

# Planning Service Newsletter

#7 January 2021



## Planning Committee Convener

On the 11th December, Eleanor Mackintosh, our longstanding Planning Committee Convener, stepped down from that role but continues to be a Board member and member of the Planning Committee. Eleanor has been a directly elected CNPA board member since the creation of the National Park in 2003 and has been the Planning Committee Convener since 2012. Xander McDade, CNPA Board Convener, made the following comments;

*“She is hugely respected by her fellow board members and the staff here at the Park Authority. As Planning Committee Chair, Eleanor was ground breaking in a number of respects – both as the first woman elected to a senior Board position and as the first directly elected Board Member to speak on behalf of the Authority at a public inquiry.”*



The New Convener will be Dr Gaener Rodger who has a strong background in academic research, business development, professional training and working with young people. She is a

Member of the NHS Highland Board and is also the Chair of the Highland Children's Forum.

As an active outdoors person, she is interested in conserving our wild places; promoting opportunities to enhance the mental and physical wellbeing of our population and empowering young people to be the future custodians of the Park.

## Planning Team Staff Updates

In July, Nasim Mehrabi joined us as our new Graduate Planner. In December, Robbie Calvert, Development Management officer, left the CNPA to work for the Royal Town Planning Institute in Scotland and Andrew Teece, Development Planning Officer, departed at the end of a maternity cover contract. The CNPA will be recruiting a replacement Development Management Officer in January 2021.

## Covid-19 Service Delivery

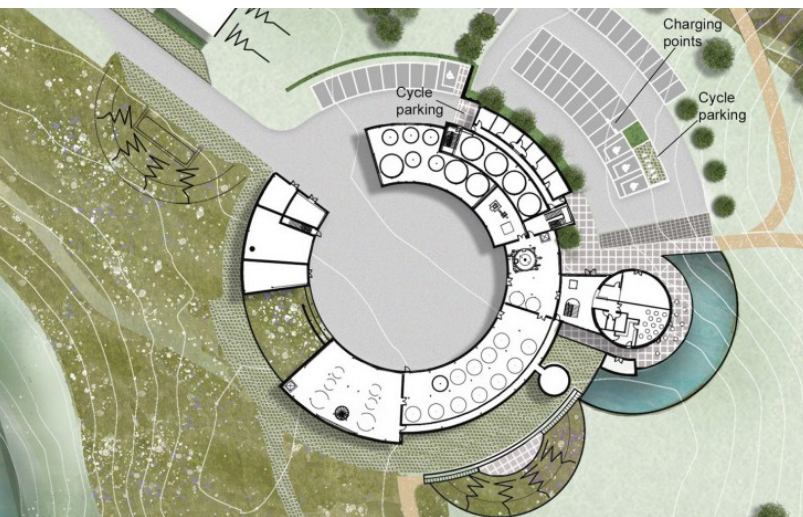
The Covid-19 pandemic meant that the entire CNPA staff team had to work from their homes from March 2020 and changed the way the CNPA operates. The delivery of the planning service has continued with little change, but Planning Committee meetings and meetings with staff are now all done online. Our Planning Committees have moved online and we are pleased to report overall we have had **97% attendance** by our members. **28 applications** were determined, which included consents for an additional **142 dwellings** towards meeting the housing need in the park.

We all hope the immediate impacts of Covid-19 will become less severe during 2021, but the planning service is ready to operate effectively no matter what restrictions are necessary.





## Project Updates



The **New Speyside Distillery** is taking shape in the landscape (image: top right). Gordon & MacPhail are a long established local company based in Moray. Following the success of the distillery operations at Forres, the company developed a project to open a new distillery and visitor facilities near Granttown-on-Spey. The development of a new distillery with associated cafe will deliver a range of benefits to the local economy including the creation of long-term employment opportunities for local people. Following the Planning Committee's decision to approve the distillery in October 2019, the Decision Notice was issued in June 2020 following the conclusion of a legal agreement that secures funding for an improved footpath link to Granttown-on-Spey and will help provide a safe link for walkers and cyclists between Dulnain Bridge and Granttown-on-Spey.



Image : Construction progress, December 2020

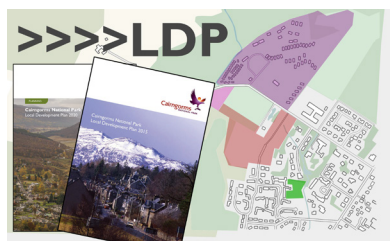
The **New Badenoch and Strathspey Community Hospital and Health Care Facility** in Aviemore was granted consent in 2019. The Hospital was designed and is being built by Hub North Scotland Ltd – set up by the Scottish Futures Trust. Work on the project has continued despite COVID as permitted under government guidelines.

The new hospital is on track to be completed in March 2021. Balfour Beatty have been praised on their commitment to the project under difficult circumstances by NHS Highland. Virtual tour: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZS\\_kyG8gPfl&list=PL3OfE-bXWZN5bmmT3ovgz-yONIs7-2zgrE&index=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZS_kyG8gPfl&list=PL3OfE-bXWZN5bmmT3ovgz-yONIs7-2zgrE&index=1)

Find out more about the progress click the link : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FsOfzOMmXQ>







## Planning Performance

Marker	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19	19-20
1 Decision making timescales								
2 Processing agreements								
3 Early collaboration								
4 Legal agreements								
5 Enforcement charter								
6 Continuous improvement								
7 Local development plan								
8 Development plan scheme								
9 Elected members engaged early	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	N/A
10 Stakeholders engaged early	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A			N/A	N/A
11 Regular and proportionate advice to support applications								
12 Corporate working across services								
13 Sharing good practice, skills and knowledge								
14 Stalled sites/legacy cases								
15 Developer contributions								

## Local Development Plan Update

2020 saw big steps being made with the delivery of the next Local Development Plan (LDP). The year began with the examination of the LDP by Scottish Government Reporters. This process was concluded in August resulting in Reporters recommending nearly 150 changes in total. Most of the changes were minor, setting out limited alterations to policy wording and supporting text which, for the most part, helps clarify the intentions of the Plan.

The Authority are pleased that Reporters were supportive of the LDP's approach to delivering housing, especially affordable housing. Consequently, the level of affordable housing required on sites in Aviemore, Ballater, Braemar and Blair Atholl will be increased from 25% to 45% once the new plan is adopted.

The LDP is currently with Scottish Ministers and it is expected that it will be adopted in February 2021.

Find out more: <https://cairngorms.co.uk/planning-development/local-development-plan-2020/intention-adopt-ldp-2020/>

The Authority continued to make improvements to service delivery, and received very positive feedback from the Scottish Government.

## Developers Forum

The next meeting of the Developers Forum will be on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 at 3pm.

## Community Council Planning Training

The CNPA will be offering online training on how Community Councils can participate effectively in the planning system. We will contact Community Councils directly to arrange dates.

## Contact Us

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