

CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

MINUTES OF THE FORTY SEVENTH MEETING Crown Estate Office, Tomintoul

Tuesday 6th September 2016

Item 1 – Welcome

1. EB welcomed everyone to the meeting including Sam Masson who was presenting on the LEADER project also Grant Moir, Chief Executive of the CNPA along as an observer.

Forum members in attendance:

Eric Baird (Convenor)	Vicky Hilton
Peter Mackay	Fiona Murdoch
Nigel Williams	John Grierson

Others in attendance:

Pete Crane (CNPA)	Grant Moir (CNPA)
Doug Stewart (CNPA)	Sam Masson (Cairngorms LEADER)

Item 2 - Apologies

2. EB noted the following apologies. He also raised the point that Richard Wallace had not attended a meeting for some time and it was felt this was unsatisfactory. It was agreed that if RW would not attend then another Forestry Commission representative should take his place to provide input at the meetings. DS agreed to convey the Forum's view.

Richard Gledson	Nick Cole
Paul Webster	Lynda Dodd
Ruaridh Ormiston	Alasdair Johnston
Anne-Marie Nuttall	

Item 3 – Minutes of the Last Meeting

3. The minutes of the last meeting were approved subject to one amendment.
Pg 1 - Attendees to include JG.

Matters Arising

4. DS confirmed that he had been in touch with the Balavil Estate requesting they remove a specific sign that had been placed on a core path.
5. Item 8 – DS to confirm with GM over possible joint board/LOAF meeting.

Item 4 – Cairngorms LEADER – Members update on current programme with Q & A

6. Sam Masson gave a short explanation as to what Cairngorm LEADER's programme covers and how they can help fund initiatives within the CNP. LEADER covers 5 local authority areas with a budget of £2.96m available to spend on appropriate projects, concentrating on 6 themes. In the last seven months they have granted £650,000.00 and are looking to spend the balance before Brexit happens.

LEADER are keen to hear from anyone that they may be able to help with funds and asked that members spread the word to their local communities about what is available.

LEADER's only limitations are they cannot grant funds if it can be funded through other SRDP revenues. If this is the case they will advise and point people in the right direction where possible.

EB stated the process to apply for grants is outlined on the LEADER website:

- <http://www.cairngorms-leader.org/>

Item 5 – National Park Partnership Plan 2017 – Member discussion towards preparation of a CLOAF response to the NPPP current consultation ending 30th September 2016

7. FM to take notes for the LOAF's formal group response on the above and EB asked members if they were happy to restrict comments to Issues 4, 5 and 6. All agreed with the addition of Issue 3 – Flood Management.
8. PC gave a brief slide presentation on the NPPP and what has been delivered so far and how CNPA were looking forward on key issues affecting access, recreation and health.
9. Active Travel info to be provided for next LOAF meeting. **PC to action.**

Item 6 – LRA Section 13 duty

10. Case 28 - DS stated that Dave Craig, SCA River Advisor for the Spey had reported an issue concerning behaviour of a ghillie towards canoeists, DS went on to say that Dave was intending to report a second issue and that the access team would then take a view on the severity of the matter and determine a course of action. Information is currently awaited on the second case.
11. VH commented on a recent article in the SBH regarding Pitmain Estate, that they have not adhered to a condition of their planning application to maintain a right of way open to the public. DS confirmed no official complaint had been made to the CNPA as yet therefore no direct action would be taken. He explained they were however looking at writing to the Estate to remind them of the condition and the potential breach. He also

said he thought the Estate had broadly tried to do the right thing by signing an alternative route however there was a need to abide by the planning condition.

Item 7 – Activities update and forward look

12. DS explained that CNPA has now secured funding (£10K pa x 3 years) from Paths for All to extend the new CNPA Volunteer Co-coordinator post to FTE. An additional £2K pa will be contributed by NHS Highland. The funded post will continue the work already done in delivering health walks in communities.
13. The Deeside Way extension requires a route to be built from Invercauld Bridge to Braemar to avoid leaving a large gap. PC confirmed that £16,000.00 was needed in order to get the application through planning.
14. Following Storm Frank it was calculated that Aberdeenshire Council would require £1m to carry out the bridge repair works. An application was put to Scottish Government for funding which was unsuccessful.
15. DS confirmed Transport Scotland had been made aware of a study done on equine crossings of the A9 by the British Horse Society. He had also been in touch with Ruaridh Ormiston and had confirmed he would be doing this with the intention of ensuring equine interests were highlighted in relation to the Cruben Mor to Kincaig section of the A9 dualling scheme.

Item 8 – AOCB

16. GM suggested LOAF members could meet with the Board at one of the regular informal meetings. PC suggested COAT could also be invited. It was agreed the date for the next LOAF meeting could be set to coordinate with a Board meeting and this would be looked into.
17. The new Laggan Paths leaflet was distributed to members.

Item 9 – Date of Next Meeting

18. Programme TBC – Spring/Autumn 2017.