

Minutes

Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire Timber Transport Group

Meeting 16th October 2019 at 09:30

County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,

KA7 1DR

Attendee: Alex Murray, Simon Stuart, Roland Stiven, Keith Wishart, Bill Tyre, David Hilditch, Kevin Braidwood, Tom Tryon, Neil Murray, Hannah Richardson, Sam Huddleston, David Smith, Alan Christison, Stuart Colbron, Neil Stoddart, David Stoddart, Robin Taylor, Tom Drewett, Mike Yerbury.

Apologies: Sandy White, Derek Nelson, Janice Kelly, Jamie Farquar, Doug Howieson, Kerstin Leslie, Ian Downie, Andrew Kennedy, Radek Zebrowski, Malcolm Murray, Robin Dixon, Steven Parr, Andy Powell, Ian Harvey, Graeme Gordon, Duncan Mackinnon, Andrew Kitching.

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 April 2019

Issues arising from last meeting will be picked up in agenda items.

Last meetings minutes signed off.

3. Revised Timber Transport Strategy

SS still working on revised TTS.

A revised strategy will be prepared within the week and sent out for a further two-week consultation period. **SS**

4. Local Timber Transport Issues

- a. **Police** – No police representatives could attend, but no issues were reported by them.

DS did mention timber theft from property beside M74. **SS** to investigate.

- b. North Ayrshire** – Imachar pier proposals progressing but still waiting for information from Robin Dixon. Constructive meeting held on 16th September.
New SPHN on Arran causing issues with the Machrie Moor road, NAC working with FLS to deal with them.
- c. ARA** – Three successful STTS bids;
 - 1. U27 works complete.
 - 2. A713 Works finished.
 - 3. U759 still to undertake works.
 - Daily Community council meeting 6th August attended by **KB** and **SS** managed to find workable solution placating most of the community. **KB** thanked **SS** for his support.
- d. South Lanarkshire** – New consultation at Langlands Moss being worked on currently.
 - Need one point of contact for council rather than different departments coming in at different angles.
- e. Key council contacts**
 - i. NLC – David Hilditch
 - ii. ARA – Kevin Braidwood
 - 1. Keith Jolly – East Ayrshire
 - 2. David Manson/ David McLauchlan – South Ayrshire
 - iii. SLC – Stuart Colbron

5. Timber Transport Group Governance

Governance still to be finalised, SS thanked KB for template sent through but thought it was rather onerous, need something shorter. Issues still are;

1. **Participation** – It was agreed at the meeting that Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire Timber Transport Group wishes to remain a broad church welcoming anyone with an interest in Timber Transport to our meetings. A restricted membership was not appropriate as we want as many people as possible involved in the industry to be engaged.
2. **Membership** – Paying members are important for the group, not only to show members take timber transport matters seriously and to lend credibility when dealing with outside bodies. Full members will be listed in the Timber Transport Strategy and on the website.

Membership payments are vital for Project Officer funding to match STTF and to cover any potential shortfall in future if STTS funding is reduced or stops.

Extra funding can also help with additional time and resources for the Project Officer to offer better services to the group.

SS to sort out for the group to approve at next meeting.

6. Timber Transport Officer Updates

a. Consultation Procedures

- a) **Timing of submissions** – Everyone was reminded the sooner consultation proposals were submitted the better, **SS** always happy to look anything pre-submission.

All submissions should be sent to the council cc'ed to the project officer.

- b) **Timings for Approvals** – There were complaints about time taken for some consultation approvals to be dealt with, the aim is for responses within 4 weeks.

ARA apologised and mentioned changes in staff and workloads causing delays. Hopefully will be sorted soon.

The delay in response was particularly disappointing in one case where FLS were consulting on stone lorry movements, which we want more operators to do. **SS to work with councils to help alleviate this problem.**

- c) **Attached Conditions** – There was some disagreement about this as some saw this as unfair asking users to pay for damaged caused by 'normal' operations. The councils argued that responsible use of the road is all that they are looking for.

Discussions included monitoring of roads during activities and reporting any deterioration as it happens. Reporting other damaging road usage during operations also important. There are occasions when any use of a road is going to cause damage and all parties must work together to come up with a practicable solution.

There are still misgivings on both sides, and we have to all work hard at maintaining communication and cooperation.

- d) **Making sure everybody involved understand conditions** – There have been instances where the forest manager has agreed transport restrictions, these have been passed onto the works manager, but haven't reached the haulage contractors. This can result in community uproar and accusations of carrying on regardless levelled at the industry. Please make sure everyone in the transport chain is aware of any restrictions or working practises that have been agreed upon.

All parties were directed to the excellent guidance document produced by the Timber Transport Forum “Transporting Timber on Public Roads – Consultation and Engagement Guidance (Scotland) which covers these matters.

- b. **Revised Agreed Routes Map Update** – Amendments to the ARM were agreed.

SS to organise update.

Routes to be amended were;

B741 and other routes within Dailly.

- c. **Working Groups**

- a) **Arran** – Meeting was held in Irvine in August and new pier proposals ongoing. **SS to liaise with RD.**

- b) **U27** – Works now complete but operations have ceased for the time being. **SS to maintain contact with all parties to coordinate operations.**

- c) **Andershaw Road** – Once timber exit point data available interested parties will be contacted to discuss timber flows and timescales.

- d. **Timber Flow Information** – Exit point data being updated this year, so hopefully will be able to help identify areas of infrastructure requiring work. This is ongoing and managers were reminded to assist the survey team in collecting the data.

SS still trying to obtain any data available from main processors about origins of their roundwood.

- e. **Strategic Timber Transport Fund Update**

Three successful bids for ARA this year, works are completed in two cases.

SS appealed to everyone to bring proposals forward for next year ASAP.

7. Timber Transport Forum Update

TTF was held in Edinburgh 11th October.

Items discussed included;

Updating of exit point data which is ongoing.

Response to Rural Environment Committee looking at rural roads.

Traffic Commissioner to attend Timber Transport Conference in March.

Review of transport codes of practise to be undertaken to reflect changes in Forestry Commission and other organisations, everyone is asked to look through the documents and highlight any out of date information.

Next TTF meeting, 24th January 2020.

8. STTS Update

- a. New guidance now on Scottish Forestry website. Qualifying criteria have been tweaked, including increased weighting for collaborative bids.
- b. SS reminded everyone we should be looking to 2020/21 now and working up possible bids.

9. A.O.C.B

- a. During the discussions about consultation procedures the SPHN on Arran was discussed and the fragile nature and lack of passing places on the Machrie Moor road. The idea was put forward to enquire about STTS funding and the possibility of a quick access fund for emergency works. **KW to discuss with Derek Nelson.**
- b. The close passing of cyclists was brought up. **SS to ask police for more information.**
- c. Kyle windfarms likely to result in more timber coming onto the B741 between Dalmellington and New Cumnock.
- d. **BT** working with East Renfrewshire Council, **SS** to offer assistance if required.
- e. **NS** gave FISA update.
 - a. Strapping guidance now accepted, and information being disseminated.
 - b. Working at height bulletin.
 - c. Training – CPC now in second phase. Looking at forestry modules including fragile roads and public consultation.
- f. Reminder that the new plant health regulations due to come into effect on the 14th December, there is an article in the latest ConFor magazine.

Suggested date of next meeting 28th January 2020.