
CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

Title: Update and look forward for the next 3 months

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Purpose

This paper provides an update and flavour on the main areas of work undertaken and planned which will deliver the key themes in the Outdoor Access Strategy by the CNPA staff and partners.

Advice Sought

Forum members are asked to note the work undertaken and planned. Any questions, comments or suggestions are very welcome.

Action Theme 1: Improving path provision and quality

IMPLEMENTING THE CORE PATHS PLAN

1. **Path Signs** – Planning permission for the new Dulnain community path signs have been approved and the signs are manufactured and waiting to go in the ground. Planning permission is being sought of the new path signs for the Strathdon community path network.
2. **Speyside Way** – Heavy rains and quick snow melt before Christmas meant that there was flooding on the Speyside Way where it shares the path with the Aviemore Orbital to the north of Aviemore. CNPA staff met with the Estate and tenant farmer and agreed a solution involving improvement of the drains.

Action Theme 2: Promoting responsible outdoor access and management

3. **Outdoor Access Events**- The 7th Outdoor Access Events Open meeting was held on the 25th of January at the Boat of Garten Hall, chaired by Paul Corrigan this meeting brings together land managers and event organisers. Of interest were updates on the Aviemore Half Marathon and proposals for a Cairngorms Event Organisers Group. It was also agreed at the meeting that this event would be held annually rather by bi-annually.

Action Theme 3: Promoting Visitor Information about outdoor access opportunities

4. **Community Path Leaflets** - The Strathdon and Dulnain Bridge leaflets are under development and it is hoped that they will be completed by the end of February. Likewise the new leaflet for the Angus Glens will be completed by the end of March.

Action Theme 4: Promoting sustainable transport for enjoyment of the National Park

5. **Active Travel Audits** - In partnership with Highland Council and HITRANS the CNPA is joint funding an active travel audit for Aviemore. This audit will establish a baseline of travel needs and come up with a prioritised set of recommendations for practical measures, such as cycle route development, and soft measures such as promotion. Principally focused on functional needs, it will also look some visitor needs.

Action Theme 5: Promoting healthy lifestyles

6. A series of meetings are underway with partner organisations to develop how the 'Active Cairngorms' concept will be delivered within the National Park.

Other National Park Initiatives

7. **Land Management Forum** – The next meeting will be on March 28th and the agenda is to be confirmed.
8. **Stalking Signage** - One of the key objectives in the Deer Framework for the Cairngorms National Park is to raise awareness and understanding of deer management. The CNPA is currently working with Invercauld Estate to develop a template sign for key access points to the hills promoting messages about responsible behaviour and raising awareness of deer management issues. It is intended that this template will be adopted by other estates across the Park.
9. **Review of Local Biodiversity Action Plan and Partnership** - Alongside the development of the National Park Plan, officers have begun a review of the LBAP, reviewing the existing plan and seeking partner views on the criteria for focus and priorities for delivery. The principles for the review of the Cairngorms Local Biodiversity Action Plan will be to:
 1. Deliver what is expected of the Cairngorms National Park nationally and internationally;
 2. Engage people's interest? in wildlife;
 3. Implement an ecosystems approach;
 4. Respond and adapt to a changing climate.
10. **Rangers** – The valuable role Rangers in the Cairngorms National Park play in helping people enjoy visits to the countryside has been recognised with continued funding from the CNPA. At The meeting in Grantown on Spey on the 20th of January Board Members gave their unanimous support to continuing the partnership with ranger employers in the National Park along with £181,600 of grant support annually for the next five years. CNPA grant supports 15 Rangers who are employed by a number of different public and private organisations. Rangers are employed across the National Park with bases at the most popular and important sites.

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