COALFIELD
Communities Landscape Partnership

A' Mhaoin-Dualchais Heritage Fund

Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership

Delivery Group

Meeting 16 - Minutes

Date: 17th July 2024 **Time**: 2pm -3.10pm **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)	Reg Briers (East Ayrshire Woodlands)
Carolann McPhillimy (CCLP Project Officer)	Peter Livingstone (EADHA)
Taylor Ellison Quinn (CRT)	Christine Keenan (Strategic Lead - Environment, East Ayrshire Leisure Trust)
Colin McKee (Heritage Projects Coordinator, East Ayrshire Council)	John Senior (Cumnock Action Plan Group)
Gary Porter (CRT)	Becca Barclay (Archaeology Scotland)

Apologies:

Thomas Clancy (University of Glasgow)	Yvonne McFadden (University of Strathclyde)
Matt Cross (Coalfield Environment Initiative)	Arthur McIvor (University of Strathclyde)

1. Welcome and Apologies

   Jenna Cains (Chair) welcomed everyone and put in apologies as listed above. Attendees were asked to give short introductions the rest of the group.

2. Minutes of Previous Meeting

   Minutes from meeting of 17th April 2024 were distributed and there were no amendments. Jenna Cains proposed and Colin MacDonald seconded.

3. Actions and Matter Arising

   From previous meeting:

   Action 1 – Peter to contact Elaine Stewart regarding 9CC funding for fencing. Completed and subsequently applied to Browns Forbes memorial trust. Informed the group that it is critical to get this funding to enable planting projects to happen in the autumn.

   Action 2 – Colin McKee to provide Peter with contact details for QTS – Completed but peter has had no reply from them.

   Action 3 – Peter to contact Reg Briers at EAW to organise working together on the 1.5km hedge planting project. Completed. Reg expressed keen interest in partnership working and asked peter to send info through.

Action 4 – Alex to arrange site visit with Peter Livingstone to look at potential planting opportunities on their ground. Meeting did not take place. Fencing not erected on site yet, landscaping required for it to be suitable for planting. ARPG undertook some pruning of trees on the line and were amazed with the amount and variety of wildflowers there. Now wish to plant up 3 coal wagons with wildflowers. Peter advised that Alex speaks with CEI for wildflower advice. Peter offered to translocate any tree species that the group may need removed from the site as part of development works.

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

Action 6 – Jenna to contact EALT to find out how best to utilise the Loch Doon Flyer. Jenna and CRT have distributed lots of flyers. Jenna also worked with Jim Murphy from Loch Doon walkers to promote the flyer, so EALT assistance no longer required.

Action 7 – CCLP to provide copies of book to Alex Wallace. Colin put Dane Love in touch with Alex for books to be delivered.

4. Feedback from Board meeting of 24th April 2024

Board are pleased with progress with no issued to raise.

5. Project Updates and Project Supervisors report

CCLP – Last meeting with Fiona (HLF mentor) was on 15th May. Inclusive Cycling Track change request approved and DPDT are leading on this. Congratulations to Elaine Stewart on her success at the election.

Carolann highlighted the Health and Wellbeing event from the 11th June at Cumnock Juniors. The event was a success and will be happening again in Auckinleck with ACDI on 18th Sept, a Mental Health coach will be there too. She has produced a case study about the impact it has had on those that attended - 40 people had health tests which resulted in 2 men being guided to get further checks and receive medical advice, results from test have also resulted in savings on health insurance. Participants expressed feelings of relief after being tested which improved their mental health.

Carolann also met with ARA regarding the inclusive cycling track, and now needs a meeting with DPDT. The group do have prices in for electricity supply and containers. However, the process is being held up with legal and the CAT transfer. Once this is completed the group can then go for planning permission. Concerned they'll need new prices due to time delay.

Kate updated that the Lost Villages Exhibition is now moving to the national mining museum from 3rd Aug to 26th Oct and a series of events will accompany it.

Colin MacDonald shared that a re-profiling exercise has been undertaken by himself and Colin McKee. Money is available to project partners for training and travel expenses for volunteers – requested that claims be sent for this please.

Colin McKee also stressed that the money could be used by EALT for path warden training, by ARPG for training volunteers at Dunaskin and anyone other partners engaging with volunteers as

part of the CCLP. As regards CRT, CCLP are awaiting detail on where they will be spending their grant and need clarity from CRT on spend proposals.

ACTION 1 - Colin McDonald to send out case study to everyone.

Modern Apprentices (MAs) – Reg updated that 11 modern apprentices have completed through the CCLP since start in 2021. 7 have left for full time positions in outdoor sector. 2 are still to complete in August, one resigned due to ill health and one not provided feedback. Submitted forms for recruitment of 4 more MAs, to take total up to 15. Interviews to hopefully commence in August, with successful candidates in place for Sept/Oct. These positions will be in post for 1 year and finish in Sept 2025. Current work by Mas includes tree felling and path clearing on the DV Active Travel Route, installing way markers on the River Ayr Way for EALT – half way through this process. Also installed new paths, benches, memorial benches/plinths, tree/hedge planting at Glenbuck. Vocational training NPT/Lantra training being undertaken by MAs on a wide range of equipment, plus pesticide training. They also spend 5 weeks at Barony College in Dumfries, focussing on academic topics and doing assessments. Working with FLS on the Netherton/Skares woodland creation with will result in 80 hectares of mixed woodland creation, currently going through consultation, 20 hectares to be planted in the New Year.

Coalfields To Wildwoods – Peter updated that they have completed planting at Glenmuir water, creating a new native woodland, involving Logan PS pupils using trees grown at the school. Eadha are winding down small nursery sites, instead concentrating on next planting season. They have secured more planting sites on Dumfries Estate land, a demolished housing site in Patna and a large hedge at Pennyvenie farm. Eadha are now looking to engage with groups/volunteers to undertake the planting. Christine (EALT) will chase up colleague Laura McMeekin regarding volunteers.

Colin McKee also added that the trees Eadha offered for the Skares site are ideal, just waiting for FLS to get planting approvals for the site, and once they get their license then EAW can begin planting in Jan-March next year.

Attainment Through Archaeology (ATA) – Becca report that it's been a busy few months. The Ochiltree Dig had 60 people attend on busiest day, with afterschool clubs, PS groups, a Youth group and core group of vols (who attended every day) taking part in the community dig. There was also a Family Day on the Saturday too. Becca expressed what a great community there is in Ochiltree and were great to work with. The team hope to revisit site over the next year. ATA also completed a 5 week programme with Logan PS which finished in June after much delay, pupils took part in Neolithic mindfulness! ATA also completed a 5 week programme with Robert Burns Academy pupils who struggle with attendance and mainstream education. All pupils achieved their Heritage Hero award despite attendance fluctuating throughout the 5 weeks. ATA also completed 3 taster sessions with 3 different groups from Ochiltree PS. Becca did a school assembly and Bronze Age pottery workshop with them. ATA want to do another 2 community digs before finish and return to Ochiltree. Becca only has 6 weeks left at work, maternity leave starts at end of august.

Cumnock Tryst – Rufus updated that they are currently utilising the underspend, in 3 parts: A composition project with Robert Burns Academy, where pupils are writing new compositions inspired by photographs of the local landscape; 2 new pieces have been commissioned and will be performed at this year's festival; and finally to showcase the works of CAMPS at Cumnock Arts Centre. There will be 150 people showcasing their talents as part of the festival on 2nd - 6th

October 2024, all going really well. Also planning their 10 year Birthday exhibition from 15th Sept at The Baird, Cumnock.

Ayrshire Railway Preservation Group (ARPG) –the upscaling of Doon Valley railway is a 5 year project. Alex informed that they are just at beginning, focussing on the conversion of the wagon shed in to new museum and narrow gauge depot. DPDT have given them a new grant for the flooring, date to receive to be confirmed. This will allow the group to provide a museum exhibit. Group also looking at the erection of a carriage shed for the storage of heritage carriages and engines. However, planning permission is an issue, and ARPG are holding ongoing meetings with Colin and team to try and expedite these matters. ARPG have unfortunately had to suspend this summer's open days due to volunteer annual leave and until compliances for drivers are in order, but a plan to resolve this is in place. Also, Fraser Gibbs engineering works are restoring one of their engines and Alex is continuing with grant applications and awaiting their outcomes. Additional directors have also been recruited onto the ARPG Board with additional specialist skills, future looks positive.

Coalfields Regeneration Trust- have been providing different levels of support for events at Patna, Dalrymple, Muirkirk, Catrine and Cumnock in the coming weeks/months. Taylor has also been supporting Sinclairston and Hayhill with a community litter awareness/community pride scheme involving the design and printing of signs as well as the sourcing of posts for these signs. Taylor also wanted to share that he is available to do recordings and interviews for events for other project partners.

Action 2 – Taylor to send dates of events to Carolann for her to forward onto to project partners and interested groups.

Tower Street Pocket Park – John reported that there has been more vandalism at Tower street project. The roof has been damaged and plants pulled out. Armitage drive improvements have been completed. Cumnock Action Plan Group (CAPG) have now formed a sub group for the event on 18th August at Wood Road Park, led by Councillor Neil Watts. 25 stalls are booked at present. Carolann encouraged everyone to get involved. CAPG are now looking for volunteers in order to get the 2nd action plan going. CAOG have been successful in receiving a total of approx. £7000 from the 9CCs for bulb planting, 20,000 bulbs planted, wildflower seeds on Cumnock roundabout and signs at Armitage drive.

Action 3 - Christine to get in touch with Neil Watts to see if EALT can support the Wood Road Park Event on the 18th August.

Biosphere – GSAB attended the Made Safe Foundation open day in Ochiltree, which will be followed up with a STEM event, which they will attend. GSAB will also attend the STEM event at Dumfries house. Sense of Place activities are concluding now with a final session having taken place with dementia group in Cumnock. The 2 groups who produced films have completed and been very successful. Been working with Doon Valley Walkers to deliver a launch event at the Roundhouse for the Loch Doon Flyer. GSAB are also attending the 18th Aug event at wood road par. Big news is that Dalrymple will be a biosphere community which is great for the legacy work of the project. Unfortunately no further progress with the Biosphere road signs.

EALT – Lugar Water Path - remedial work contract has been awarded to Covanburn and now waiting on start date. Christine to send out an update paragraph for community communication in terms of H&S during the works. Colin McKee will add info on statutory requirements. Other news is that an EALT staff member is utilising the chainsaw training thanks to EAW. Apologies

submitted in for rest of today's meeting due to event happening; Cairn Table hill race tonight, 70- people signed up. Also, the RAW challenge on 14th Sept has a team event which is fully booked, over 100 runners registered.

6. Finance
   Colin MacDonald updated that he has a couple of payments to process (Becca's and Rufus' claims). Any projects that haven't claimed in last 3 months, please submit in next couple of weeks so that next quarter claim to HLF can be bumped up to draw down more funds. Re-profiling at the moment and what's going to happen with underspend across whole project. Keep claims coming in!

7. Risk Register and Health and Safety
   Risk registers have been sent out, Colin MacDonald welcomes comments and additions before end of this month. Board members impressed with post-delivery risk register. Partners to keep contributing.

8. AOB

   Peter asked CRT for support contacting Colin from CRT.
   Action 4 -Taylor to enquire tomorrow and send Peter an email.

9. Meeting Dates for the Year

Proposed date of 16th October 2024, however Jenna on leave this week. Colin offered to move to Thurs 10th Oct.