

Minutes

Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire Timber Transport Group

Meeting 14th January 2019 at 13:30

The Stables, Chatelherault Country Park, Ferniegair, Hamilton, ML3 7UE

Attendee: Alex Murray, James England, Simon Stuart, Bill Tyre, Roland Stiven, Colin Saunders, Keith Wishart, Alistair Taylor, Ian Downie, Stuart Colbron, Doug Howieson, Derek Nelson, Sandy White, Kevin Braidwood, Hannah Richardson.

Apologies: Kerstin Leslie, Mike Yerbury, Andrew Kennedy, Tom Tryon, Neil Dyson, Jamie Farquhar, Tommy Thorburn, John Proudlock, Ali Menary, Alan Christison, Neil Murray, David Hilditch, Janice Kelly, Roderick Melville, Malcolm Murray.

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 to work with JST to arrange**, still ongoing.
- b. AM is ICF representative on FISA steering group. A new updated version of the overarching document, Managing Health and Safety in Forestry is due out by Christmas. **AM will send to SS to forward to the group.** *update, FISA are now looking at March 2019 to publish this document.
- c. Andershaw Road, SS and ID have discussed issues on site, see below.
- d. Consultation template and maps, SS has produced draft. See below.
- e. Planting form from the last meeting, can we put it up on website.
- f. Statutory Plant Health Notices to be shared with SLC, **Done.**

Last meetings minutes signed off.

3. Revised Timber Transport Strategy

SS still working on revised TTS, going back to 2005 document and updating information.

Most work in expanding to include South Lanarkshire.

Point made to identify potential issues and challenges with exit points.

Timeline for completion.

Draft strategy out to AM, RS, DN, NAC, ARA and SLC within 3 weeks.

Mid-February out to whole group for 6-week consultation period.

End of March SS to collate comments for inclusion/ addressing.

Final draft ready for next meeting 16th April 2019.

4. Local Timber Transport Issues

- a. **Police** – Not aware of any issues.
- b. **North Ayrshire** – Gryffe Forest north of Largs has been sold for felling, timber likely to go north through Inverclyde. TTO and harvesting company in communications.
Arran – See below.
- c. **ARA** – All STTG projects finished apart from lining and studs on A714, small amount of money handed back due to ownership issues at bell mouth of U759 Loch Doon road. Claims made/ ready for submission.
- d. **South Lanarkshire** – Andershaw road, try to move timber transport off public road. Looking at options for replacing bridge as well as in forest roads, need to discuss with all interested parties. KW offered FCS help in facilitating discussions **SS and ID to continue to work on this.**
Auldhouse – Reports of lorries driving through Auldhouse village south of East Kilbride. SLC suggest making almost all roads in the area excluded, SS aware of new planting scheme proposals in the area. **SS to arrange visit with East Kilbride roads officers.**
- e. Key council contacts
 - i. NLC – David Hilditch
 - ii. ARA – Kevin Braidwood
 - iii. SLC – Stuart Laird

5. Update on Phytophthora

DH gave update on current efforts in the fight against Phytophthora ramorum. 360 new outbreaks in South Scotland.

Plant health notices for core management area issued first with December Deadlines, others with February deadlines. Very few extensions have been requested.

P. ramorum control to be reviewed in March by Scottish Tree Health Action Group (STHAG) and although there has been pressure to push the control zone outwards, this is not yet certain.

The urban myth of a wet June causes a higher infection frequency the following year will be tested this year, hopefully will prove true.

SPHN should not be allowed to be used as excuse for opportunistic haulage.

CS mentioned Ae Forest alone was issued with 78 SPHN with only a handful left, 2 new outbreaks on Arran.

Not many new outbreaks in Central conservancy, about 12.

Tweed valley of concern currently.

DH mentioned pre-emptive larch fellings being carried out.

JE mentioned the control measures have been helped by suspension of normal harvesting to allow infected larch to be removed. The group were reminded that SPHN deadlines refer to felling not necessarily extraction.

BT made the comment that sawmills set up to cut spruce not larch.

6. Timber Transport Officer Updates

- a. **Consultation Protocols** – Draft consultation document prepared, there will be no volume limits. **SS to adjust and prepare guidance notes for circulation, 4-week consultation period to allow endorsement at next meeting.**
- b. **Revised Agreed Routes Map Update** – SLC ARM now active, however still amendments to be made. Need to formalise process for agreeing amendments.
- c. **Arran** – Recent activities have highlighted issues with extracting timber from the island with limited options available regarding hauliers, slips and ferries. There are various plans afoot to remedy this situation, however it is felt that a sub-group for Arran involving all interested parties would be beneficial. **SS to investigate.**
- d. **Strategic Timber Transport Fund Update – DN.** 2018/19 finishing off, deadline for claims end of February, no extensions. ARA should manage this comfortably.
Looking forward – Cabinet secretary hopeful of similar funding for next year, but not responsible for Transport Scotland.
Last year the budget for STTF announced 23 March unlikely to be any sooner this year.
Therefore, expect to have deadline for 2019/20 bids in early/mid-May.
Work has been done on identifying bottlenecks, trickles and flows which could be used for drawing up STTF proposal, but safety issues also important. We need the group to come forward with proposals for submissions.
Andershaw road a possibility for Prep Grant Funding.
KB stated ARA still unsure of funding but council roads program to be submitted by February in East Ayrshire and March in South Ayrshire. **SS to chase up as programs being developed to identify any STTG may help with.**

7. Timber Transport Forum Update

TTF being held in Edinburgh 25th January, agenda distributed by RS.

RS did make a response on the forums behalf to the Forestry Strategy consultation. There are plans to update the exit point study this year, either by Timber Transport Officers or consultants. AM thought it would be useful for SS to undertake for ASL area.

Confor now merged with UKFPA and there will be some restructuring.

RS has produced a consultation document for transporting Timber on Public Roads and is looking for feedback (and a snappy title).

Governance – Was discussed at TTF in October, suggested MOU for groups and forum itself.

The group is asked to look at the draft and decide what is appropriate for A&SL, topics for discussion include partnership, legitimacy and limits of remit.

SS to circulate and to be included in agenda for next meeting.

8. A.O.C.B

- a. Issue with Agreed Route Map backdrop, 1:25,000 not working **JE to sort.**
- b. DN brought up plant health issues and protocols to ensure hauliers are aware of risks and preventive measures, especially in light of recent outbreaks of *Ips typographus* in South England.

Date of next meeting 16/4/19 10:00. Likely to be in Dumfries House, with visit to Eggers Barony plant in the afternoon.