COALFIELD
Communities Landscape Partnership

HERITAGE FUND

Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership

Delivery Group

Meeting 14 Minutes

Date: 17th January 2024 **Time**: 2-2.30pm **Venue**: MS Teams

Attendees:

Colin MacDonald (CCLP Project Supervisor)	Rufus Sullivan (The Cumnock Tryst)
Jenna Cains (Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere) Chair	Jennifer Martin (The Cumnock Tryst)
Kate Dickens (CCLP Project Officer)	Matt Cross (Coalfield Environment Initiative)
Carolann McPhillimy (CCLP Project Officer)	Emily Hay (Coalfield Environment Initiative)
Reg Briers (East Ayrshire Woodlands)	
Becca Barclay (Archaeology Scotland)	
Colin McKee (Heritage Projects Coordinator, East Ayrshire Council)	

Apologies:

Kay McMeekin (Cumnock History Group)	Lyndy Renwick (Forest and Land Scotland)	Ales and Archie Thom (Ayrshire Railway Preservation Group – Doon Valley Railway),
Christine Kenan (Strategic Lead - Environment, East Ayrshire Leisure Trust)	Simon Taylor (University of Glasgow)	Yvonne McFadden (University of Strathclyde)
Marion Wylie (Lugar Parish Church)	Thomas Clancy (University of Glasgow)	
Arthur McIvor (University of Strathclyde)	Peter Livingstone (EADHA)	
Gillian Barrie (Green Action Trust)	Isabel Campbell (Lugar Parish Church)	
Laura Salvage (The Conservation Volunteers)	Elaine Stewart (Coalfield Regeneration Trust)	
Jamie Campbell (Netherthird Community Action Training)	Adrienne McGeechan (Sector Development Officer (tourism and food and drink) East Ayrshire Council)	

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 October 2023 were distributed and there were no amendments. Becca Barclay proposed and Kate Dickens seconded.

3. Actions and Matter Arising

All previous actions closed. No matters arising

4. Feedback from Board meeting of 26th July 2023

No particular issues. Keep up the good work and well done on the events that have been held.

5. Project Updates and Project Supervisors report

Supervisors report as per report sent out with agenda. Discussion around possible underspend on projects and Jennifer Martin asked what the potential underspend was. Colin MacDonald said that it will be clearer at the end of the financial year. There were still two large capital project yet to start (Doon Valley Cycling and ARPG new shed) which hope to start in spring 2024.

Attainment through Archaeology – Becca.1 taster session was held with Little Mill primary looking at local Roman history. Went down very well and a short report was produced. 2 5 week sessions are under way with Logan primary.

Still looking for a dig site for this summer. A number of suggestions were made, Craigengillan, the site for the inclusive cycling in Dalmellington, Skares (Forestry and Land Scotland) old miners rows.

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

Landscape Apprentices – Reg. 8 modern apprentices 4 funded by CCLP

Busy training schedule before Christmas with 5 modules complete. Chainsaw assessment passed. On target with training.

Work on Ness Glen upper path nearly complete, instating new boardwalks and steps.

Did work for Ayrshire roads Alliance with regards to tree removal and flood prevention.

Lugar Heritage Centre – Marion by e-mail. Cafe - still looking for people to run it. Warm Hub still every Wednesday 15_20 folk each week. Calendars went well

Sense of Place – Jenna. Completed a climate schools project with 4 schools and liaised with EAC LOST team for it to be taken forward. Had 2 learning exchanges with local primary schools in CCLP area and with a Swedish Biosphere. Planning under way for a film project with 2 groups (Cumnock Juniors Enterprise and Recovery Group in Auchinleck) to make a Sense of Place film.

Produced a map of local walks around Loch Doon in partnership with the Doon Valley Walkers.

Peatlands/Pollinators and Heathy Rivers – Matt. Last peatland site identified and paper work nearly complete for work to progress. Good for CEI as it will be their first Peatland Code registered site. Pollinator flower planting will be started in Spring on sites identified. Some permissions still needed. Plaiting on Dunstanhill has been successful. The project has been challenging to deliver due to a lack of support from Buglife who were expected to work with the CEI on the project. In the absence of proper support from Buglife a different

delivery mode has been adopted, this has involved upskilling a CEI staff member and them delivering the project alone. However through determined effort anglers on the Doon and Ayr catchments have been engaged and a number have been trained. A small number of other volunteers have also been engaged and trained. Great credit to Emily for moving the project forward.

Ploughing up our Past Cumnock History Group – Kay by e-mail. Still adding information as it becomes available to the blog. Ploughing Up Our Past (farminginthecumnockarea.blogspot.com).

CHG is ten years old and we are having a birthday dinner on Monday 19th February at the Dumfries Arms hotel. CHG's 10th Birthday Dinner ticket – Cumnock History Group

Kay will be giving a talk on the project to East Ayrshire Family History on Thursday 8 February in Belford mill.

Doon Valley Railway – Archie by e-mail. **Financial Situation:** Having purchased an area of land at Dunaskin at a cost of £35k (entirely funded by private donations, the Group has experienced an unexpected upturn in income, partly from continuing donations, partly from small grants received and partly from a successful season of Santa trains (see below.) The general financial situation is therefore healthy. **Santa Trains:** In spite of the closure of the Dunaskin buildings, the Doon Valley Railway was able to operate two weekends of Santa specials on November 25/26 and December 9/10. This was made possible by the invitation from Dunaskin Bowling Club to use their club house facilities for the catering part of the event. This is an excellent example of community co-operation, which will hopefully continue in the future. Over the two weekends all trains were sold out and feedback from the visitors was most encouraging. **Current Situation:** In spite of the expected slow down over the Christmas and New Year period, progress continues to be made. Grant applications have been made towards our immediate plans for museum development in the Waggon Repair Shed and for a new rolling stock storage shed. We await the outcome of these applications, more of which are planned.

Place Names – Thomas by e-mail. Project has been extended to Oct 2024. Planning underway to complete most of data base by Spring 2024. Simon and I, assisted by a post-doc researcher who has been paid from further UofG funds (hence further match-funding from us), have been trying to get two further parishes, Ochiltree and New Cumnock (the latter is really huge) to a state of completion,

Musical Celebration of the Coalfields, Cumnock Tryst – Rufus and Jennifer. A very successful performance in October with over 600 people attending both performances. A film has been produced, https://youtu.be/EFsTM6bE6dg. Allan Dorrans (MP) put forward an early day motion to Parliament about the Tryst and the project. Jennifer said that the project was utterly transformative for the whole of the Cumnock Tryst. Great value in communities being part of a creative community and produce music of the highest level. "All power to the CCLP and grateful for the support." Looking at 3 projects to mop up funding.

Paths – Lugar path works complete form Cumnock to Ochiltree. Path well received and even being used for commuting to work. Bad weather has damaged part of the path washing away board walks. Work underway to repair. Still a section to do from Ochiltree to Boswell estate and from Lugar to Cumnock, discussions with land owners well underway.

6. Finance
   Claims to CCLP – No issues. Colin MacDonald mentioned that there had been an initial look at the overall budget with regards to a reprofile and potential underspend. Things will be clearer at end of financial year.

7. Risk Register and Health and Safety
   Risk Register and Post delivery risk Register circulated with papers.

   Colin McKee suggested that the Post Delivery Risk Register be sent out to each partner to add in to any risks they may feel they have.

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

8. AOB
   None.

9. Meeting Dates for the Year
   17th April 2024, July and Oct TBC