
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** – The CNPA has let a contract to install new path signs and way markers around Carr Bridge, Nethybridge and Boat of Garten. This work will be completed by the 31st of March and will compliment the new community path leaflets. Staff have also made a large bid to LEADER to secure funding for the development of signs around Strathdon, Kinraig, Aviemore, Grantown, Dulnain, Kingussie, Dalwhinnie, Braemar and Ballater.
2. **Community Path Leaflets**- The new leaflets for Carr Bridge and Grantown are currently under development and will be published by the end of March 2011 adding to the ones already produced for Boat of Garten, Nethy Bridge, Ballater and Kingussie. Work has also started in three leaflets for Glen Doll, Glen Clova and Glen Mark in partnership with Angus Council.
3. **The Speyside Way Extension**- The CNPA Board has agreed that given the likely timescales for the Public Inquiry into the Kinrara section of the route the timescales for the delivery of the route shall be extended.
4. **Fit for Purpose** – The CNPA Board has also agreed to lower the target with the Corporate Plan for the extent of the core path network being Fit for Purpose from 90% to 70%. The extent of the current network that is Fit for Purpose will be reported to the LOAF at the May meeting.

Action Theme 2: Promoting responsible outdoor access and management

5. **Outdoor Access Events-** The forward looking meeting on outdoor access events was held on the 26th of January. Whilst not as well attended as others the discussions were very useful and will help develop a framework for sustainable events.
6. **Informal camping –** Work is continuing in the Braemar area on establishing the business case for a serviced campsite, the consultant's report is expected before the end of March. Staff have also met with the Forestry Commission and will be supporting them in developing a management plan for camping at Loch Morlich. A more detailed paper updating the LOAF will be presented at the May meeting.
7. **Promoting outdoor access opportunities responsibly –** We are continuing our support to the Grantown dog walkers who are developing a code of conduct for dog walkers using Anagach Woods. In collaborating with Forestry Commission Scotland, we have funded a literature review of studies into influencing behaviour of dog walkers to make an assessment of how relevant this is for the National Park.

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

8. **Staff changes-** In light of the development of the next National Park Plan and last round of voluntary redundancies staff Bob Grant is now leading on this theme.

Other National Park Initiatives

9. **Community Needs Assessment-** The CNPA is using a more community-led approach to developing the next National Park Plan. To achieve this the CNPA has contracted Voluntary Action Badenoch and Strathspey and their Perth and Kinross counterpart, Marr Area Partnership and the Rural Environmental Action Project. These organisations led the first phase of engagement with the communities of the National Park the output being a series of statements and background information for each community. These statements set out how special they are and how they want to adapt to the future. Using this information the CNPA will draft the next Park Plan which will then be consulted upon through the summer and autumn of 2011.
10. **Deer Framework -** The Framework, produced on behalf of the Cairngorms Deer Advisory Group, sets out a number of 'principles' and a 'delivery plan' that provide a positive focus for "sustaining the deer resource" into the future. The aspiration is that the framework will provide the basis by which deer and their management will no longer need to be such a high priority in the National Park Plan.
11. **Wildlife Estates -** The private land management sector, led by the Scottish Rural Property and Business Association (SRPBA) and Scottish Estates Business Group (SEBG), is developing an accreditation scheme for sporting estates known as 'Wildlife Estates Scotland'. The scheme seeks to ensure best practice in game and wildlife management and to demonstrate the economic, social and environmental outcomes delivered by sporting estates. Although being developed as a national initiative, it is proposed to use a pilot focused on the Cairngorms National Park to help develop the scheme and test its implementation. The scheme has the potential to bring significant benefits to the Park, not least a better framework for engaging private sporting estates in a more co-ordinated approach to delivery of biodiversity conservation and other public benefits.

12. **Boat of Garten Woods-** There is an interesting planning case being dealt with by staff at Boat of Garten that throws up key questions about how we can ensure the community can use the woods without impacting on the sensitive Capercaillie population.

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