

**CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY
PARK FOR ALL WORKING GROUP**

**Minutes of the meeting held in the Allt na Craig Hotel, Aviemore
on Wednesday 7th April 2004 at 8.30pm**

Present

Eric Baird	CNPA Vice-convenor
Elsbeth Grant	CNPA Social Inclusion Policy Officer
Lucy Grant (chair)	CNPA member
Andrew Harper	CNPA Head of Economic and Social Development
Anne MacLean	CNPA member
Sheena Slimon	CNPA member

Welcome and apologies

1. Lucy Grant welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no apologies.

Minutes of the last meeting

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 12th February 2004 were approved. Anne MacLean moved their adoption, and Lucy Grant seconded this.

Matters arising from the minutes not otherwise on the agenda

3. Regarding paragraphs 7,13 and 14, Elspeth Grant (EG) confirmed that the revised draft audit had been circulated to the Councils of Voluntary Service, the Community Councils Association, All Abilities Communication Network and CNPA Board members.
4. At paragraph 8, EG said that interpretation of the results of the audit had not been completed, but would form part of the next stage of work.
5. At paragraph 12, EG had spoken to Kristin Scott, Senior Access Officer who had agreed to come along to a future Group meeting.
6. Under paragraph 20, LG reported that she had spoken with Duncan Bryden about the Group's view on the continuation of the Affordable Health and Fitness Project, and she had circulated a note of her conversation to the Group. Anne MacLean (AM) had been unable to raise the matter with Locality Planning as the last meeting had been cancelled.
7. Regarding paragraph 23, it was reported that EG, LG and AM had attended the Disability Rights Commission conference in Inverness, which had been very worthwhile.

Audit of Social Inclusion (Paper 1)

8. It was noted that the function of the audit is to familiarise Group members of what activities are going on the Park, and this should be updated on an on-going basis. This could be facilitated by finding ways to improve communication channels between the Park Authority and Board members, councillors and other organisations.

9. It was agreed that business groups such as Chambers of Commerce were not appropriate to include in this audit, but should still be considered under other Park work.

Discussion of key constraints, issues and priority areas

10. It was noted that the Group should focus on broad social inclusion issues on a pan-Cairngorms level, rather than tackle specific issues at a community level (the latter is being taken forward by the Communities and Cultural Heritage Officer).
11. EG referred to her paper listing general social inclusion constraints as well as those specific to accessing the countryside, noting that these are recognised by researchers such as Mark Shucksmith and Bill Slee, from the University of Aberdeen. She suggested that this information would be a useful starting point for discussion.
12. It was felt that many of the constraints such as low incomes, poor health and disability, lack of education, low levels of benefit uptake, etc are not within the National Park's remit to address. However the Park could play a supporting role in helping to ameliorate these conditions by adding value to what others are doing.
13. It was also felt that the Group should be addressing social inclusion at an organisational level to ensure the National Park is showing best practice.
14. In terms of target groups to focus on, EG said that there are recognised groups affected by social exclusion based on age, race, faith, gender, sexual orientation or disability, including those specific to rural areas and accessing the countryside.
15. Key groups were discussed including young people, low paid people and inner city residents. With regard to low paid people and how the NP could help this group, it was felt that the CNPA's role should be to lead by example, through offering concessions for instance, and then encourage other organisations/ businesses to do the same.
16. How to reach these key groups was also discussed, and the importance of good communication and provision of information was noted.
17. After some discussion, it was felt that there are four key areas through which the CNPA can address social inclusion, namely in its:
 - Core activities: affordable housing, transport, employment with dedicated officers
 - Organisation responsibilities: holding public meetings, provision of information, recruitment, etc;
 - Project and policy development: embedding social inclusion considerations into policy into projects;
 - Key target groups and specific projects to take forward.
18. The role of the CNPA in advising on access standards was discussed, with reference to their planning function, and the provision of tourist information. It was suggested that a checklist would be useful for all aspects of CNPA operations.
19. It was agreed that EG would draft a paper to expand on the key constraints, issues and groups as discussed, providing some background and contextual information to enable the Group to

identify priorities. This paper would be circulated for comment to the Group, as well as to the Section Heads.

Action
EG

Short term developments

20. It was reported that there are a number of social inclusion projects currently running or in the pipeline, of which the Group need to be aware. Some require the Group's support in advance of confirming priority areas to focus on.

21. EG updated the Group on the Youth Communication Initiative, noting that the Schools Group had met for the first time recently, and that a number of activities are proposed including developing the Young Cairngorms website www.youngcairngorms.com; producing NP information that will appeal to young people; and organising a youth event.

22. EG referred to a project proposal from the Fieldfare Trust which would involve increasing access opportunities for disabled people in several National Parks across Europe. The project would include a case study from each National Park with the aim of showing best practice, and working with both practitioners and disabled people locally. The Trust is seeking interest from the CNP in Scotland and other partners in Portugal, Northern Ireland, Italy, and Spain. The Group agreed in principle to participate in the project, subject to finding out more details.

EG

23. EG noted that the Affordable Health and Fitness Project was now complete and the final report was currently being printed. Copies will be sent to Group members in due course. Interim arrangements have been put in place to continue the aqua exercise classes and Grant House visits, and progress has been made to increase referrals through the GP's. It is hoped the Community Health Partnership will lead on the project in the longer term, and a meeting is planned in May to discuss this. It was agreed that the CNPA's role should be as an enabler.

EG

24. It was also reported that the CNPA has been approached by BTCV (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) about possible links with the NP through their Environments for All programme. Their current work with Loch Lomond and the Trossachs NP involves black and ethnic minority groups from inner city areas undertaking conservation activities within the NP, and BTCV are interested to meet with the CNPA to discuss whether this could be set up here. It was agreed to take this forward with an exploratory meeting as it is in line with the Park for All aim.

EG/AH

AOCB

25. A booklet produced by the Mobility and Access Committee Scotland on providing accessible information about travel was circulated.

26. AM circulated the SCVO's newsletter containing details of it rural research and policy work. EG would circulate copies to the Group for interest.

EG

Date of next meeting

27. The date of the next meeting will be advised in due course.

EG

Elsbeth Grant
May 2004