

Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum AGM – 2012

The Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum is now established and working, and we look forward to our first General Meeting at Luss to which you are warmly invited.

The General Meeting aims to provide a cross section of information on what is happening on the ground - both that associated with the Forum and what is taking place more generally regarding pilgrim routes - and conducting more formal business at an AGM. A major aim of the day is to help those attending to meet others with a shared interest in developing pilgrim routes and to just discuss things informally while enjoying a lunch or walking the short pilgrimage trail at Luss. We hope you find this beautiful setting suitably inspiring.

Since the inaugural meeting was held at Culross last February which brought the Forum into being and was followed by the adoption of the current constitution in May, an interim Management Committee has met on three occasions. Members of the Committee have been able to meet individuals and organisations working in the field, and begun to establish links with the Scottish Government and develop a strategy for how the Forum will work in the future. This strategy lies at the heart of the AGM business and includes a proposed membership structure which will encompass organizations, such as the ACTS Rural Group, as well as individuals. We have posted a draft Membership Structure discussion paper on the SPRF website and I strongly encourage you to read and comment on this in advance of the AGM.

One of the problems of setting up any new organisation is getting the first steps right – in the beginning there is no structure and no membership, merely an aspiration. To move forward requires action to be taken. In our case, this task lies with the interim Management Committee which is now putting forward a broad and inclusive structure in which the Forum's work should be developed, for approval at this AGM. However, assuming the new structure is approved, it will take time to establish a proper membership base so, for the moment, it will be very difficult to formally elect a new Committee at this stage.

I am pleased to report that most of the present Committee members are content to continue at least for a further year. The SPRF constitution provides for a Committee of nine, of whom it is proposed that six will represent organisations, and six members of the current interim Committee of seven are in this category. We therefore suggest that the current Committee be asked at the AGM to continue for a further 12 months. If you or others would like to join us, please contact the Secretary in the first instance.

By the time of the 2013 AGM, we should have a clearly established membership base and so will be able to introduce annual elections for membership of the Management Committee on a more defined basis.

David Atkinson Chairman, interim Management Committee

SCOTTISH PILGRIM ROUTES FORUM

1ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING to be held at the Luss Pilgrimage Centre on Thursday 18th October 2012.

DRAFT AGENDA

- 1. Welcome and apologies.
- 2. Background briefing on AGM business from Chairman and Secretary.
- 3. Ratification of current SPRF Constitution adopted on 25th May 2012.
- 4. Adoption of proposed SPRF Membership Structure see Chairman's letter.
- 5. Management Committee 2012-13 see Chairman's letter. The following individuals are willing to serve on the Committee for the coming year:

David Atkinson
Susi Cormack Brown
John Henderson
Hugh Munro
Shona Paterson
Roger Pickering
Harry Sprange

There remain two vacancies on the Committee.

- 6. Appointment of Secretary Nick Cooke, CLEAR Services.
- 7. Future Appointment of Independent Financial Examiner.
- 8. AOCB: Future AGMs at annual 'Scottish Pilgrimage' symposium / conference.
- 9. Close of Business

Note: The AGM will form part of the General Meeting of the Forum on 18th October 2012