

CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

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

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

Key work package 9 - Active Cairngorms

Delivering and Reviewing the Outdoor Access Strategy:

1. **Promoting the Scottish Outdoor Access Code** - access staff have been building links with the Activity Providers group of the Cairngorms Business Partnership through their quarterly meetings. Some Activity Providers have taken up Tread Lightly materials and made suggestions for further developing communication via social media. Over the summer, CNP Visitor Centres were visited and provided with Tread Lightly posters and leaflets. A fresh launch will be done in the spring, targeting Rangers, APs and VICs.

Promoting Active Enjoyment:

2. **Community Path Leaflets** - A reprint of the Boat leaflet is scheduled with some changes made to help manage access in the woods. Initial meetings are scheduled with the Aviemore Community Council to develop a path leaflet for Aviemore.
3. **Active Cairngorms** - The next steering group meeting will map out how we will be taking this forward. At a local level key partners in Aviemore are developing a Community Sport Hub bringing together High Life Highland, Badenoch & Strathspey Sports Council, CNPA, Scottish Orienteering, Scottish Cycling, Snowsport Scotland, Glenmore Lodge, Aviemore Primary School, Highland Disability Sports, Cairngorm Mountain and sportscotland. We are now at the key stage of being able to take the project to the Community and Community Clubs who will ultimately shape the direction of the project. Utilising the outdoors will be a key part of this project.
4. **Developing cycling** – CNPA and Sustrans are entering into partnership to trial the development of an Electric Bike Network within the CNP. A Cycling Officer will be appointed who will be employed by Sustrans, report to the Deputy Director of the Behaviour Change Unit and will be located in the CNPA office in Grantown. Purpose of the job is twofold:
 - a) Support the delivery of the NPA Cycling Strategy and
 - b) Develop and deliver an Electric Bike Network within the CNP

5. **What is the EBN? - Sustrans have entered** into a partnership with Electric Travel CIC - a Community Interest Company - which aims to increase people cycling for everyday journeys and leisure. The EBN is one of ET CIC's biggest projects – it aims to create a national network of hire and charging points in the UK tourist areas.
6. The network aims to:
 - a) Provide leisure opportunities
 - b) Improve access to services
 - c) Enable work related travel without a car
 - d) Reduce carbon emissions
7. Potential outcomes:
 - a) Cycling become more accessible
 - b) More hire opportunities will boost businesses
 - c) Improve rural mobility and add to jobs
 - d) Catalyse a new industry and provide local economic benefit.

Key work package 12 - Visitor and access infrastructure

8. **Management of core paths and outdoor access:**
 - a) **Shovel ready** – Significant capital funds (£700K for access related projects) have been released to the CNPA to bring forward projects already in the pipeline. Projects include the Tomnavoulin Walkway, Speyside Way in Aviemore and Nethybridge, and bridges on the Speyside Way Extension. These are all scheduled for delivery in 2013/14.
 - b) **Path Signs** - The path signs for Braemar and Kingussie are currently being manufactured and will be installed in March 2013.
 - c) **Low ground path development** - COAT are continuing with low ground path projects including projects in Carr Bridge, Kingussie, Strathdon and Kincaig which are scheduled for completion by March 2013.
9. **Scotland's National Parks Mountain Restoration Project** - The current Mountain Heritage Project is due to finish in 2014. A joint project between the CNP and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park is being developed to continue the work in 2015 and beyond.

Other National Park Initiatives

10. **Visitcairngorms.com**- There have been a number of changes to www.visitcairngorms.com, the visitor website for the Park, including a better link to the community path leaflets which can be viewed here <http://visitcairngorms.com/Local-Walking-Routes.html> and clicking on local path networks. In addition the website now includes information for those visiting the National Park with a dog <http://visitcairngorms.com/dogfriendlycairngorms>

11. **10 year anniversary of the National Park** - The Cairngorms National Park celebrates its 10th birthday this year marking the occasion with a range of celebrations and activities throughout the year with support for partners and communities in their events marking the anniversary. We are encouraging partners to brand and badge their events and activities to promote this key milestone. The 10th anniversary will also support the Year of Natural Scotland

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