

INCLUSIVE CAIRNGORMS

Minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2016
at 11.30am in Grant Arms Hotel, Grantown-on-Spey

Present:

Anne MacLean (chair)	Mobility and Access Committee Scotland
Eric Baird	Cairngorms Ranger Services
Glyn Jones	Cairngorms Ranger Services (Balmoral)
Maggie Lawson	B&S Community Transport Company
Eleanor Mackintosh	CNPA Board Member
Sam Masson	LEADER
Sandra Macallister	NHS Highland
James Dunbar	VABS
Doris Carlin	B&S Access Panel
Morag Campbell	B&S Access Panel
Alasdair Johnston	NP Resident
Dan Cottam	Grantown Museum
Pammy Johal	Backbone
Grant Moir	CNPA
Elsbeth Grant	CNPA
Pete Crane	CNPA
Dan Harris	CNPA
David Berry	CNPA
Jacki Munro	CNPA (minutes)

Apologies:

Kevin Hutchens	Independent social worker
Carole Paterson	Braemar 3 rd Age Lunch Group
Ruaridh Ormiston	Cairngorms RDA
Alison Cush	LL&TNP
Hector MacDonald	SDEF
Jane Cox	COAT Walking to Health
Sandra South	B&S Access Panel
David Atkinson	Scottish Churches Rural Group
Carolyn Cornfield	Caberfeidh Horizons
Liz Scott	Highlands & Islands Enterprise
Maggie MacAlpine	Crathie Opportunity Holidays
Vittoria Hancock	Scottish Churches Rural Group

Site visit to Grantown Museum

1. Prior to the meeting, several members attended a site visit to the Grantown Museum, hosted by Dan Cottam, manager. Dan provided some background to the recent refurbishment and how the exhibits and interpretation have been designed with accessibility in mind. Members were invited to suggest any areas for improvement.

Welcome and Apologies

2. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made and apologies noted.

Minutes of Last Meeting

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2016 were approved subject to the following amendment:
 - Ref para 37: EB was misrepresented in his comment regarding LOAF being less active. The minutes to be amended to reflect that “LOAF are having fewer meetings but remaining active.”

Matters arising from the Minutes

4. Ref para 3: EG has contacted Ian Cooper regarding IT training for visually impaired people in their homes. **Ongoing - Action EG.**
5. Ref para 4: EG has passed details on migrant workers to KH.
6. Ref para 7: AJ enquired if there was any action on the Cambus O’May Bridge and when repairs do go ahead that the turnstile accessibility issue is resolved. PC confirmed that Aberdeenshire Council are yet to decide on the way forward with this.
7. Ref para 12: EM welcomed as GR’s deputy from the CNPA Board.
8. Ref para 13: EG reported that a new website page “Cairngorms on a shoestring” is being worked on along with an Easy Access page.
9. Ref para 26: EG reported that the Cairngorms Business Partnership is organising an Accessible Tourism event on 28th September, at which EG and AM will be attending.
10. Ref para 32: EB confirmed there had been no feedback from Group members regarding path monitoring and their effectiveness. AM asked that members please try to do this.
11. Ref para 34: EG noted that Adam is liaising with Aviemore VIC regarding leaflet requests. MC stated that Aviemore VIC had refused to take leaflets as they did not have the space to display them. GM to make enquiries to Visitscotland on this matter. **Action: GM**
12. Ref para 41: EG confirmed Heather Trench is putting a presentation together for the Accessible Tourism seminar (see para 9) about the NP visitor survey and some analysis of the experience of disabled visitors. EG to circulate when available. **Action: EG**
13. Ref para 44: c/f action - RO to send more details of the Wranglers volunteers to EG.
14. Ref para 48-49, EG reported that a contractor is to be appointed mid-October to carry out the building works at CNPA office but weather will likely dictate when works commence

over the winter. EG will be part of a staff group who will be kept updated on progress and will be able to inform and seek involvement of Inclusive Cairngorms as necessary.

15. Ref para 51: EG confirmed she will be meeting the West Aberdeenshire Access Panel on 20th September to look at improving access at the Ballater office. **Action EG**

CNPA Public Duties (standing item)

Outdoor Access:

16. EG had circulated paper on Outdoor Access Activity to all members. It was highlighted that funding has been obtained from LEADER, NHS Highland and Paths For All for a Volunteer Co-ordinator to be employed for the next 3 years. One of the main aims of the post is to maintain and expand the Health Walks programme.

Local Outdoor Access Forum (LOAF)

17. EB confirmed the last LOAF meeting was held on Tuesday 6th September at which the National Park Partnership Plan Consultation was discussed and will be reported on.

Planning: update on recent consultations

18. Ref para 38, EG confirmed she had circulated the group's responses to applications between February and July 2016.
19. Re application 2016/0143/LBC for visitor facilities at Balavil Mains, Kingussie, the IC response had queried the door widths to ensure they are wide enough for wheelchairs.
20. Re application 2016/0271/PPP for 8No new houses at Newtonmore, no comment had been made at this stage.
21. AM appealed to Group members to continue to give feedback to planners, as they are best placed to comment on local matters.

Equalities:

22. EG reported that under the statutory Public Equality Duties, CNPA must review its equality outcomes by 30 April 2017. CNPA's first set of outcomes were developed in 2013 that focused on removing barriers for under-represented groups to engage with the Park, as well as outcomes to address any equality needs of staff. IC were involved in this initial process, and CNPA would like to seek IC's input in the forthcoming review. Kate Christie will attend the next meeting to present the draft outcomes and seek feedback from the group.

LEADER / Local Action Group Update – Sam Masson

23. Sam Masson gave a short explanation as to what Cairngorms LEADER's programme covers and how they can help specific causes within the CNP. Covering 5 local authority areas with a budget of £2.96m available to spend on appropriate projects, concentrating on 6 themes. In the last seven months £650,000 has been awarded and they are looking to spend the balance before Brexit happens. LEADER are keen to hear from groups and asked that everyone spread the word to their local communities about what is available. LEADER's only limitations are they cannot grant funds if it can be funded through other SRDP revenues. If this is the case they will advise and point people in the right direction where possible.
24. EB noted that some applicants are being asked to contact Inclusive Cairngorms for advice on making their projects as inclusive as possible.

AOCB

25. AM reminded all members that as Chair she would be standing down at the next meeting, along with EB as Vice Chair. Nominations should be put forward to EG by 23rd November 2016.

Date of next meeting

26. 23rd November 2016, Venue TBC.
27. A consultation workshop on National Park Partnership Plan followed, to discuss and prepare a response on behalf of IC. (see separate document)

The venue for the next meeting on 23rd November has now been confirmed as: CNPA office in Grantown-on-Spey with video conferencing available from the Ballater office.