

INCLUSIVE CAIRNGORMS

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2013 at 11.00am
At the Lecht Ski Centre, by Tomintoul

Present:

Anne MacLean (chair)	Mobility and Access Committee Scotland
Eric Baird	Cairngorms Ranger Services
Claire Ross	CNPA
Elspeth Grant	CNPA
Gordon Riddler	CNPA Board
Hazel McLaren	Aberdeenshire Community Planning
Hector MacDonald	SDEF
Kate Christie	CNPA
David Watson	CNPA
Saran Cleary	Barnardo's Works
Carole Butler	VABS
Dan Cottam	YMCA Grantown

Apologies:

Aileen Graham	B&S Access Panel
Morag Campbell	B&S Access Panel
Suresh Paul	Equal Adventure
Ivor Souter	Highland Council
Jim Brown	Blackrock Productions
Matt Tyrer	SCVO
Miranda Geoghegan	Forestry Commission Scotland
Maggie Lawson	B&S Community Transport Company
Karen Derrick	VABS
Jonathan Kitching	Adventure Aberdeen
Alasdair Johnston	Aberdeen City Council
David Atkinson	Scottish Rural Churches Group
Kevin Hutchens	Independent Social Worker
Jane Cox	COAT
Shiela Fletcher	Community Transport Association
Gail Woodcock	Aberdeen City Council
Alison Cush	Loch Lomond & the Trossachs NP
Clifford Graham	Barnardo's Works
Scott Sangster	Creative outdoors
Carolyn Cornfield	Caberfeidh Horizons
Simon Jeffrey	Highland Council
Liz Scott	HIE
Jill Paterson	

Welcome and Introduction

1. AM welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies.

Minutes of Last Meeting

2. The minutes of the last meeting held on 21 March were approved, subject to clarifying that at para 13, the inclusive design toolkit was developed and used by Cornwall Council, Southwest Regional Development Agency, the Sensory Trust and the Eden Project. The adoption of the minutes was proposed by GR.

Matters arising from the Minutes

3. Re para 4, GR confirmed that an abbreviated minute had been circulated round the CNPA Board.
4. Re para 13, EG said that she would liaise with the planning team to follow up on how the inclusive design toolkit can be embedded in planning processes. **Action EG**
5. Re para 15, EG reported that Morag Campbell has joined the Community Planning Reps Network. The next meeting is on 27 August.
6. Re para 22, 23, EG noted that as part of the CNPA's outreach programme, a travel grant scheme is being set up which will help schools and outreach groups access the Park. CR added that Education Scotland have recently appointed senior officers who have a remit for promoting outdoor learning (including in the National parks), thereby ensuring this is embedded in mainstream education.
7. Re para 25, GR reported that Board members had undertaken a series of school visits in May-June, which had been a positive experience for both members and schools.
8. Re para 30, EG again referred to the Outreach programme in taking forward some of priorities in reducing the barriers:
 - Transport / travel grant. It was noted that following the current restructure within CNPA, transport (in terms of infrastructure) will probably sit under the planning function. It is unclear at the moment where smaller scale community transport projects will sit.

It was noted that a recent SG Audit report on transport for health and social care, highlighted that transport affects several protected groups, including young people.

SDEF are working closely with the transport lobby about this, and are happy to get involved further if required.

- Ranger equality / diversity training – EG is discussing holding this with the Ranger support officer. **Action EG**

Film – Outdoor learning in Scotland's National Parks

9. CR introduced the film clips which showed highlights of the Schools media project in 2011, featuring how schools in both Scottish National Parks are taking learning outdoors, the benefits to children and how it links with the new Curriculum for Excellence. The films can be viewed on the CNPA website
<http://cairngorms.co.uk/learn/learning-projects/schools-media-project/>

CNPA Public Duties (standing item)

Equality Duties

10. EG gave an update of CNPA's duties to publish equality outcomes and a report on how we are mainstreaming equality. Copies were circulated and are available to view on our website at <http://cairngorms.co.uk/park-authority/about-us/equalities/>

CNPA recruitment policy

11. KC asked for feedback on CNPA recruitment policy with regards to equality. Comments included:
- Ensure that interview panels are trained in diversity and that this is written in the policy
 - Retain the education history time period in application form.
 - Although policy may be robust, need to ensure the practical application of it is followed through.

Any further comments, please contact Kate Christie katechristie@cairngorms.co.uk Tel: 01479 8705541.

Outdoor Access

12. An update on outdoor access work being delivered across the Park was circulated for information. Any questions or comments should be forwarded to EG. Email ElsbethGrant@cairngorms.co.uk Tel: 01479 870506
13. EG highlighted the Core Paths plan review which is currently being undertaken as part of the Local Development plan consultation which runs till 5 July:
<http://cairngorms.co.uk/resource/docs/publications/12042013/CNPA.Paper.1881.PLDP%20Supplementary%20Guidance.pdf> see pages 106-151
14. Community path leaflets - can be downloaded for most communities in the Park from:
<http://cairngorms.co.uk/the-park/explore-the-park/path-leaflets>

Planning

15. Kingussie housing application – comments were submitted on behalf of Inclusive Cairngorms. However since then the application has been withdrawn, and it is expected that a revised application will be submitted in due course.

CNP Economic Diversification Strategy

16. David Watson gave a presentation on the newly formed Cairngorms Economic Forum and its work in developing an economic diversification strategy for the National Park. He is seeking views from Inclusive Cairngorms on the potential themes and areas for action within the draft Strategy. Some key points highlighted / discussed included:
- Out migration of young people from the National Park is not as pronounced as in other rural areas.
 - Higher education attracts young people therefore cities attract a higher in-migration of young people.
 - Recognise that childcare is an issue for women in rural areas who wish to work.
 - It was noted the number of employees in transport and communications sector (3%) is very small considering transport is a such a priority for Scottish Government.
 - The next round of Leader may be a vehicle for taking forward the transport issue.
 - One action area is around Skills and Employability. 90% of businesses in the NP are small / micro businesses, which makes it difficult for some disabled people to find employment. It was felt that Scottish Govt should support small businesses to employ disabled people.
 - It was noted that the Local Access Panel can help small businesses improve the accessibility of their premises.
 - In terms of representation on the Forum, small businesses are represented through the Cairngorms Business Partnership, but due to very nature / size of their business, find it difficult to attend meetings.
 - It was suggested that involving the B&S Youth Employability Focus Group would be useful on the Forum, along with the equivalent on the east side of the Park. As this would provide useful links regarding youth employability work going on.
 - The barriers to accessing employment are complex – so need to speak to all stakeholders across the whole Park ie women, young people, etc. To get their input and buy-in.
 - The strategy is about economic **sustainability** rather than growth. Measures such as ‘distribution’ and ‘accessibility’ of businesses/services are important for people with disabilities.
 - Sustainability is linked to affordable housing.
 - The strategy should focus on the added value of being in a National Park and links with the environment.
17. For any other comments, please contact David DavidWatson@cairngorms.co.uk , Tel 01479 5505.

Young People (standing item)

18. Cairngorms Skills Project

This new project is welcoming young people (16-24 years-old) who are wanting to study Forestry (rural skills), Construction, Outdoor pursuits/ sport in the National park and

through Inverness College. More details on [Facebook - Cairngorms Skills Project](#) or contact Fraser Cardow, CCSP project manager 01463 233 548 or 07538990500. **Action EG to circulate details**

19. Badenoch and Strathspey Youth Employability Focus Group

Dan Cottam gave an update of the work of this group, and a current project to develop an information service for young people seeking employment / skills development. A recent workshop with young people and practitioners had provided useful advice regarding the need / demand, issues, content and format of the information service.

20. An example of the type of issue to be addressed – is the issue of transport to colleges from B&S. There is a lack of signposting for students in B&S to Moray College (being in a different local authority), and the availability of funding to cover transport to the college.

21. There is a need for information in a number of formats – web-based, print/leaflet as well as information hubs in Youth Centres, Drop-ins, etc.

22. There is a need for developing soft skills as well as practical skills amongst young people, eg writing CVs, application forms, interview techniques. KC offered her help with this.

Disability (standing item)

23. Recruitment of new members to Mobility and Access Committee for Scotland (MACS)
Three of the four new appointees must have a disability; therefore, applications are particularly welcomed from people with disabilities including young people.

An application pack and full details can be found at the <http://applications.appointed-for-scotland.org/> Closing date for applications is 25 June 2013.

Low Income

24. There were no items to report.

AOCB

25. There were no items to report.

Date of next meetings

Thursday 26 September 2013 at 11.00am in Ballater, venue to be confirmed

Thursday 5th December 2013 at 11.00am, venue to be confirmed

Elsbeth Grant