

CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

- Title:** UPDATE AND FORWARD LOOK
- Prepared by:** Douglas Stewart, Outdoor Access Officer
- Purpose:** This paper provides an update on Forum membership and the main areas of work both undertaken and planned towards delivery of the five year outcomes in the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

1. The following LOAF members reach the end of a maximum 6 consecutive year term during June 2014 and today's meeting will therefore be their last:

Hebe Carus,
Thomas MacDonell,
Peter Holden,
Dave Craig,
Malcolm Macintyre.
2. The following members have agreed to extend their membership beyond an initial 3 year term which ends during May 2014:

Richard Gledson – 3 further years
Nigel Williams – 1 further year
Nick Cole – 3 further years
Paul Webster – 3 further years
3. Ian Hill reaches the end of a 3 year term and this meeting will be his last.
4. Peter Mackay from Kincaig joins as a member representing Recreation interests and taking up a 3 year term from 1st April 2014.
5. Vicky Hilton, Countryside Manager with Crown Estate joins as a member representing Land Management interests and taking up a 3 year term from 1st May 2014

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. **Active Cairngorms Strategy** – The CNPA is now in the early stages of producing this updated strategic document and will, following the update given at this meeting, keep the LOAF informed of progress.
2. **Short Links Funding** – Sustrans have granted £115,000 to CNPA as a contribution towards completion of parts of the Speyside Way extension. This support is dependent upon appropriate match funding being secured and will allow for completion of the work to a standard appropriate for bicycles.
3. **Community Path Leaflets** – A leaflet for Grantown on Spey has now been published as an addition to the existing series. The CNPA has also commenced a reprint of a number of these publications and they will continue to be made available throughout the Park over the forthcoming summer season.

Key work package 12 - Visitor and access infrastructure

4. **Management of core paths and outdoor access:**
 - a) **Local path development** – The CNPA has completed an important addition to the network of easily accessible paths on the outskirts of Aviemore. Aviemore Community Park is a collaborative project with the Aviemore and Cambusmore Enhancement Co. and has been part funded by the CNPA. The project has been carried out in conjunction with the Spey Catchment Initiative.
 - b) **Path Signs** – New signs are now in place on the Aviemore path network and similar ones will shortly be installed in Grantown in conjunction with Anagach Woods Trust and the Community Council.
 - c) **Speyside Way extension** – Planning permission has now been secured and work on two sections of the extension will begin shortly.
 - d) **Deeside Way extension** – an options appraisal has been carried out to determine the viability of an extension. Options will be discussed with key stakeholders. Any extension is a long term aspiration.
 - e) **Upholding Access Rights** – access casework continues to be reported and dealt with according to protocols. An update will be presented under Agenda Item 7.

Other National Park Initiatives

5. **Capercaillie Framework** - The CNPA is continuing with preparation of this document in response to the continued threat to this iconic Scottish species. It will include an examination of disturbance arising from recreational use of bird habitat. An update will be presented under Agenda Item 8.

National Initiatives

6. The CNPA is a key contributor to the proposals for dualling the A9, this includes consultation and input towards recreation and access considerations. Configuration of cycle provision within the scheme is a key priority and relevant discussions continue.

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