

Ayrshire & South Lanarkshire - Timber Transport Group

Meeting Minutes Friday 5th December 2014

Troon Room, South Ayrshire Council, Ayr, KA7 1DR

10:00 a.m.

Present: Neil Dyson (Chair), James England (Secretary), Jim Lauder (FCS), John Murray (Adam Wilsons), Bill Tyre (Scottish Woodlands), Sam Booth (Egger Forestry), Tommy Thorburn (Ayrshire Roads Alliance), Keith Wishart (Conservator Central Scotland) Janice Kelly (Ayrshire Roads Alliance), Andy Turnbull (Bidwells).

1. Introduction & apologies - NM welcomed everyone and stated that it was pleased to see a better turn out.

2. Matters arising from meeting of 17th June 2014

3. Police matters

JE mentioned that he wasn't aware of any Police matters. Only issue that had cropped up was over a complaint over speeding but as there were no details it couldn't be pursued.

4. Harvesting Issues

(i) Complaints over hauling timber at unsociable hours

Complaints stem from a house holder and JE gave a standard response over noise and lorries. Explaining that we would need more information to look into this and that lorries were legally allowed to use roads at any times. Would appear to be rattling pins going over pot holes.

5. Agreed Routes Map (ARM)

- (i)** Printed copies available from JE
- (ii)** Timber Transport Management Plans

We discussed the use of Timber Transport Management Plans and how they can be a good way of documenting agreements for timber haulage. JE mentioned that these could be loaded onto the agreed route mapping site and that this ensures they are visible and so that they don't get lost.

6. South of Scotland Timber Transport Officer – Update

• Strategic Timber Transport Fund – Awards

RS mentioned that there had been a variety of schemes put in along with Project Officer roles. Summarised as 9 bids on public roads, 2 haul roads, 1 x sea and two other projects (one website project and one energy project).

- **SCOTS Exit Point Study**

JE/RS discussed what is being undertaken in the form of capturing timber tonnages at all forest exit points on to the public road. These will then be collated and put into tables and it is hoped that the data collected will be made into a software package to allow route modelling. A summary report is to be produced and the work should be completed and available to groups in March 2015.

- **Consultation over consultation routes**

JE mentioned that a couple of incidents had cropped up where consultation route were used and the consultations hadn't happened.

- **Roadside stacking**

Continues to be a problem across the South of Scotland and JE showed some photos of poor practice. JE mentioned that a guide will be produced to cover the legislation and best practice covering items such as traffic management, mud on the road and signage. Complaints of this nature draw lots of bad publicity to the sector and its important that we avoid them.

- **Timber Lorries Overturning**

JE mentioned about the Scottish Woodlands Safety Bulletin (attached) that provides details of an accident within the forest where a timber lorry overturned. The findings suggest that a series of pot holes were being avoided and the road formation collapsed. Thankfully the driver wasn't hurt too badly and the findings are equally applicable to the public roads.

- **Forest accesses**

JE talked about issues over forest accesses where new ones had been put on without the correct considerations of forward visibility etc. Access requirements will vary from Council to Council and based on road category and traffic flows. All should however look to ensure that there is consultation with the Councils Road Department to ensure that they are well constructed and appropriate to the location.

- **Concerns over strapping** – A number of group member had observed incorrect strapping on timber lorries and this was a concern.

- **Timber Transport Forum matters** – See Update Attached below

- **Forum website update** – The Timber Transport Forum website is planned to be upgraded to a new cleaner interface providing better access to the host of information on there.

7. A. O. C. B.

8. Date of Next Meeting – to be confirmed.

1. Forest Industry Safety Accord

The FISA [working group on timber haulage](#) is developing a driver manual for timber hauliers on safety when working on forest sites and a FISA safety guide leaflet on the same subject. The Forum has had recent input to the manual.

2. Timber Transport Website

The Timber Transport Forum Website will be revamped over the winter and re-launched in the spring 2015. There will be scope for group members to provide comment through the Forum in December and January. I will be looking for groups to review and revise, where appropriate, the group pages.

3. Agreed Routes Map website

The contract for the Agreed Routes Map website has been continued for a period of one year and will now run until March 2016. There is a cost of £3500 for the year 2015-2016 which will be shared between the 10 groups, so £350 each collected in March 2015.

4. Shared Access on Forest Roads

The Timber Transport Toolkit's protocol on shared access has been revised to incorporate the option of access leases. The [revised protocol](#) is downloadable as a separate document from the Toolkit page of the Forum website. Similarly the [road design annex](#) was updated earlier this year. The Toolkit itself will be updated as part of the website revamp.

5. Exit Point Data

The Exit Point Data collected for Scotland is being processed and developed into a GIS based mapping tool. This should be completed and available to groups in March 2015. Groups can continue to collect information where there are known gaps in the data.

6. National Forest Inventory by Local Authority

The Forum requested that the National Forest Inventory produce 25 year timber production forecasts at local authority level for Scotland as this would provide a cross check on the total volumes of timber that have been allocated to exit points. FC has provided this data for the council areas covered by Agreed Routes Maps in Scotland. These will soon be available from www.forestry.gov.uk/inventory

7. Access onto the Public Road

There is ongoing discussion regarding the technical roading standards expected where forest roads exit onto the public road and whether formal good practice should be prepared. Please feed your thoughts on this to the Forum via the groups.

8. Good Practice

The Forum has hard copies of the Road Haulage of Round Timber Code of Practice and Managing Timber Transport Good Practice Guide. Further copies of Tread Softly are being printed. These are freely available. All publications can be downloaded from www.timbertransportforum.org.uk

9. Timber Transport Forum on Twitter

Follow us on @TimberTransport

10. STTS Funding

Title	Type	Lead Partner
Several projects are ongoing with grant funding to claim before the end of February 2015		
All project officers		
Grampian pre-emptive drainage	Public Road	The Moray Council
B871 Bridges	Public Road	Highland Council
B836 East-West Cowal	Public Road	Argyll & Bute Council
Landing Craft	Sea	UPM Tilhill
Isle Of Arran Phase 2	Public Road	David Lodge, North Ayrshire Council
South loch Ness	Public Road	Highland Council
Loch Arkaig TTIP	Public Road	Scottish Woodlands Ltd
C110 Fasnakyle to Cannich Phase 2 (2102)	Public Road	Highland Council
After the recent round of applications funding has been offered to		
All Project officer posts		
Timber Transport Forum Website	Small project	Confor
Applecross (agreed earlier)	Public Road	Highland Council
Ormidale-Waulkmill Hill	In Forest Haul Route	Tilhill Forestry Ltd
South Loch Ness In Forest Haul Route	In Forest Haul Route	Forest Enterprise Scotland
Argyll Forest & Energy Sector - Combined Opportunity Mapping	project	Argyll and Bute Council
Grampian Pre-emptive Drainage Programme 2015	Public Road	The Moray Council
U13E Forgiehill Road Culvert	Public Road	The Moray Council
Ayrshire Roads Alliance (South) (part)	Public Road	Ayrshire Roads Alliance
Ruthven Bridge Replacement	Public Road	The Highland Council
B976 / B9158 Burnroot Sawmill to Dinnet	Public Road	Aberdeenshire Council
A decision is still being considered regarding		
Branchliner	Rail	HITRANS

Flow Country Timber Links	Public Road	Highland Council
A further eight projects were not offered funding.		

Whether there will be any budget left to allocate to another round to spend in 15/16 is very largely dependent on the decision about Branchliner.