

CATCA AGM 23RD APRIL 2013



Annual Report from the chair – Mr I R Howarth.

Using the theme of "Stepping Stones" to highlight the achievements of CATCA during April 2012 -March 2013 , I present my Annual Report.

The high point of our year was the replacement of the Dale Bridge at Denny and the tremendous community turn out on the Opening Day Saturday 1st September. A cold and wet day unfortunately, but that did not dampen the lively spirits of about 300 local people who came along to see one of Denny/Dunipace's oldest resident's Mr Nigel Turner senior officially open the bridge with the Rev John Murning providing the Blessing.

Earlier in the year we worked alongside Falkirk Council's Litter Strategy Team and Denny & Dunipace local group Community Green Initiative to carry out 10 voluntary litterpicks throughout April & May along the whole length of the river. In addition- a real achievement was the success of securing the use of 17 volunteers from Scottish Water coming along on one of their Corporate Social Responsibility Voluntary Days to help tidy up a very large fly tipped and littered area in Cobblebrae are of Abbotshaugh.

On the River itself, after much pressure was brought together by Stan, Christine & Michelle and the RCFMG through the good "offices" of our local MSP Michael Matheson, to get Scottish Water to investigate and work towards helping to clean up a problem area near Bonnybridge , where "pollution" from the nearby sewage works was leaking wastes in the river system. Unfortunately, the problem will not be totally sorted, but at least through our joint campaigning we have placed this long term problem onto the radar of the statutory organisations who deal with this. Both SEPA and Scottish Water have agreed to meet with CATCA and RCFMG on a regular basis to work towards solutions to such problems.

CATCA continue to support the good work by both RCFMG and the Larbert & Stenhousemuir Angling Club who use the River Carron to ensure that regular inspections are taking place with regard to selfless dumping of everyday rubbish and commercial wastes that could very easily go to the Waste Disposal points within Falkirk Council.

This very problem is a serious issue within society across every area of Scotland and wherever possible we try and do our bit to help reduce illegal dumping of rubbish in and around our rivers and towns. Again through close working with Falkirk Council Litter Strategic Team and Michael Matheson 's local offices, we manage to put in process a clean up operation to remove in excess of 1000 tyres that were illegally dumped atCastle Cary.

The second phase clean up of the River Carron from Larbert Viaduct to Bainsford/Langless areas was delayed until the Summer of 2013, but CATCA were pleased to raise around £30 k in a very difficult grant market , from a variety of different funders to enable this work to be done. At the same time we will be indebted again to the many volunteers from the Fishing Organisations who have promised to work alongside the chosen Contractor to help remove litter from the river banks in this stretch of the River.

Education.

Christine please add this section as you see fit ensuring that you list you countless achievements with all the schools and your Achievement award.

Footpaths /Bridges.

CATCA's commissioned Feasibility Study carried out along the entire length of the Carron is proving to be a invaluable "tool" to enable organisations like Falkirk Council CSFT & CATCA to obtain large sums of grants to have sections of the existing pathways along the river to be upgraded from Glensburgh to Larbert.

CATCA are continuing to work alongside organisations like CSFT, Sustrans, CSGN and Falkirk Council to investigate grant opportunities to build brand new sections of paths together with carrying out upgrading works through a mixture of partnerships. Discussions are currently underway with several funders to try and open up the old railway line from Falkirk Wheel to Denny, crossing the M876 Motorway with an overhead bridge.

Existing pathways at Carron Glen and the paths around the Denny area that lead to Bonnybridge are heavily used by School pupils attending Denny High School, these routes are currently being investigated in the hope that we will be able to engage the Immediate Labour Market in conjunction with CSFT & Falkirk Council.

We also have aspirations to try and build two new bridge crossings at Carronshore/Bainsford/Langlees and at Glensburgh (Grangemouth) to complete the work about to finish under both the Helix/Scottish Canals Projects which will enable existing path networks to be inter connected.

CATCA has been used by SNH/CSGN as a "Good Practice Case Study" when publishing their quarterly magazines and we are deeply proud of this recognition. Additionally, Christine Bell was invited in September to sit alongside the CEO of CSFT Simon Rennie MBE at the Paths For All Annual Conference for an "On the Sofa" Interview with BBC Broadcaster Mark Stephen

Funding is a continual problem for many organisations at present including ourselves with the every lasting economic down turn in the economy and whilst we constantly try to secure funding to carry out the core activities that we are engaged in, the battle is rather trying to say the least, but where there is community located works to be undertaken CATCA are committed to try and secure as much funding as possible to complete the work.

To this end CATCA held a successful Dinner at Glenbervie Golf Club in November that helped to raise our profile and we were very pleased that Provost Pat Reid and his wife together with Cllr McNally, Cllr Blackwood and his wife, Cllr McCabe and Community Councillor Colin Belbin all attended to support our good cause. Thanks are due to Simon Rennie MBE our Speaker for the event and Ian Scott and his fellow musicians who entertained us free of charge. Additionally we owe thanks to Gemm Ladrovers, Central Demolition LASAC and Wellsfield Farm who all donated considerably as well as all who bought tickets and joined us for a great evening.

I must thank each of the under listed grant funders during this year for not just their money but in many ways the countless man hours that many officials gave to CATCA :-

**Falkirk Council--Development & Environmental Services
Corporate and Neighbourhood Services**

SNH

LEADER

CSGN

FET

SUSTRANS

CSFT

FUTURE BALANCE

LASAC

RCFMG

Finally, I must thank each and every CATCA Committee Member for all their hard work and dedication during the past year and without them this organisation could not continue. Special thanks must be separately given over to our Project Officer Christine Bell who whilst contracted do a certain amount of hours each week, contributes at least double the said hours in volunteer time -many thanks.

Ian R. Howarth.