

CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

- Title:** Update and look forward
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- Purpose:** This paper provides an update on the main areas of work both undertaken and planned towards delivery of the five year outcomes in the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17.

STAFF CHANGES

The Access Team is currently undergoing significant staff changes with the departure of Team Manager, Bob Grant; Fran Potheary being on sabbatical for one year and Adam Streeter-Smith taking up the additional role of co-coordinating the National Park Rangers alongside his existing job. Of these, the most significant factor affecting the future focus of the team will be the appointment of a new Team Manager to replace Bob. As a result, a number of work items have been put on hold and this forward look is therefore more limited in extent.

Long term outcome: People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences

Key work package 9 - Active Cairngorms

1. **Cycling Development Officer** – The current Cycling Development Officer post has been extended by a further period to allow continued development of the electric bike scheme.
2. **Community Path Leaflets** – The CNPA has prepared a new path leaflet for the Laggan area which will be published shortly. It follows the existing successful format and incorporates 8 routes throughout the area including all-abilities.

Key work package 12 - Visitor and access infrastructure

3. **Management of core paths and outdoor access:**
 - a) **Local path development** – The CNPA is working with the Aviemore community to complete a new link on the outskirts of the town. Aviemore Community Park is part funded by the CNPA (through 'shovel ready' Scottish Government funding) and implements a very accessible new path on the banks of the River Spey. The initiative is being facilitated by the Spey Catchment Initiative.

- b) **Path Signs** – Advertisement consent for new signs in Aviemore is currently being progressed and staff continue to work with the Anagach Woods Trust and the Community Council to update the signage around Grantown.
- c) **Speyside Way extension** – Following construction of a new bridge over the Allt na Criche south of Aviemore further progress on the extension has been put on hold until Bob Grant's replacement is recruited.
- d) **Deeside Way extension** – an options appraisal will be carried out to determine the viability of an extension and which route/s would be most effectual. It should be noted that any extension is a long term aspiration.

Other National Park Initiatives

- 4. **Capercaillie Framework** - The CNPA is currently preparing this document in response to the continued threat to this iconic Scottish species. It will include an examination of disturbance arising from recreational use of bird habitat.

National Initiatives

- 5. The CNPA is a key contributor to the proposals for dualling the A9, this includes consultation and input towards recreation and access considerations. Configuration of cycle provision within the scheme is a key priority.

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