

Minutes

Ayrshire and South Lanarkshire Timber Transport Group

Meeting 8th March 2022 at 10:30

Online

Attendee: Alex Murray, Simon Stuart, Bill Tyre, Stewart Marshall, John Murray, Alistair Taylor, Gale Ward, Hannah Richardson, Rod Taylor, James Macdonald, Iain Thompson, David Hilditch, Sam Huddleston, Kenny Mackenzie, Roland Stiven, Paul Boobyer, Andrew Kitching, David Stoddart, Stuart Colbron, Ian Downie, Radek Zebrowski.

Apologies: Andy Powell, Tom Tryon, Sandy White, Kevin Braidwood, Iain McMurtie, James Thomson, Mike Yerbury.

1. Welcome, Introduction & Apologies

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

2. Minutes of Last Meeting 20th October 2020

Group asked to submit any amendment to the minutes to SS by 18/3/22.

3. Recent Storms Arwen et al.

No major damage within the area, possible displacement of work to affected areas.

4. Local Timber Transport Issues

a. **Police** – No police representatives, no information on any issues.

b. **North Ayrshire** – DH mentioned difficulties in getting contractors onto Arran to carry out STTS work, had to hand money back.

Tried to use Troon Tugs but couldn't come up with practicable solution. Need to sort out if reapplying.

c. **ARA** – No representatives present, SS to pick up any issues in his report.

d. **South Lanarkshire** – SC brought up the issue of weak bridges including at Crawford and Sropton and Snar. Need to work together to sort out.

Excluded routes need early consultation, do not wait until about to haul timber.

Council having difficulties in some cases identifying owners of trees overhanging the road, **SS** offered to help where possible.

5. Timber Transport Sub-groups

- a. **Arran** – There was an online meeting for Arran last year, possibly time to have another one.
- b. **Crawford** – Gather interested parties once engineers reports available.
- c. **Glentagart** – **SC** reminded **SS** that there was still timber to come out here.
- d. **U27** – Benefited from STTS money coming back in, next two jobs lined up.

6. Timber Transport Group Governance

AM and **SS** to sort out.

7. Consultation Procedures

- a. **Timescales** – Complains from both sides about timings.

Need to make sure consultations take place in good time before operations due to start. Pre-felling application always a good time to start.

No problem with multiple consultation documents being submitted by Forest Manager, Harvesting Manager and Haulier, better than everyone thinking someone else has done this.

Acknowledgement of receipt of consultation documents always useful to make sure that e-mails not overlooked.

Timescale of at least 6 weeks should be allowed, this should be possible even with time sensitive jobs such as SPHNs.

Emergency works please feel free to call **SS** to assist if need be.

- b. **Brash and Stone**

Again a reminder that these works are important to control properly

This has been discussed many times before and common sense is usually sufficient to deal with any issues.

Hauliers have to take responsibility for the road, report any deterioration quickly.

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

c. Long Term Forest Plans

Reminder that although LTFP do allow felling to be undertaken without felling permissions at each operation, consultation with the council where necessary should be done for each new set of operations.

d. Neighbours

Again, reiterating communication a useful tool to inform neighbours and communities about haulage and harvesting plans to keep them onside.

e. Woodland Creation

Engagement with woodland creation plans at an early stage important, also remember timber haulage will be many years down the road and expectations should reflect this.

However, clear guidance on what is likely to be required to allow timber transport to occur in future should be put forward.

8. Access Points and other works on public roads

- a. Specifications** - Appropriate access point specifications for smaller amounts to timber.

DH mentioned NAC depend on operators to come forward with specifications fit for purpose.

- b. Road Opening Permits and Other Legal Requirements** – Reminder that all classified roads (A, B or C) may need planning permission. U class roads need prior notification.

Sometimes prior notification sufficient for C-class roads but this must be checked with the relevant council.

Services were discussed with some councils expecting services such as “Dial before you Dig” to be used before works commenced, while other councils would supply service information.

Clarification was requested and any information councils already had would be shared in advance of works.

9. Timber Transport Officer Updates

- a. Revised Agreed Routes Map Symbology and more information about Restricted Routes and Excluded Routes** – Other groups have been discussing the colours on the agreed route map and whether red was appropriate for

agreed routes for instance, members were asked their thoughts. No strong feelings put forward.

Restricted routes and TTMP, it has been suggested that each restricted route should have a Timber Transport Management Plan attached to it. The one TTMP in Ayrshire was produced so long ago that it should be looked at again, the question is whether TTMP should be produced or consultations undertaken on a case by case basis as is already happening.

As reported before SLC looking at excluded routes and reasoning, SS to investigate in other areas.

b. Timber Transport Academies.

These are happening across the country and have been well received. One recently in Ayrshire.

c. Complaints.

There have been a few, but generally hauliers very good when contacted and problems solved quickly.

We still have drivers using excluded routes and we need to address this.

d. Strategic Timber Transport Fund Update.

Some money came back very late, unable to reallocate.

Next round due to be allocated in 1st week of May 2022.

e. ASL STTS bids 2021/22

All mainland bids finished on time, additional funding for U27 with reallocated money.

Difficulty with Arran works and getting contractors over on the ferry and works not completed.

f. ASL STTS bids 2022/23

NAC – Arran, Ross Road due to be resubmitted along with Sannox slip road.

ARA – Various bids in preparation.

SLC – Decided not to submit any bids this year.

Submission date for bids 21st March 2022.

All councils informed bids must be with SS by 16/3/22.

g. TTO funding 2022/23

Still some carry over from members subscriptions. However, current subscriptions about £1,500 short of sustainable funding at current levels.
Require at least 3 new contributing members.

10.Timber Transport Forum Update

Pau Booyer updated the group.

TTF was held online 28th January 2022.

Items discussed included;

TTF conference being held in Penrith 25th March 2022.

STTs pilot being set up in North England.

Road haulage – HGV speed limit to be raised from 40mph to 50mph, trial on A75.
Has forum backing in principle.

Carbon net zero by 2035 in Scotland, how is this to be done? PB in discussion with consultant looking into alternative fueling points.

Next TTF meeting, 29th April 2022.

11.Coillte Haulage, Logistics and Telematics Project.

It was agreed **SS** would circulate this around the group after the meeting.

12.A.O.C.B

- a. Forest and Land Scotland low ground pressure group moving forward. FLS to conclude survey in December 2022.

From April 2023 all crane lorries and/or wagon and drags running on any FLS road will have CTI or other LGP system fitted (Discussions with the industry ongoing on this).

From April 2025 all lorries running on FLS designated LGP roads will have CTI or other LGP system fitted.

Suggested date of next meeting 7th June 2022. In person?