

Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire Timber Transport Group

Meeting Minutes 22nd September 2016

JST Services (Scotland) Ltd, Highfield Business Park, St Quivox, AYR KA6 5HQ

Present: Neil Dyson (Chair & Forest Manager) ND, James England (SoSTTO) JE, David Hilditch (North Ayrshire Council) DH, Andrei Martucci (South Lanarkshire Council) AM, Neil Murray, Tommy Thorburn, Derek Nelson, Keith Wishart, Alex Murray, Ali Menarry, PC Malcolm Murray, Kerstin Leslie, Kevin Braidwood, Janice Kelly, Justin Adamson, Colin Hulme.

Apologies from: Roderick Leslie Melville, Alan Christison, Neil White, Kenny Mackenzie,

1. Welcome, introduction & apologies (Neil Dyson, Chair).

ND welcomed all those present and thanked John Scott for providing the meeting room and for the hospitality. ND commented that there was a good turn out for the meeting which had been a problem previously.

2. Matters arising from previous meeting 24th June 2016:

JE ran through the previous meeting minutes and commented on the previous poor turn out.

- Under item 3 – guidance on entrance areas still needs to be progressed as suggested via the relevant SCOTS working group. Having a standard document would be of huge benefit even if it was just for the South of Scotland.

ACTION: JE to speak with SCOTS representatives about the suggested development of forest access guidance.

- Under item 5 – JE commented that STTS bids really need to be the other way around coming from the Group from a strategic point of view and being worked up from there.
- Under item 5c – JE highlighted issues with hauliers not following the agreed route maps and it was discussed at length. The issues lie with the hauliers at fault coming from outside the area for example in Wales. These hauliers are unaware of the protocols which is disappointing given the Harvesting Managers and Forest Works Managers should be providing ample maps to ensure compliance. AM – highlighted that it was likely these hauliers from outside the region from England who were causing the issues as they won't be aware of the Agreed Routes Map.
- All the other items are covered under the agenda items.

3. Local Timber Transport Issues:

- a. **Police Update – via e-mail from PC Malcolm Murray** - Sgt Alan McDowall (Maybole / Carrick area) gets the odd complaint / allegation about timber hauliers deviating from routes but nothing else of note that I'm aware of. No other issues noted.
- b. **Roads Alliance** - South Ayrshire Council & East Ayrshire Council update on Roads Alliance – JE all queries still going through Tommy Thorburn who has been excellent at responding. Windfarm traffic has been more of an issue in the NAC area.
- c. **North Ayrshire Council – David Hilditch takes over from David Lodge and reported no issues.**
- d. **South Lanarkshire Council** – Andrei highlighted the entrance design guide by the Highland Council and that this was a useful document for the Forest Industry that they were intending to take forward to Society of Chief Officers of Transportation in Scotland

(SCOTS). This was with a view that others might adopt the guidance document.
(Attached). RS mentioned that the guide was on the [Timber Transport Forums website](#).

4. Update on Haulage activities:

ND – Still lots of timber moving as production is still in a peak.

Steven Parr (Euroforest) via e-mail - Just a quick note of thanks to Tommy Thorburn at the Roads Alliance for his quick turnaround of e-mails and assistance.

JE has been involved in the Interconnector Project covering South/East Ayrshire Council areas and the industry had worked well with the various Councils to coordinate several small scale timber haulage operations.

RS mentioned about the National Forest Inventory (NFI) which provides useful information on the future availability of timber for harvesting for 25 years. Approximately 6 million tonnes over the next 15 years equating to 700,000T /year. This information is useful for Councils to help with their roads management planning: [Ayrshire Click Here >>](#) [South Lanarkshire >>](#)

5. South of Scotland Timber Transport (SoSTTO) Updates

- a. **Ayrshire STTS projects** – JE mentioned that there were 3 bids that were submitted from the region. RS said these were as follows:
 - i. North Ayrshire Council – Further work on the String Road on Arran £1.7m;
 - ii. Ayrshire Roads Alliance (East) – 9 sites £905,000;
 - iii. Ayrshire Road Alliance (South) – £250,000.

RS highlighted that all bids had all been rejected because they hadn't been well developed and they hadn't demonstrated the vital partnership working, they lacked strategy, lacked reference to the exit point data and in some cases the Agreed Routes Map, and there was no groups support to any of the bids. RS highlighted that it is paramount that the private sector contribute to developing public sector bids and share the view that the projects are regionally significant. Project proposals must comply with the STTS essential criteria: The STTS cannot provide 'state aid' support to a business or an industry but instead supports clear environmental and social benefits.

DH mentioned that there was a short timescale for bidding (March to May) and that they felt in the timescales provided that they had submitted a reasonable bid. RS is keen that the region receives STTS funding but, particularly for public sector bids, the industry has to demonstrate that it share the priorities of the Council.

RS said that current proposed bids from the region could be revisited and improved upon.

ACTION: JE to organise a meeting with Councils and Forest Managers on Arran and in Ayrshire to develop a suitable STTS applications.

AM unlikely that any bids are to come from the South Lanarkshire council due to public funding restrictions.

RS highlighted that there had been 20 bids received but some didn't meet the scheme criteria and therefore it is highly likely that there will be another round of STTS.

ACTION: All expect a call shortly for further STTS bids.

ACTION: All ensure STTS bids come from group discussions and are fully supported by the group as being regionally strategic and fitting the STTS essential criteria.

Longer term the Forum was lobbying for a continuation of the scheme. This might be a 3 year scheme to allow project development.

The Land Use strategy for Scotland has no mention of impacts on rural infrastructure in relation to land use. The Forum has highlighted this in responses to the Land Use Strategy consultations.

- b. **Landing Craft Timber Transport Project** – On behalf of Duncan Mackinnon from Tilhill, JE gave a short overview of the landing craft project, given majority of the timber ends up in Ayrshire. (Attached).
- c. **Ayrshire Timber Transport Strategy 2005** – [Click Here >>](#) We discussed the out-dated strategy from 2005 and if this was worth updating. RS thought it would be good if members of the group could provide co-funding to this so that an application could be made to STTS. This would allow suitable consultant to develop a revised strategy that would assist and support future STTS bids by looking at constraints on infrastructure. RS suggested perhaps £500 per group member. JE thought it would be <£8000 to develop a revised strategy. DH thought they might be able to support this.

ACTION: All please provide JE your thoughts on supporting financially a STTS bid for the revised strategy for Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire.

RS mentioned a recent FCS report on the Economic Contribution of Forestry to Scotland estimates that timber transport creates around 1200 full time jobs and is worth around £50m to the Scottish economy. [Click Here >>](#)

- d. **Concerns over speeding and hauliers not following the ARM map.**
JE had reports of two speeding reports of timber lorries being followed and were recorded on a dash camera going considerably faster than they should have done.
- e. **Confor Consultation document** – JE consultation document is for information and highlights guidance on options for public consultation for forestry (attached). ND – mentioned long term forest plans already adopt the approaches mentioned with formal scoping meetings along with the need to consult being part of the certification process.

JE mentioned that the conference held at Battleby earlier this year covered this theme and the materials was available from the forums website.

FCS is also revising the formal consultation process

- f. **Loading roadside timber Guidance** – JE reminded everyone that the Forum has produced the guidance which has previously been circulated and has been sent to the group's Police representatives. We don't have any hard copies left but is available electronically from the Timber Transport Forum website [Click Here >>](#)

- g. **Winter treatment routes** – JE raised this to see if we can get all the regions gritting routes together as some hauliers had felt that the treatment routes were inconsistent last winter. DB all the winter service plans are available on website.

Ayrshire Roads Alliance (East/South Ayrshire) – [Click Here >>](#)

North Ayrshire Council – [Click Here >>](#)

South Lanarkshire Council – [Click Here >>](#)

6. Timber Transport Forum Update – *this was already covered in earlier discussions.*

- a. Strategic Timber Transport Fund Update
- b. Lobbying for a continuation of STTS

7. Agreed Routes Map (ARM)

(i) Ayrshire ARM map amendments in light of SCOTS exit point data.

JE went over the exit point study that was carried out last year and showed the map for Ayrshire that has the estimated tonnages and locations for 15 years.

RS showed the software that we have had produced that allows some modelling of timber flows. JE mentioned that Councils often won't permit the installation of bespoke software. Exit points could be shown on the GB online ARMS map.

ACTION: JE to organise a meeting to review the current ARM maps.

(ii) South Lanarkshire ARM map.

JE/AM mentioned about Staff changes and that we had an outline draft but will arrange to meet and report back to the group at the next meeting.

ACTION: JE to meet South Lanarkshire Council to produce ARM map for the area.

(iii) Timber Transport Management Plans & usage.

JE gave a reminder about usage to Councils representatives as a way of documenting control measures on a particular route where there are challenges. These can be placed on the website for all to see.

8. A. O. C. B.

Neil thanked everyone for coming.

9. Date of Next Meetings –

Next meeting will be February 2017 venue and time to be confirmed.