

CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

- Title:** Update and look forward
- Prepared by:** Adam Streeter-Smith, Outdoor Access Officer
- Purpose:** This paper provides an update 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

1. **The Cycling Action Plan** was approved at the CNPA Board on the 27th of September. There is still an environmental assessment to be completed on the plan but once this is in place the plan will be published.
2. **Community Path Leaflets** – The CNPA has let a contract to develop an accessible path guide for Badenoch and Strathspey. It will be in a similar format to the existing Deeside guide this booklet and will include around about 10 routes throughout the area and around each community.

Key work package 12 - Visitor and access infrastructure

3. **Management of core paths and outdoor access:**
 - a) **Low ground path development** – Works have recently been completed at Kincaig and Kingussie as well as further works in Strathdon around the school. Additional projects completed include a new bridge at Bachnagairn. Going forward, COAT have met with the Newtonmore Community Woodlands Trust and will be working up the specifications for improvements to the Wildcat Trail.
 - b) **Path Signs** – Advertisement consent for new signs in Aviemore is currently been sought and staff are working with The Anagach Woods Trust and the Community Council to update the signage around Grantown.
 - c) **Upland paths** – Remote accommodation units have been installed on Braeriach allowing contractors to stay loner on site. Maintenance contracts are now up and running for Deeside.
 - d) **Speyside Way extension** – The first piece of work on the extension has now been completed with the construction of a new bridge over the Allt na Criche south of Aviemore. It is intended to complete a further bridge and pathworks across the remaining part of Kinrara Estate this financial year.

Other National Park Initiatives

4. **Economic Strategy-** The CNPA has reviewed and updated the social economic report of the Park. There is workshop planned to look at the findings and revisit the action plan with a view to going out for consultation in the spring of 2014.
5. **Land Owner Survey-** The CNPA is surveying land owners to find out what their aspirations are and what they contribute locally and nationally. The survey will also try and identify trends and any barriers and help build up a good partnership with the land owning sector.

National Initiatives

6. The Scottish Government is currently developing a “walking strategy” which will set a series of outcomes and an action plan to increase walking. Sitting next to the Cycling Action Plan this strategy is a key outcome of the Physical Activity Implementation Plan which relates directly to the governments National Outcomes (safer, fairer etc). There will be a targeted consultation around Christmas and staff will be seeking views from LOAF members at that time. It is important to highlight that this document as well as CAPS will set the context for any revisions to the existing Cairngorms National Park Outdoor Access Strategy.

Adam Streeter-Smith
5th November 2013

adamstreetersmith@cairngorms.co.uk