



Local Outdoor Access Forum

Held online on 13 November 2024

Present:	Adam Streeter-Smith (AQSS)	Park Authority
	Ben Dolphin (BD)	LOAF
	Ben Oliver Jones (BOJ)	LOAF
	Colin Cadden (CC)	LOAF
	Gant Moir (GM)	Park Authority
	John Grierson (JG)	LOAF (Chair)
	Mark Johnston (MJ)	LOAF
	Patsy Richards (PR)	LOAF
	Sara Denner (minutes)	Park Authority
	Sarah Lawther (SL)	Park Authority
	Trevor Thornley (TT)	LOAF
	Vicky Hilton (VH)	Park Authority

Apologies: Hilary Quick (Connection issues)

Welcome & Introductions

Discussed

Action

JG- Welcomed group and members introduced themselves.

Minutes of last meeting – approval and matters arising not otherwise appearing on agenda.

Discussed

Action

JG- Minutes of the last meeting approved and previous actions discussed.

- AQSS- To send MJ a NatureScot climate report-ACTIONED
- AQSS- To share summary case work log prior to meetings - AQSS chosen not to at this meeting, as opportune to do so at meeting in February.

Paper 1-Fire Management consultation

Discussed

Action

- GM- Discussed 'Seasonal fire management bylaw' consultation, provided background and reason for consultation and responded to a variety of queries. There was discussion involving the level of fine, the need for



widespread messaging and the difficulty in capturing all the information in an unambiguous manner.

GM- Will seek clarity on inclusion of fireworks vs pyrotechnics in the definitions, the definition of a fireplace, the addition of the wording 'hot coals' and if Police Officers should be referred to in relation to powers.

GM

- AQSS- Reminded that LOAF members could respond to any consultation on an individual basis.

LOAF members agreed that in general as a group they were supportive of the bylaw wording.

Paper 2 – Active Cairngorms Action Plan delivery update Discussed

Action

AQSS- Updated group on Active Cairngorms Action Plan. Paper going to Board next week. Action Plan approved last December but there has been a delay in developing the printing design, will send to the group when complete. Feedback from Managing for Visitors reports good engagements across the Park, fire trends ongoing, and increase in campervans, but relatively manageable although still busy. Collaboration, relationships and Comms working well and less anti-social incidents reported.

There was discussion regarding the inclusion of geographical goals in the Plan which AQSS will explore further.

AQSS

Paper 3- Core Paths Plan Review Discussed

Action

VH- Explained that original Core Path Review was in 2010, which was updated in 2015. Aware that some paths need to be amended due to diversion and planning, some new paths will be designated whilst others may be modified or declassified. Clarified various stages of developing the Core Path Plan Review and likely timescale. LOAF members will be asked to consider overview in November 2025, with Autumn 2026 likely to be the end date. Group members discussed and sought clarification on a few points.

Verbal- LOAF membership update Discussed

Action



AQSS- Explained that some existing members are struggling to attend meetings. Suggested that JG writes to those concerned to enquire if still wishing to be involved, and if not, new members can be invited, ideally from similar background and expertise. Also suggested that the spread of membership should be as wide as possible and that there is an opportunity for a member working in land management sector to join the group. Group agreed and JG will contact relevant members.

JG

Paper 4- Update and forward look

- AQSS- Advised group that Charter Chest path has been formally opened and has received positive feedback so far. There are still a few snagging items to address, and signage is currently being developed. Looking to install people counter and add to core path network.
- AQSS- Signage on Speyside Way being upgraded.
- AQSS- Developing a tender to look at gates on Speyside Way, with aim to either replace broken ones or remove altogether where possible.
- AQSS- In collaboration with capercaillie project, the dog walking intern has been working with the Boat of Garten community and developing resources.
- AQSS- Consultant considered the Old Logging Way and identified work required to make improvements. These included the section opposite Coylumbridge Hotel and either end of section at Rothiemurchus campsite and Inverdrue. Anticipate next section will be Badaguish, in discussion with FLS as it may require planning and felling, plus the road crossing near the Clay Pigeon Shooting Centre.

AOCB

- BD- Reported that Mar Lodge visitor numbers up 5% this year compared to last year, and overnight motorhomes up 29% from 2023, which in turn is up 74% from 2022.

Date of next meeting



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- AQSS- Will put out a Doodle Poll to determine dates for year, but next meeting likely to be end of February/early March 2025. Also keen to have site visit and in person meeting in summer.

Meeting ended 20.14