

Minutes

Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire Timber Transport Group

Meeting 28th January 2020 at 10:00

Assembly Room, Low Park Museum, 129 Muir Street, Hamilton

Attendee: Alex Murray, Simon Stuart, Keith Wishart, Bill Tyre, Derek Nelson, Steph Bateman, Hannah Richardson, Adam Stokes, Alan Christison, Colin Saunders, Radek Zebrowski, Sandy White, Stuart Colbron, Ian Downie, Robin Dixon, Tom Roberts.

Apologies: Roland Stiven, Neil Murray, Sam Huddlestone, Janice Kelly, David Hilditch, Kevin Braidwood, Andrew Kennedy, Roderick Leslie Melville, Tom Tryon, Iassac Adams, Malcolm Murray, Ian Harvey, David Stoddart, Andrew Kitching, Mike Yerbury.

1. Welcome, Introduction & Apologies

AM welcomed everyone to the meeting. **SS** then read out apologies.

2. Matters Arising from Meeting 16th October 2019

Issues arising from last meeting will be picked up in agenda items.

Last meetings minutes signed off.

3. Revised Timber Transport Strategy

SS has provided group with updated document.

A few minor comments received from DN will be incorporated before finalising.

The need for an action plan to make the strategy more relevant was brought up.

Regular discussions and amendments of the strategy were suggested.

The strategy was signed off.

SS to make final changes and upload to website before next meeting.

4. Local Timber Transport Issues

- a. Police** – No police representatives could attend, but no issues were reported by them.

Last meeting mention was made of timber being stolen beside M74, SS did investigate and police aware of incident, part of bigger investigation.

AC mentioned timber being stolen from a site near Dailly. **SS** to investigate.

- b. North Ayrshire** – Imachar pier proposals, Robin Dixon present at meeting and hoping to talk to FLS.

SPHN issues on the Machrie Moor road still ongoing, NAC working with FLS to deal with them. **Probable STTS bid.**

ARM issues beside Shiskine, **SS to sort out.**

- c. ARA** – Three successful STTS bids;

1. U27 works complete.
2. A713 Works finished.
3. U759 still to undertake works.

- Still waiting for actual bid suggestions, likely roads are;

- B734 west of Barr.
- B741 to east of Dailly.
- C88 south of Crosshill.

- d. South Lanarkshire** – Issues with loads overturning on A70 at Glenbuck, loads of finished product probably from Egger. **SS and ID to correspond with TR.**

New CEO at SLC from Argyll, used to STTS money, pressure to get STTS bids in.

Andershaw road issues still ongoing, extraction from Glentaggart likely to start soon.

- e. Key council contacts**

i. NLC – David Hilditch

ii. ARA – Kevin Braidwood

1. Keith Jolly – East Ayrshire
2. David McLauchlan – South Ayrshire

iii. SLC – Stuart Colbron

5. Timber Transport Group Governance

SS and **AM** apologised for not having this finalised, suggest going back to Roland's template.

SS to send out to everyone, highlighting issues to discuss at next meeting.

6.

a. Consultation Procedures

Still issues here so everyone was reminded yet again.

- i. **Timing of submissions** – Everyone was reminded the sooner consultation proposals were submitted the better, **SS** always happy to look anything pre-submission.

All submissions should be sent to the council cc'ed to the project officer.

- ii. **Timings for Approvals** – There were complaints about time taken for some consultation approvals to be dealt with, the aim is for responses within 4 weeks.

ARA apologised and mentioned changes in staff and workloads causing delays. Hopefully will be sorted soon.

However also instances of companies coming back after 2 weeks desperate to start, need to understand approvals do take time. We will do what we can.

SS to work with councils to attempt to keep things running smoothly.

- b. Things are improving with communication, one job in East Ayrshire the harvesting contractor did point out deterioration on a road before Christmas to the forest manager who got in touch with SS and EAC to appraise them of the situation, while holding off restarting extraction after Xmas. EAC could then arrange patching works to allow the job to continue without trashing the road.
- c. SS also in contact with Renfrewshire council for works happening in their area.

7. Access Points and other works on public roads

- a. **SLC** continuing to work with forestry companies on appropriate access point specifications for smaller amounts to timber.
- b. Again everyone was reminded to check with councils for all new accesses and upgrades of existing accesses as regardless of planning permission any work within 2m of the road edge is likely to require a road opening permit.

8. Timber Transport Officer Updates

- a. **Revised Agreed Routes Map Update** – Amendments to the ARM were agreed.

SS to organise update.

Routes to be amended were;

U93 at Shiskine on Arran.

b. Working Groups

- a) **Arran** – Now overall strategy finalised SS to work with NAC and other interested parties on Arran strategy.
- b) **U27 – SS to maintain contact with all parties to coordinate operations.**
- c) **Andershaw Road** – Once timber exit point data available interested parties will be contacted to discuss timber flows and timescales.

c. Timber Strapping Issues and Forestry CPC Modules.

The group were updated on a couple of recent instances of strapping issues; The first instance was to the north of Barr and resulted in a shed load. The second was an RTA caused by a car pulling out in front of a lorry, where the load shifted but stayed on the truck.

The group were reminded of strapping guidance and also that the trial CPC module run in November was due to be rolled out throughout the country including ones in Ayr, Castle Douglas and Lockerbie (Dates to be confirmed).

- d. **Timber Flow Information** – Exit point data being updated this year, so hopefully will be able to help identify areas of infrastructure requiring work. This is still ongoing, and managers were reminded to assist the survey team in collecting the data.

SS still trying to obtain any data available from main processors about origins of their roundwood (ongoing).

e. Strategic Timber Transport Fund Update

Two approved ARA bids completed, one outstanding.

f. ASL STTS bids 2020/21

Submission Date 9th March 2020.

SS working with applicants to get bids in on time.

- g. **TTO funding 2020/21** – Group approves support for funding.

h. TTO pay rise/ Extra funding.

SS put forward case for extra funding starting 2021/22 to stay in line with other TTOS. This would be put forward when the position retendered in 2021.

However, SS also suggested £10/ day to be added in 2020/21 to allow the purchase of ArcGIS for amending ARM. Especially as will have to add almost all SLC road numbers.

The group discuss while SS made himself scarce, and the consensus was that SS was doing a good job and was deserving of a pay rise, the group would like additional information before agreeing to ArcGIS. **SS to provide.**

9. Timber Transport Forum Update

TTF was held in Edinburgh 24th January 2020.

Items discussed included;

Updating of exit point data which is still ongoing.

Conference agenda discussed.

FISA guidance on health and safety in forestry has been refreshed and new Welfare Guide finalised.

James England to prepare discussion paper on the circumstances and options for private sector contributions to public road improvement or repair.

Review of transport codes of practise to be finalise by 31st January and hopefully ready for conference in March.

A video was shown of a proposed system to comply with working at height regulations on a flatbed truck.

Next TTF meeting, 26th June 2020.

(Full draft minutes attached)

10.A.O.C.B

- a. AM brought up the fact that both John Paterson and Neil Stoddart are unwell at the moment and the group sent their best wished..
- b. Derek Nelson retires at the beginning of April and the group thanked him for all his good work.

Suggested date of next meeting 14th April 2020.