

CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE FIFTIETH MEETING

The Pagoda, Grantown-on-Spey

Tuesday 22 May 2018

Item 1 – Welcome

1. EB welcomed everyone to the meeting including a member of the public observing.

Forum members in attendance:

Eric Baird (Convener)	Nick Cole
Eilidh Scobbie	Trevor Thornley
Anne Marie Nuttall	
Lynda Dodd	

Others in attendance:

Doug Stewart (CNPA Access Officer)	Tom Wallace (Mountains & the People)
Pete Crane (Head of Visitor Services)	Eleanor Mackintosh (NP Board member)
Viv Roach (Minutes Administrator)	Neil Wilson – potential new member

Item 2 – Apologies Received

2. EB noted the following apologies:

Ruaridh Ormiston	John Grierson
Sean Roberts	Peter Mackay
Katrina Brown	

Item 3 – Minutes of the Last Meeting

3. The minutes of the last meeting were checked for accuracy and approved

Matters Arising –

4. EB raised the longstanding issue of the Speyside Way extension. DS stated that he believed that the limit of what can be done has been reached. PC's final response was that it is a multi-use, countryside route with inherent limitations due to this, principally topography. DS noted that action point confirming agreed measures are the totality of what we can deliver. PC - Barriers to be removed from the Kinrara estate

Item 4 – National Access Forum: latest meeting update

5. EB attended the recent NAF/LAF combined meeting at Battleby. He presented on the Junior Ranger programme which was well received.

Item 5 – Halfway Update – The Mountains & The People Project. Tom Wallace, Activity Programme Manager

6. Tom Wallace gave a presentation on the Mountains & The People Project being managed by the Outdoor Access Trust for Scotland. The project is two and half years through a five year timescale. A budget was allocated to production of three short films promoting volunteering and conservation. Members were shown a short film and gave positive feedback. The key message throughout the presentation was Repair, Reskill and Respect.

Challenges so far have been the availability of material on some sites and that the standard of work has not always been satisfactory, consequently some work has had to be revisited. TT asked whether there was design consideration for mountain biking, TW responded that it is difficult to make paths for both bikes and walkers however it was considered.

7. PC informed that a Visitor Giving Scheme will be taken to the NP Board in June and as the grant funding ends in two years this will be key to how the TM&TP works will be maintained.
8. EB offered thanks to TW and the OATS team on all the work they were doing.

Item 6 – Advice sought: Format of CLOAF 2018 and beyond. Pete Crane, Head of Visitor Services.

9. PC introduced Paper 1 explaining the Land Reform Act is now 15 years old and due to the passing of time access issues are becoming better understood and expertise built up within the CNP mean they are managed effectively and speedily. Formal demands placed on the LOAF have reduced as a result and steadily since the Act came into force and therefore he proposed that Forum meetings can be reduced one annual meeting, in late October or early November.
10. Communication throughout the year would be via a member's page on the CNPA website. This would allow for regular communication such as minutes, consultations and updates. The page would be private to be accessed via a log-in.
11. Members agreed a need for more land managers on the LOAF and PC felt that one meeting a year, would be more attractive to potential members. EB noted that a daytime meeting may be difficult. PC suggested the possibility of convening on the weekend.
12. **Section 8 Proposals A-I:** Items listed on Paper 1 were agreed. **API** DS/PC to bring further proposals to the LOAF

Item 7 – LRA Section 13 duty: Access Casework update.

13. DS said there were a small number of cases arising but overall casework was in a positive position. Members viewed the casework log and brought to attention No 41 and No 45. DS explained both cases are ongoing.
14. LD asked if there was a reduction of issues from other access forums, DS went on to explain that the situation was broadly similar across Scotland with a reduction demand for involvement from Local Access Fora. EB asked if there was any analysis available. **AP2** PC said he would investigate.
15. AMN asked about Case No 36 noting that it hasn't yet been tackled. DS apologised, explaining that this situation arises due to prioritising of casework and that lower priority cases are at risk

of being pushed down the list as other higher priority cases come in. He said this something which may need to be looked.

16. EB thanked the Access team for all their hard work which was acknowledged.

Item 8 – Activities update and forward look – Paper 3

Priority 5 – Active Cairngorms

17. **Active Aviemore** - DS discussed Transport Scotland may contribute funding to assist in making active travel improvement to Grampian Road in Aviemore. It is in the initial stage of consultation and designs have been created by AECOM. **AP3** PC will distribute the designs. The work will not reduce vehicle numbers on the road but a segregated cycle path will provide provision for cyclists and walkers.
18. **Wee Walks Week 2018** – the programme is proving successful in promoting local walking for health and will continue in 2018. Some discussion was had around a need for improvement in how information reaches the target audience through more use of social media.
19. **Health Walks/Volunteer Cairngorms** – This initiative is led by Mike Woolvin with ongoing positive project development there has been a steady increase in volunteers. PC added that there are now fourteen trained volunteer rangers. More promotion is required to increase numbers further.
20. **Community Path Leaflets** – Ballater Community Paths leaflet and Badenoch and Strathspey Paths have now been reprinted. Please click the link [here](http://cairngorms.co.uk/discover-explore/things-to-do/walking-trails/community-paths-and-trails/) (<http://cairngorms.co.uk/discover-explore/things-to-do/walking-trails/community-paths-and-trails/>) to view the leaflets.

Priority 4 – Visitor Infrastructure & Information

21. Long Distance Paths - Scottish National Heritage have agreed to provide funding for a two-year post towards developing the Speyside Way further and a potential extension to the Deeside Way. Improvements to the existing Speyside Way will include reduction in the total of seventeen gates in place between Nethy Bridge and Grantown on Spey.

Other National Park Initiatives/Matters

22. Visitor Giving – PC explained that in partnership with the private sector a bridge path project will begin. A budget of 10K will be available. EB asked if diversion
23. Mountain Paths – please click the link [here](http://themountainsandthepeople.org.uk) (<http://themountainsandthepeople.org.uk>) for the Mountain and the People website.
24. HLF TGLP – EM noted that TGLP continues to progress. Due to Vicky Hilton leaving her post at the Crown Estate, there is uncertainty who will replace her.
25. A9 Dualling – Project 11 (Dalraddy to Slochd) is now at Stage 3. It was noted that the provision proposed for non-motorised users is poor overall. PC stated the required Carrbridge multi-use path will get used when visitors arrive by car providing means for walking or cycling during the stay. Members expressed the sentiment that Transport Scotland is 'building a road not a route'. It was suggested by EB that a letter from the committee, raising concerns might be appropriate. **AP4** EB to consider this.

26. Capercaillie HLF Project – The project is now moving fully into the development phase. Three posts have now been advertised, Project Manager, Engagement Officer and Community Engagement Officer.
27. PC informed members that there is £6m available from the Scottish Government towards improving key tourism/visitor infrastructure across rural Scotland and the CNPA will make a bid to assist with construction of a new link-path at Glenmore to link the Hayfield and Loch Morlich.

Item 9 – AOCB

28. PM (not in attendance) had raised two issues via email, they related to 'possible guidance to land managers about when it is acceptable to lock gates' and the CNPA not 'having done enough to publicise core paths'. These two items were discussed further by members.
29. EB noted that guidance for land managers had been a part of a previous paper covering information for the CNPA website above landowner/manager responsibilities in respect of access rights. This was acknowledged by members. DS explained this was the case however competing priorities within the communications team have meant the proposal has not been advanced.
30. Discussion was had surrounding the subject of PM's second point - not enough having been done to publicise core paths. DS & PC said they considered this was not the case with there being a wide range of promotional material offered covering walking and access of all types in the NP. It was mentioned that the CNPA explicitly avoids making a distinction between core paths and other paths on the basis the job to be done is overall promotion of recreation. This being borne of the third aim of the NP. This was acknowledged with further discourse around the types of information and how it was presented, being a combination of printed leaflets and digital (online) format. EB concluded by suggesting the next meeting should look at online content and how this might measure up against PM's proposition. DS agreed this was possible however stated that in proposing it form the subject of a meeting it was relevant that the LOAF be aware they have not been asked to advise the CNPA on the matter.
31. Europarc Conference to be held in Cairngorms National Park 18 – 21 September 2018, access team will be contributing. EB asked if LOAF members can attend. This was confirmed and that LOAF budget could pay for agreed attendance.
32. National Access Forum currently working on Guidance on User Built Mountain Bike Trails to be published in due course.
33. NC noted that the Drumlean case had been successfully defended by Loch Lomond & The Trossachs NP. DS confirmed this and informed members that court papers are available online.
34. EM – 5 new NP board members are required by the Scottish Government with the recruitment deadline being Tuesday 26th June.

Item 10 - Date of next meeting

Provisionally as Tuesday 2nd October 6pm-8.30pm

Meeting closed. Convener thanked everyone for their attendance and input.3