

Minutes

Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire Timber Transport Group

Meeting 16th April 2019 at 10:00

The Library, Dumfries House, Cumnock, Ayrshire, KA18 2NJ

Attendee: Alex Murray, Simon Stuart, Roland Stiven, Keith Wishart, Alistair Taylor, Ian Downie, Stuart Colbron, Derek Nelson, Sandy White, Kevin Braidwood, Kerstin Leslie, Mike Yerbury, Andrew Kennedy, Tom Tryon, Tommy Thorburn, John Proudlock, Neil Murray, David Hilditch, Janice Kelly, Roderick Melville, Malcolm Murray, Hannah Richardson, Sam Huddleston, Ellie Smith, Daniel Bentley, Steven Parr, Neil Stoddart, David Smith, Alan McDowall, Keith Jolly.

Apologies: Bill Tyre, Doug Howieson, Ali Menarry, Colin Saunders, Jamie Farquar, Sandy White.

1. Welcome, Introduction & Apologies

AM welcomed everyone to the meeting, and everyone introduced themselves. **SS** then read out apologies.

2. Matters Arising from Meeting 16th February 2018

- a. Training for police officers on Timber Transport, SS and NS arranged with help from MM and AMc
- b. FISA update from AM, Health and Safety in Forestry still to be finalise.

Recent FISA conference did highlight items such as chainsaw rates, welfare provisions and Double strapping.

NS comment on double strapping, “watch this space”.

Last meetings minutes signed off.

3. Revised Timber Transport Strategy

SS still working on revised TTS.

Still missing key elements and format still being discussed.

Decision made to form working group to advance the document.

Members of working Group;

Neil Murray

David Hilditch
Kevin Braidwood
Stuart Colbron
Andrew Kennedy
Mike Yerbury
Neil Stoddart

SS to make amendments and send out to group for initial comments.

4. Local Timber Transport Issues

- a. Police** – Mainly road safety issues, largely perception issues.

Police training was seen to be worthwhile; participants did learn from it.

AMc mentioned the Rural Crime Partnership, which included plant security, CCTV, signs etc.

AMc is police contact in Ayrshire, contact details below;

Alan McDowall, Sergeant , U314

North Carrick and South Carrick Locality Policing Team|

Maybole Police Office |44 Ladyland Road | Maybole| KA19 7DH | U Division

✉ alan.mcdowall@scotland.pnn.police.uk ☎ Internal 802 3100 ☎ External 01655 884488

Hopefully Alan will manage to supply a contact for South Lanarkshire.

- b. North Ayrshire** – No Issues.

- c. ARA** –Issues on U27 due to stone lorries running on one section.

- d. South Lanarkshire** – Issues at Craginathan due to stone lorries SLC are dealing with it.

- e. Key council contacts**

i. NLC – David Hilditch

ii.ARA – Kevin Braidwood

1. Keith Jolly – East Ayrshire

2. David McLauchlan

iii. SLC – Stuart Colbron

- f. Scottish Forestry** – KW informed the group that there has been a change in staff and Julie Paton will now be responsible for South Lanarkshire.

5. Timber Transport Group Governance

RS explained that as timber transport groups are voluntary partnerships and lack authority there is perhaps a need to formalise group structure.

This would include a list of contributing members.

DN commented that setting proper governance would add legitimacy when dealing with the Cabinet Secretary, MSPs MPs and community councillors among others.

SS to sort out TORs for the group to approve.

6. Timber Transport Officer Updates

- a. **Consultation** – Consultation template seems to be working well, questions were raised regarding response times.

It was agreed that 14 Working days should be enough time for councils to respond, consultation documents should be submitted at least 4 weeks before extraction due to begin.

Councils should also be notified for stone and residues movements.

- b. **Revised Agreed Routes Map Update** – Most amendments to the ARM was agreed, however AK did point out there were an extra couple of new planting schemes to the southeast of Auldhouse.

SS to recheck with SLC and organise update.

Routes to be amended were;

Roads in and around Auldhouse (various designations)

C11 Patna, upgrade to Agreed route

C90 Afton Road, upgrade to approved route.

U4 Dalmorton, extend consultation Route

U25 Milton Road, extend consultation route to immediately north of the bridge.

U27 Daljedburgh Road, change to restricted route.

U759 Doon Road, change to agreed route postponed until bellmouth works completed.

- c. **Timber Transport Management Plans** – Two points on TTMPs;

TTMPs should refer to roads rather than specific properties.

TTMPs should be easily accessible on the website.

- d. **Other Activities Completed** – Police training and STTS workshop completed successfully.
- e. **Working Groups** –
 - a) **Arran** – SS to contact all potential members once there is clarification on Imachar pier planning permission.
 - b) **U27** – SS to contact involved parties once have decision on STTS bid.
 - c) **Andershaw Road** – SS to discuss with Julie Paton before contacting interested parties.
- f. **Timber Flow Information** – As well as exit point data being updated this year, **SS to obtain any data available from main processors about origins of their roundwood.**
- g. **Strategic Timber Transport Fund Update** – DN STTF £7 million, £6 million for STTS, high demand.

North Ayrshire – Nothing suitable.

ARA – Three bids for A713, U27 and U759.

Three possible prep bids, B778, A714 (Pinwherry Bridge), A713 Polnessan.

SLC – Possible bid for drainage works.

7. Timber Transport Forum Update

TTF was held in Edinburgh 5th April.

Items discussed included; Infrastructure bottleneck list presented to Cabinet Secretary.

Timber Transport conference in North England in 2020 (provisional date 20th March).

Training and industry requirements had been requested by RS, by 18/4/19.

Engineering competence for forest roads and exit points onto public roads were questioned especially in relation to CDM regulations.

Good practise guidelines for consultation almost complete, (now available on website).

Infrastructure Commission for Scotland, potential for local authorities to respond.

Load security, double strapping and FISA conference.

Coastal Shipping – Freight Grant may be worthwhile investigating for some projects.

Next TTF meeting, 28th June.

8. Timber Transport Project Officer contract renewal

New dedicated TTP officer was highly anticipated.

Several projects which were considered low hanging fruit such as;

Timber Transport Strategy.

Timber transport routes consultation.

Meeting all significant players in the area.

There seems to have some frustration that all these issues were not dealt with immediately as SS came into post.

However there has now been some realisation that a period of settling in should have been allowed.

For the moment SS has had his contract extended for 3 months, however asking the group where improvement was required did produce no suggestions.

KL did suggest SS could help with community council meetings, SS did respond he would be only too happy to assist and did suggest that council roads departments should also be involved in any meetings to discuss timber transport.

9. A.O.C.B

- a. It was pointed out that currently the risk of fires in the forest was high, so extra care should be taken.
- b. Kerstin Leslie was congratulated on being elected to ICF council.
- c. Forestry Expo in Elvanfoot 22/23 August 2019.
- d. SPHN flyover will be done again May.

Date of next meeting 9/7/19 10:00. Likely to be in North Ayrshire.