

Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire Timber Transport Group

Meeting Minutes 30th January 2014

**The Ayr room, South Ayrshire Council Headquarters
County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr, KA7 1DR**

Present: Neil Dyson, Emma Miller, Ali Menarry, Neil Murray, James England, Roland Stiven, Steven Parr, Mark Kirk, Keith Wishart, David Lodge, Tommy Thorburn, PC Sandy Phillips, PC Malcolm Murray.

Apologies from: Andrew Dixon, Sam Booth, Alan Christianson, Roderick Leslie Melville.

1. Welcome, introduction & apologies (Neil Dyson, Chair)
2. Matters arising from previous meeting of **16th September 2013**.
All matters will be covered by current agenda but reiterated about the poor attendance that had cancelled previous meetings.
3. Local Timber Transport Issues:
 - a. Police report – PC Sandy Phillips
 - Malcolm Murray was likely to attend meetings instead of Sandy as he would be dealing with trunk road issues in the central network. However happy to assist with any timber transport related matter.
 - Cumnock Community Council complaint over timber lorries on B7046 at New Cumnock.
 - James to provide updated Agreed Route Map to Sandy/Malcolm.
 - Received a complaint over B743 and a timber lorry driving over the mini roundabout.
 - James mentioned about video footage he had received of a timber lorry that was speeding and the speed recorded on an in car video camera that has GPS built in to record speed and routing information was 68mph.
 - Other complaints received were on the A714 over convoying lorries.
 - b. South Ayrshire Council – Tommy Thorburn
 - C1 road will have a 5 day closure and the B7035 at Straiton has works planned.
 - Timber lorry turned over on its side near Pinwherry.
 - c. East Ayrshire Council – John Trakalo
 - C36 excluded route was found to be used by a timber lorry and no registration numbers were recorded but it will need to be carefully monitored.
 - d. North Ayrshire Council – David Lodge
 - C80 has been destroyed mainly HGV's heading to and from the paper mill.
 - Windfarm – prior to consents being given new infrastructure that is being put in where existing forestry could benefit should be given the agreed route map. James mentioned that within D&G Council area he had worked with the Planning team to get the following text into the Interim Windfarm Policy. This asks the developer to consider the future needs of forestry where there are benefits in sharing infrastructure and this has been conditioned in the past.

D&G Councils Interim Windfarm Policy (13mb bit too large to send)

www.dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=9982

...the relevant wording that might interest you is:

7.59 There may be benefits through the joint discussion between the FCS and the wind energy developers early in the development/ design of proposals in respect of access roads and haulage routes. In some instances access tracks that are required for the temporary use during construction of a wind energy development may be suitable for long term forestry operations. In these cases further consideration will need to be given to their location and visual impacts.

e. South Lanarkshire Council – No issues raised.

4. Update on Haulage activities.

- Emma Miller – Very busy generally and Caledonian Paper are busy.
- Neil Murray – to provide harvesting map to Tommy Thorburn.

5. South of Scotland Timber Transport (SoSTTO) Updates & Timber Transport Forum Project Officer

- a. Strategic Timber Transport Fund Update
 - i. Ayrshire STTS projects & Update – C1 Straiton STTS project nearing completion and Roland is to visit once works completed.
 - ii. Lobbying for a continuation of STTS any feedback welcome – Forum preparing a document for future STTS funding.
 - iii. Discussed any new strategic projects for development into STTS bids for 2015-2016 1yr funding period.
- b. Timber Transport Forum Update
 - i. Revised Business Plan – will be circulated through all the groups shortly.
 - ii. Tread Softly – Roland mentioned that a document on Timber Truck Wheel and Tyre Configurations is being produced by the Timber Transport Forum.
 - iii. Timber Transport Toolkit is proposed to be revised.
 - iv. Timber Transport Forum Conference 2014 – Easterbrook Hall Dumfries 13th March 2014.
 - v. Forum is also looking into the shared usage of roads and lease agreements.
- c. SCOTS Research Project - The Future of Timber Transport.
 - Roland mentioned that there was to be a Scotland-wide study on exit points for timber onto the public road which will collect strategic level information on future timber flows to assist local authorities and timber transport groups in infrastructure management. Currently it is out for tender and updates will be provided.
- d. Ayrshire Timber Transport Strategy 2005 time to update?
 - Roland thought it would be a good idea to follow the recent revisions to the Woodland Strategy for Ayrshire and update the Timber Transport Strategy.
- e. Timber Lorry Identification Chart, complaints and conflicts.
 - James mentioned that he had compiled an identification chart of timber lorries operating in the south of Scotland and it was helping to identify timber lorries where complaints had been generated but like most complaints there are two sides and as with car drivers there are good and bad the same is true of timber lorry drivers.

6. Agreed Routes Map (ARM)

(i) Ayrshire ARM map amendments.

- Arran had some previous errors which have now been rectified and the correct map is being displayed on the website.
- None mentioned but it was suggested that a small working group be setup to meet with Roads Engineers and review in light of structures and weak roads. End of August was mentioned as an appropriate time.

(ii) South Lanarkshire ARM map.

- James still looking to progress this and meet with Roads Engineers so that the map can be rubber stamped by the group and then added to the web sites for agreed routes.

(iii) Timber Transport Management Plans.

- These are becoming more common and it helps to document the agreements that have been reached and helps with further operations or where there are multiple harvesting operations on a particular road.

7. Larch Disease & Biosecurity.

- Neil Murray gave an overview of the serious issue with infected larch and there FCS alone had 6000ha to deal with and some are in areas where no previous harvesting is likely to take place.

8. Dalmellington & Pilot Hill (Neil Murray).

- Dalmellington to Straiton Road - Mentioned about a road that frequently floods at and James will pass the details on.
- Pilot Hill, Cattle Grid on the public road south of Crosshill - at present FCS felt that it is in the wrong place for FCS and the private forest in that it will require extensive fencing along both sides of the road and Neil was enquiring if this can be moved. James to follow up with South Ayrshire Council.

9. A. O. C. B.

- Tommy mentioned that as of 1st April 2014 South Ayrshire Council and East Ayrshire Council would have a shared roads service called the Ayrshire Roads Alliance. As a result, there are some changes to communicating with the new organisation:

E-mail All roads staff emails have changed from 1 April 2014 to

firstname.secondname@ayrshireroadsalliance.org

- James mentioned that Argyll had done a successful trial using CTI on an 18T weight restricted road which proved successful with 3300T and exception certificates were issued by the Council to try this.
- James mentioned that New planting schemes are looking at the ARM maps closely and requests are coming in to change routes but these would need putting to the group to authorise.

10. Date of Next Meeting propose week commencing 6th – 10th October 2014. Date & venue to be agreed.