
CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

Title: Representation at the National and Local Access Forum joint meeting – September 20 2006

Prepared by: Fran Potheary, Outdoor Access Officer

Purpose

To remind the Forum of the purpose of the joint meetings, and to select which Forum members will attend the forthcoming meeting

Background

1. The purpose of liaison between national and local levels is essentially twofold. The national forum has been convened to advise a range of bodies on issues linked to implementation of access rights under the Land Reform Act, and in particular to assist SNH in its statutory duty to keep the Scottish Outdoor Access Code under review. These activities require an awareness of issues arising on the ground, which local access officers and access forums are well placed to provide. The national forum can also provide advice and guidance on key issues from a national perspective, which should assist local forums in finding practical solutions that are consistent with the Act, the Code and nationally agreed best practice.
2. The process of liaison between the National Access Forum and local access forums has been considered on several occasions by the national body. This issue was also discussed at the NAF-LAF joint meeting in Pitlochry in September 2005, providing an opportunity for wider input from Access Officers and local forum members. After an option appraisal and consultation it was decided that the most effective way of encouraging communication between local forums and the national forum was to convene an annual event to which representatives of all forums in Scotland would be invited.
3. Last year's event was attended by Nic Bullivant and Richard Wallace, and a briefing note (based on Nic's notes) was issued at the Forum meeting of 15 November 2005.

Event content

4. The second annual event, a joint meeting of the national and local access forum representatives will be held on September 20 in Peebles. A maximum of two representatives from each local access forum in Scotland are invited.
5. The agenda will include updates on the implementation of the access legislation and the work of the national access forum, along with overviews of activity at a local level. A

contribution will be heard from the local forum covering the borders. Once finalised, the agenda will be sent out.

6. CNPA will agree to underwrite reasonable expenses in attending this meeting.

Recommendations

7. It is recommended that the opportunity for attendance at this meeting is opened up to two Forum members. In addition it is recommended that this opportunity is circulated amongst those who have not been able to take advantage of it to date and that attendees take a record of the meeting which will then be transcribed into a short feedback paper for feedback at the following Forum meeting.

Fran Potheary

Outdoor Access Officer

Tel: 01479 870533

franpotheary@cairngorms.co.uk