

ATTG Meeting held at Inveraray on the 23rd October 2012

In attendance: Neil Brown (A&BC – ATTG Vice Chair) Allan Johnston (Coille Haulage) Andy Powell (Adam Wilson Ltd) Callum Robertson (A&BC) Elaine Jamieson (FCS) Gavin Brown (UPM Tilhill) Ian Arnold (Ridings Sawmill Ltd) John Hair (FE) Jon Strickland (Aichesse) Kirsty Robb (ATTG PO) Matt Downs (Holy Loch Port) Michael James (Scottish Woodlands) Neil Beaton (FE) Paul May(UPM Tilhill) Robin Dixon (Robin Dixon and Son) Roland Stiven (TTF) Ross Buchanan (UPM Tilhill) Tom Pierson (UPM Tilhill) Apologies: Fergus Tickell (ATTG Chair) Andrew Dixon, Andy Leitch, Clive Stoddart, David Jardine, Iain Catterwell, James England, James MacDonald, John Little, Neil Proctor, Peter MacKerral, Phil Hinchcliff, Stephen Tong, Steve Miller, Syd House		NB AJ AP CR EJ GB IA JH JS KR MD MJ NB PM RD RS RB TP
Item no.	Item	Action
1.	Welcome and Apologies In the absence of the Chairman Fergus Tickell, Neil Brown (Vice Chair) chaired the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.	
2.	Notes from the previous meetings: Approved with the following amendments: 13 March 2012 – Item No 2 para 2 last sentence removed 23 August 2012 – Item No 2 para 4 replace “for single ownership.....” with ‘Projects shouldn’t give significant competitive advantage to any one party’	KR KR
3.	Matters Arising 23 August 2012 – Item 5 para 3 – As decided, FT has contacted A&BC Planning Manager and expressed ATTG’s concern over the way objections to Core Paths were dealt with by individuals within A&BC	
4	Strategic Timber Transport Scheme National Update Applications should be made before 16 November 2012 with a meeting of the assessment panel scheduled for early December. Approx. 3m funds still to be allocated with perhaps additional funds which were allocated in the previous round becoming available if some projects are not taken forward. Timber Transport Forum Update attached. • Mull Timber Pier (Pennyghael) – Project is in the final stages and the pier will be operational at the end of the year.(January) • Dalmally SHR – Progressing well and felling of road line to commence this week.	

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	• SW Glendaruel SHR – Tenders issued within the month. • Midge Lane – Nearing completion and work has started on the public footpath • WLATHR - Snagging list of around 200 items to be addressed before the road will be fully useable. Definite operational concerns as remedial works to address the above issues will cause sections of the road to be closed	
5.	ATTG projects for STTS November submission • Cladich SHR: Further negotiation required between interested parties/landowners • South Kintyre SHR: will be ready for November submission • B8024: Public road improvements - as above • B 840 Loch Awe East: Public road improvements – as above. • Cross loading/timber handling facilities: FC West Argyll have put forward an area at Sallachry (WLATHR) which could be used as a pilot • West Loch Striven: Further discussions are necessary between interested parties, (Aichesse, UPM Tilhill and A&BC) concerning the West Loch Striven project to determine the best way forward. As soon as the best format has been identified the project must be put forward for pre-screening by Forestry Commission if it is to be submitted in November. • UC12 Strachur public road improvements: ready for November submission • Studies (Environmental, Sound etc etc.) which need to be carried out in support of an STTS project may or may not be eligible for funding, further details can be found HERE in the guidance notes for STTS applications. Essentially yes although anything relating to preliminary consents pre STTS contract would not be eligible.	PM/MJ/ JS/ KR PM/MJ KR/CR KR/CR KR/NP JS/TP, RB/KR/ CR KR/CR/AD
6.	A83 Rest & Be Thankful Forest Road Diversion Update from Transport Scotland: <i>Good progress has been made in connection with the emergency diversion route and Transport Scotland has agreed accommodation works and the terms of compensation with the landowner. The landowner has sent a letter of comfort to Transport Scotland giving the assurance that the Minute of Agreement (MoA) will be signed when the final drafting between the legal representatives is complete.</i> <i>Transport Scotland cannot start work on the private land until the MoA is signed.</i> <i>In the interim, work on the Old Military Road within the Forestry Commission land has progressed well. The delays in getting agreement have had a knock-on effect on the programme. Transport Scotland officials met on site on 12 September with the Argyll Timber Transport Group and a variety of local businesses, including West Coast Motors, Peter McKerral Haulage, and Loch Fyne Oysters.</i> <i>Representatives from the Forestry Commission and Argyll and Bute Council were also present. The group travelled by mini bus along the forest track and then on the OMR to compare the advantages and disadvantages of each route. The Argyll Transport Group has collated comments back from members.</i> <i>These are being published as part of the minutes of the A83 Taskforce meeting of 15th October. It has been agreed with Peter McKerral to undertake a further trial of the hairpin bend and the approach bends with a fully loaded vehicle. This will take place after widening and surfacing works to the other bends have been completed.</i>	

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	NB Scheduled works to Pulpit Rock section on the A82 (14 weeks full closure from October 2013) will impact on the A 83 and further strengthens the need for an adequate diversion to be implemented.	
7.	Partners Review/ Stakeholder Updates - A&BC expenditure on roads within their network was around £8m in the last financial year. 2013 will be nearer the average as the programme is to spend £21M within the next 3 years. - Discussion on predicted timber volumes in Cowal area. FC cannot provide accurate figures on volumes which are likely to be dispatched by sea as this is market lead, but can provide harvesting volumes planned. MD reported that there have been objections raised by A&BC planners regarding the use of land within the Holy Loch Port previously designated as car parking area but occasionally used for short term storage of timber when scheduled shipments are delayed. ATTG will contact planning department to explain the benefits of this (links to cross loading facilities project). - Future pier developments should take into account the need for two berths for loading ships. This would alleviate the pressures put on the roads network when full shipments are hauled over a few days. - Improvements to Campbeltown Pier – KR to confirm when these will be completed and full use of the pier will resume. <i>KR 30-10-12 Handover of the inner berth will take place on 23 November 2011. It is up to the harbour master when the first booking is taken after that so please contact him direct</i>	CR/KR NB/KR
8.	ARM and TTMP's CR and KR continuing to develop TTMP's for key routes which will be available on the A&BC Timber Transport web pages.	CR/KR
9.	AOCB Hitrans Timber Transport Review Later this financial year Hitrans will be carrying out a study which focusses on the forestry sector. In the past, Hitrans have focussed efforts towards encouraging modal shift to rail and sea to reduce pressure on the road transport network. This study intends to work with the 3 mainland Councils, their respective Timber Transport Groups including ATTG and Forestry Enterprise to have a look at current practice and experience, perhaps by mapping timber flows over the last few years; the impacts that is having on the sustainability of the transport network; establish best practice which has developed through local experience and the Roadex project; come up with some thoughts on how we should move forward and the relative cost implications of continuing current practice or other transport/ extraction options.	
10.	Date of next meeting: 19 March 2013	