

AGENDA ITEM 7

APPENDIX 4

2017/0036/DET

OBJECTIONS

Comments for Planning Application 2017/0036/DET

Application Summary

Application Number: 2017/0036/DET

Address: New Path From Ardgeal Near Kincaig To Insh

Proposal: To construct as part of the Speyside Way Extension a 1.8km long, 2m width section of new path. The path proposal runs from Ardgeal near Kincaig to Insh linking up with existing forest tracks and roads within Inshriach Forest

Case Officer: David Allan

Customer Details

Name: Ms margaret KINSELLA

Address: Cluanach Insh Kingussie

Comment Details

Commenter Type: Member of Public

Stance: Customer objects to the Planning Application

Comment Reasons:

Comment:I've used much of the Speyside Way from Aviemore to Spey Bay plus paths in & around Inshriach Forest & aware of & enjoy the varying terrain & routes available.

One reason cited by CNPA for the proposed extension is to facilitate Insh residents visiting shops in Kincaig; there is no shop.

While in agreement with much of the proposal (making use of existing routes) I object to the need to 'improve' the path with "laid aggregate, reduced gradients & improved surface' which will involve a 2metre wide pathway being laid.

A CPNA stated aim is to enhance resident & visitor enjoyment & as such should seek to ensure a variation of terrain & experience for a range of users. Enjoyment is not by destroying narrow footpaths to construct dirt tracks as planned along the road to Uith Lochans.

Where possible developers should encourage use of existing forest trails & paths using clear signage rather than provide a uniform dirt track involving destruction of the very environment people wish to experience.

The Inshriach Forest already has well laid out cross country ski routes with signage which 'allows' skiers and forestry to coexist, this approach should be extended to walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The application recognises the Sustrans route 7, however it appears to consider the path needs to be upgraded for cyclists. I question the need for this. Signage should be able to offer different routes for cyclists through the extensive Forestry Roads & footpaths for walkers, which where already just 1 person wide should remain as such.

The route involves cutting a path up a steep slope, again, there are existing routes which can be upgraded rather than fresh paths being cut.

It's important to extend the Speyside Way to Ruthven Barracks, however its not value for money to construct a path where there is existing adequate path & road network making it less necessary.

You are asked to consider a smaller project, acknowledge the mountainous geography of this part of Strathspey, retain the current footpath network, provide a range of path construction & visitor experience, direct cyclists & riders to more suitable & already existing routes.