

**CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM**

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<b>Title:</b>	<b>Litter- approaches to managing the issue in the National Park</b>
<b>Prepared by</b>	<b>Pete Crane, Head of Visitor Services</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	<b>This paper considers the issue of littering in the National Park and outlines work to date supported by CNPA to reduce littering.</b>

**Advice Sought**

Members are invited to discuss the work and advise on whether other approaches should be adopted. Members are also asked to consider how this work should 'sit' with the overall promotion of responsible access.

**Scale of the Littering in the National Park**

1. We have no quantitative evidence of the scale or extent of littering in the National Park and we are not aware of any Park wide data collection.
2. The issue of litter was not raised in either of the two visitor surveys in 2004 and 2010 when visitors were asked:-

***Table 42: What, if anything, could have been improved to make your visit to the Cairngorms National Park more enjoyable?***

3. In the 2010 survey 88% of visitors either agreed or strongly agreed that the National Park 'seems well-managed and cared for'. Both these may indicate that visitors do not consider littering to be a significant problem.
4. However, anecdotal feedback from communities and some land managers suggests that litter at certain sites and in and around communities is a problem and this is borne out by the results of the 2012 Spring Clean (Table I later in this paper).

5. We, CNPA, receive a few specific complaints and concerns about litter but these tend to focus on three 'hot spots':-
- Loch Morlich
  - Clunnie Flats (north of Braemar)
  - A9 – particularly associated with lay-bys

Complaints are ad-hoc and generally occur following good weather and high visitor numbers.

### **CNPA Support for Reducing Littering**

6. To date we have supported three specific activities that are aimed at either directly or indirectly reducing littering in the National Park.

### **Ranger Services**

7. We provide grant aid to support nine ranger services across the National Park and co-ordinate the work of all 12 services. The promotion of responsible access is key to the work of countryside rangers:-

***Rangers promote the enjoyment, understanding and care of Scotland's outdoors through: the first-hand provision of information, advice and activities; interpretation; the management of sites and facilities; and seeking to secure responsible behaviour (Role of Rangers SNH National Policy).***

### **Promoting Responsible Access and 'Tread Lightly'**

8. Litter – '**carry out what you carry in**' – is a key message in the 'Tread Lightly Campaign' that has already been discussed in Paper 1.

### **Supporting Communities with National Spring Clean**

9. We have provided small, easy to access, grants of up to £250 for communities involved in the National Spring Clean. The grants are toward materials and costs associated with community volunteering. Table 1 below show the outputs from 2012.
10. With only eight communities involved in 2012 there is scope to promote this wider.

**Table 1 Outputs from 2012 Spring Clean**

<b>Community</b>	<b>Adults</b>	<b>Young People</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>People Hours</b>	<b>Bags</b>
Boat of Garten	20	5	25	1.5	37.5	40
Tomintoul	10		10	3	30	20 + misc rubbish
Blair Atholl	29		29	1.5	43.5	37
Kingussie	14	3	17	2.5	42.5	8
Grantown Guides	4	24	28	1	28	9
Calvine & Struan	8		8	1.5	12	20
Newtonmore	10		10	2	20	40
Braemar	15	30	45	2	90	20
	<b>110</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>172</b>		<b>303.5</b>	<b>194</b>

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**Pete Crane**  
**5<sup>th</sup> November 2013**