



3rd April 2013

Friends Of The Rest Annual General Meeting

Chairman's remarks

Ladies and Gentlemen welcome and thank you for attending and for all your support over the years

We have received apologies from :-----

You will all be aware that the Old Military road has been stabilised and resurfaced at a cost to the taxpayer of some £4M which is much greater than the sum £0.5M that we estimated we would need, and were trying to raise ,in order to achieve the same result. This means of course that the main aim of FOTR has been achieved and the necessity to raise money no longer exists.

At a very recent meeting between two committee members and the private landowners it was made very clear by the private landowners that FOTR had no further role to play regarding the newly refurbished road.

The knock on effect also negates item 2 of the Constitution which reads as follows. The aims of the organisation as agreed at the founding meeting are to foster and further interest in the heritage of the Rest and be Thankful Hill Climb in Argyll and further any activities that may be associated with it.

The Committee therefore has no option but to propose that a procedure leading to the winding up of FOTR is instigated immediately and the funds distributed as per item 14 of the Constitution.

As a Committee, we were excluded from all decision making discussions both during the planning and construction phases of the upgrading process and consequently we were not able to keep our members informed as to progress and information was only gleaned from published data for example

The Friends Of The Rest

The 4km long Old Military Road leaves the A83 at the lower entrance to Glen Croe and passes through approximately 1km of Forestry Commission land as far as the Roadman's Cottage to what is known as the bottom gate. The road then travels along the bottom of the Glen on the private landowners land for 2.6km up to what is known as the top gate which is situated just past Cobbler Bend. The remaining 0.4km of road, from the top gate up the Hairpin approach, the actual Hairpin and the top car park also belongs to the Forestry Commission.

I understand from reports in the motoring press that the private landowner has indicated a willingness to consider requests from motoring organisations for access to the refurbished road for events. I have spoken to the Forestry Commission and they also will consider requests for access through their land for events. However, they do need two to three weeks notice prior to the planned event taking place. They also require the following documentation 1 Forestry Access Map, 2 Event Documentation, 3 A risk assessment of the event, 4 Third Party Insurance Documentation. Full information is available from the Forestry Commission on telephone No 01877 382383

John Buchanan

Chairman