distributed. Colin McKee suggested Jenna contact Christine Keenan at EALT on how to utilise the leaflets. Loch Doon caravan site may also take some. Carolann suggested that Dalmellington Parish Development Trust could take some for their new facility (old bank in Dalmellington). Alex offered to take some for the railway station too. Kate is producing an interpretation panel for the Upper Ness Glen Path, there may be potential to host an event when these are installed that also promotes the leaflet.

School knowledge exchanges have been taking place between St Patricks PS and Logan PS with primary schools in Sweden. They hope to learn about each other's local wildlife and experiences of climate change.

Dalrymple are keen to become a Biosphere Community by the end of the year. Despite being out with the CCLP boundary, this is positive news for the legacy of the CCLP.

Action 6 – Jenna to contact EALT to find out how best to utilise the Loch Doon Flyer.

Lost Villages – book launch is on Friday 19th April at the Boswell Centre. 1000 copies of 'Memory, Mining and Heritage – Voices from Ayrshire Communities' have been printed. Available to purchase online and at Waterstones in Ayr. Free copies available for anyone on the Delivery Group, ask Colin MacDonald for details. Alex Wallace is happy to take some for sale/distribution at the Railway.

Action 7 – CCLP to provide copies of book to Alex Wallace

Attainment through Archaeology – Kate Dickens updated on behalf of Becca Barclay. 2 week excavation in Ochiltree in March, with the aim of finding out more about the Bronze Age landscape of Ochiltree. Despite last minute permissions and at times shocking weather the dig was a huge success. They had 147 people out on site including 3 classes from Ochiltree

primary and 60 people on our busiest day. Hoping to do follow up sessions with the school and the group of core volunteers.

Today they are running the last session of a 5 week course with pupils from Robert Burns Academy – the pupils were selected for participation due to issues with attendance or struggles in mainstream class. At time numbers have been low but those attending seem to be getting a lot out of it and are doing really well.

Their 5 week programme with Logan primary has been postponed again due to staff illness. As all of the staff who are able to drive the coalfields bus are off on long term sick. Becca will change the project rather than postpone again if issues continue.

Site visit to Skares with Carolann and Lyndy earlier this year – site has good potential for excavation so hoping to make some progress planning this in the summer months.

Colin McKee also updated that they are also undertaking a community excavation in Mauchline at the site of a former box works. A neighbour to the dig site has part of the former box works structure in his basement and allowed access to the group for investigation. The Provost is visiting tomorrow 18th April, Colin McKee will attend.

6. Finance

Colin MacDonald reported that he has a couple of claims to process from last year. Financial forecasts required back from each project in order to sharpen up case for CCLP project extension. Corrections have been made to claims with cash in-kind. Sense of Place claim approved for filming and put through this week. Lottery claim was paid out to the CCLP and Colin thanked delivery group partners for fine reporting and claims being submitted on time which helped this.

7. Risk Register and Health and Safety

HLF questioned lack of risks marked red considering that 2 large capital spend projects are behind schedule. So, Doon Valley Mountain Biking and Doon Valley Railway were amended to red. Colin asked to be made aware of any extra risks identified by Delivery Group partners.

8. AOB

Carolann shared that the Wood Road Park Group will be having another Family Fun Day on the 21st July from 12 – 4pm. The group want to expand and invited others to attend. Details will be sent amongst the Delivery Group.

Jenna also shared that Drongan Family Fay on 10th August 1pm -7pm are looking for people to attend and take part. There will be fun fair rides and a bar.

9. Meeting Dates for the Year

17th July 2024