

CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

- Title:** Update and look forward
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- Purpose:** This paper provides an update and flavour on the main areas of work undertaken and planned which will deliver the five year outcomes from the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17.

Long term outcome: People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences

Key work package 9-Active Cairngorms

1. Delivering and Reviewing the Outdoor Access Strategy:

- a. **Outdoor Access Events Open Meeting** -The CNPA hosted the annual Outdoor Access Events Meeting on 31st October. This meeting chaired by Paul Corrigan is the chance for land managers and event organisers to network and share ideas. EventScotland attended the meeting to discuss supporting and developing sustainable events. (This paper has been prepared in advance of the open meeting and a short verbal update can be given on the outcome of the meeting if desired.)
- b. **Promoting the Scottish Outdoor Access Code** - access staff have been building links with the Activity Providers group of the CBP through their quarterly meetings. Some AP's have taken up Tread Lightly materials and made suggestions for further developing communication via social media. Over the summer, CNP Visitor Centres were visited and provided with Tread Lightly posters and leaflets. A fresh launch will be done in the spring, targeting Rangers, APs and VICs.

2. Promoting Active Enjoyment:

- a. **Community Path Leaflets** - The new leaflets for the Blair Atholl and Dalwhinnie communities have been published. A reprint of the Boat leaflet is scheduled with some changes to manage access in the woods.
- b. **Community Path Map Boards** - The CNPA is currently working with the Kingussie Footpath Group to redevelop the existing maps in and around the community. The path leaflet will also feature the new town trails and the Gynack Mill Trail.
- c. **Health Walks** - Continue to meet demand in each community. CNPA staff are involved with the development of an Aviemore "Sports Hub" which will help to better bridge the gap between active schools and local sports clubs and other more informal groups that are active in the area.

3. **Developing cycling** - The CNPA, Cairngorms Business Partnership and SportScotland hosted a cycling workshop on the 1st of November at the Lecht. The workshop is the start of a concerted effort by the Cairngorms National Park Authority, Cairngorms Business Partnership and SportScotland to realise the full potential of the area for cycling and the local benefits (both economic and social) that can flow from this. The workshop focused on creating a shared set of aspirations for where we want to be in 5 years' time, how we can work together to get there, and the practical action we need to take. (This paper has been prepared in advance of the open meeting and a short verbal update can be given on the outcome of the meeting if desired.)

Key work package 12 - Visitor and access infrastructure

4. **Management of core paths and outdoor access:**
 - a. **Path Signs** - The path sign specifications for Braemar and Kingussie are currently being agreed and it is anticipated that they will be installed in the New Year.
 - b. **Low ground path development** - COAT are continuing with low ground path projects including projects in Carr Bridge, Kingussie, Strathdon and Kincaig which are scheduled for completion by March 2013.
5. **Scotland's National Parks Mountain Restoration Project** - The current Mountain Heritage Project is due to finish in 2014. A joint project between the CNP and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park is being developed to continue the work in 2015.

Other National Park Initiatives

6. **Tomintoul Regeneration** - The CNPA has been leading a partnership project to create a Regeneration Strategy and Action Plan for the Tomintoul and Glenlivet area. The local community and businesses have been closely involved in the project and are now helping to prioritise and deliver the Action Plan. The community are taking a lead role and have set-up a new Community Development Trust, Tomintoul and Glenlivet Development Trust (TGDT). TGDT are currently recruiting a Regeneration Officer to take forward the work. CNPA, HIE and The Moray Council have all provided funding to enable the trust to employ an officer for a three year period. The new mountain bike trails in Glenlivet are scheduled to open in spring 2013.
7. **Cairngorms Nature** - Key partners, including the likes of RSPB and Scottish Land and Estates met for the first time at the end of September to launch the Cairngorms Nature Partnership. This partnership takes up the mantle of the LBAP expanding it to cover wider conservation issues and will steer and publish the Cairngorms Nature Action Plan.

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