

Notes from the Glen Isla Meeting 8-3-11

Need

- An overall community need that is understood and appreciated by the community
- Not need as perceived by a small section of community with singular aims
- The need can be for a specific group in the community which touches the whole community
- Sensitivity to needs of all parties
- Plan long term / sustainable

Glen Isla Community

- Important to involve very local people / keep them informed. May not come to meetings so need good local ambassadors
- Local community can offer many skills for this project
- Need to develop local economic, hence social opportunities

Business Community

- Being informed of all developments (so able to advertise to customers)
- Good simple advertising material
- Signage – Make access as easy as possible to aid group arrival
- Develop Accommodation Facilities

Mountain Bike Community

- Biking Club for all ages
- Orange and black trails will bring in wider variety of MB enthusiasts – in all weathers / seasons
- Dirt Jumps – Lots
- Guiding / Instruction
- Develop as a group venue
- Good Nature (*Natural?*) Trails
- Trail centre close to home filling a geographical gap
- As above
- Trail Centre offering something which other don't in eastern Scotland – more natural trails?
- Natural trails with access to wilderness biking

DD8, PH10, PH11 Community

- Involving / communicating with all schools, youth clubs, scouts etc
- Skills trails for developing young riders

People

- Right skills, commitment and overall community interest need to be present within the group
- Self assessed skill base may show up deficiencies and how these deficiencies can be overcome requires to be addressed
- Willingness to work as a team
- Requirement for everyone in the organisation to be actively involved, not just there to make up numbers
- Non-representative – specialised interest and knowledge yes, but group loyalty to the overall need and objective is paramount
- Young people – the future

What Skills Will a Community Organisation Need?

- Networking and communication
- Fundraising specialist
- Environmental and energy sustainability knowledge
- Legal
- Ability to communicate with each other and to the public and communities
- Management and structure
- Publicity
- Ability to engage with local community
- Financial input / understanding
- Will to make work most important
- Good communication
- Fund raising experience
- Financial management strengths
- Diplomacy

What Level of Representation Should Each Community Have?

- Each Community should have equal representation
- A broad spectrum of ages!
- Equal consideration regardless of level of representation
- Important to communicate effectively with active schools, teams and other outdoor education groups to encourage they are represented
- As a biker I think local communities need to lead if any chance of centre funding
- Young people from all communities

This organisation wants to develop a Trail Centre which will...

- Traverse everyone's needs!
- Bring local communities together
- Put Glenisla on the map
- Regenerate community
- Bring jobs to the local area
- Fill a geographical hole for dedicated trail centre
- Provide! – Recreational opportunities for a wider variety of community and tourists
- Bring visitors numbers
- Develop MTB's for local youth
- Develop recreational opportunities
- Promote health
- Promote local area
- Attract tourists to Angus
- Help local business
- Promote mountain biking
- Be sensitive and responsive to the needs of the existing communities
- Strive to be as inclusive as possible
- Maintain the balance between all aspects of glen users
- Draw people into area
- Put Glenisla on the map
- The best of its kind
- Brings a focus to Glenisla community
- Enhances job and business prospects within the glen

SWOT analysis

Strengths

- Forestry commission positive at present
- Lots of interest / enthusiasm
- Introducing families to MB inclusive
- Opportunities for other business spin offs
- Other local activities
- Current government promotion of healthy / active lifestyles
- Support from G. business development groups
- Detail of feasibility study
- Fills a definite gap
- Natural surroundings
- Wide coverage of potential users
- Possibility of year round activity (Cross country skiing)
- Pulling people together
- Bringing lots of new visitors
- No competition
- Young people diversionary activities
- Unique location
- Geographic gap

- Beautiful countryside / scenery
- Near Cairngorm National Park
- Good terrain
- Lots of support
- Good network of trails (wild)
- Schools buying bikes and interested in promoting mountain biking
- Community drivers venture
- Targeted at families
- Lots of young people interested
- Other activities eg Wildlife spotting, adventure walks
- Link with Glensher / Highland Perthshire
- Near Glenshee
- Trees / normal hill
- 2km blue descending
- Lots of viewpoints
- Volunteers helping to build good trails

Weakness

- Lack of advanced trails
- Run in period to get financial sustainability may be longer than anticipated
- Weather
- Access roads
- Guarantee of funding
- Available accommodation
- Availability / response time and emergency services
- Road networks
- Traffic increase
- Funding
- Road networks
- Quite a trek
- Lack MB accommodation in local community
- Current financial network
- Inability to charge for trails
- Reliance on a small business

Opportunity

- Jobs for local people
- XL ski trails on one of the loops
- Linking businesses together
- Community enterprise
- Weather – compared to other centres
- To host national competitive events
- Benefits of local business
- Employment

- Explore where bike and horse schemes work successfully
- Develop tourism in the area – connect with existing attractions
- More jobs for locals who know this area
- Cross country skiing in winter
- Retail outlet for community
- Student discount
- Biking club
- “Step and Stairs”
- Volunteering
- Bring new families to the area to live
- New campsite
- Creative ideas to raise revenue
- Links local community groups ie scouts
- People and kids getting involved
- MTB club
- Host events
- Encourage people into sport of MBing
- To build understanding and awareness in the local community
- Ensure local community is involved and engaged
- Jobs
- To use sustainable fuels / to provide facility energy
- Not oil dependant
- Buses from Dundee – Part of trail centre
- Schools accessing centre
- Hire bikes
- Energy creating site eg Windmill Turbine
- Cross country skiing
- Trail fairies
- Proper coaching and skills course
- Horses
- Expansion of tourism business eg accommodation
- Destination – more to do than MBing

Threat

- Forestry commission may change position
- User numbers
- Petrol transport costs
- Neighbour anxiety
- Lack of communication
- Gun-totin’ gameys!
- Rival interest groups (horse / bikers)?
- Cost of petrol
- Possible sale of Forestry Commission land
- Disturb tranquillity of the glen
- Littering
- Crime rate

- Conflict with forestry operations
- Long term sustainability
- Conflict with other forest users
- Poor communication with local community
- Opposition from locals
- Grant funding not available
- Oil reliance – facility – people
- Worse winters
- Forming correct partnerships
- Liability
- Maintenance costs
- Volunteer driven
- Next stage beyond the trail centre