
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 joint LEADER and CNPA funded project to develop path signs is under way with Kingussie and Dulnain Bridge audited. It's expected that work will commence to install the Dulnain Bridge signs in December.
2. **Speyside Way Extension** – An informal hearing into the Draft Path Order over Kinrara Estate was held on the 18th of August. The hearing conducted by a Scottish Government appointed Reporter heard evidence from both parties. A site visit was also undertaken by the Reporter the 19th of August. The Park Authority currently waits for the Reporters recommendation.

Action Theme 2: Promoting responsible outdoor access and management

3. **Outdoor Access Events-** The 5th open meeting for event organisers and land managers was held on the 26th of October. Attended by over 20 delegates' topics as wide ranging as marketing, events planning and event administration were discussed.

Action Theme 3: Promoting Visitor Information about outdoor access opportunities

4. **Community Path Leaflets-** The new leaflet for Toimntoul has been completed and is currently with the printers. Strathdon and Dulnain Bridge are under development and it is hoped that they will be completed by the end of December.

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

5. CNPA continues to promote non-car travel and is working with groupings such as the Badenoch & Strathspey Community Transport Company who are keen to establish the level of need for a new community bus service in Aviemore.

Action Theme 5: Promoting healthy lifestyles

6. There is a major Scottish Health Conference coming to Aviemore on the 10 and 11th of November. The Park Authority, COAT and the Paths for All Partnership are jointly hosting a stand and health walks programme for delegates.

Other National Park Initiatives

7. **Land Management Forum** -The LMF met on 21st September the most significant discussion in relation to access, was about wildfire. The need to get appropriate messages out about the prevention of **wildfire** risk was seen as critical. It was recommended that a Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) should be more universally available and free at the point of use to land managers to assist preparedness. The Met Office have developed a Fire Severity Index, but this is not calibrated for use as a Fire Danger Rating System and is currently only available in England and Wales.
Link to meeting note and talks:
http://www.cairngorms.co.uk/park-authority/about-us/meeting-papers/working-groups-and-advisory-forums/?wg_section=meetings&typeID=44.
8. **Blair Atholl Information Hub**- The CNPA, Atholl Estates and other partners are progressing the redevelopment of the old Atholl Ranger base. Plans include a substantial upgrade to the car park and entrance as well as an extension to the existing base.

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November 2011
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