
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 in Dulnain Bridge and Strathdon, as well as audit provision in other communities, has gone out for tender and it is hoped work will commence in mid September.
2. **Speyside Way Extension** – An informal hearing into the Draft Path Order over Kinrara Estate which relates to extending the Speyside Way south from Aviemore to Newtonmore will be held on the 18th of August. The hearing is conducted by a Scottish Government appointed Reporter.
3. **COAT**-Projects are moving on as follows:
 - a. Low ground paths project - An unsuccessful LEADER bid now means that path projects are having to be taken forward on a case by case basis. A number of paths are currently going through the planning and development process and in the east are: the Ministers Path in Angus and the new Strathdon Bridge. In the west there are now new bridges over the Allt Mhor and Alt na Feithe Buidhe between Kingussie and Newtonmore providing the last link for UB34: the Kingussie to Newtonmore path via Loch Gynack.
 - b. Mountain heritage paths project - A total of 12 individual path projects are being taken forward as part of the mountain heritage project. To date work has been completed on sections of the Lairig Ghru, Bynack Mhor path, light touch works on the route to Ben Macdui and on the Carn Ban Mor path amongst others.

Action Theme 2: Promoting responsible outdoor access and management

4. **Promoting outdoor access opportunities responsibly** – Aside from what was highlighted in *Dogs in outdoors* paper staff are continuing to develop materials for the “tread lightly” campaign. A further one year grant offer has been made to Invercauld Estate to help them address issues arising from irresponsible camping in Glen Clunie.
5. **Outdoor Access Events-** Work is continuing in supporting the role of the Events and Festivals Coordinator within the Cairngorms Business Partnership. Prospective event organisers have found that there are challenges in developing events at sensitive times of the year and likewise some land managers still feel that there are a lot of events. Feedback from a number of event organisers is that numbers seem to be down which might indicate that the market is becoming saturated. Either way it is still very important that event organisers and land managers are brought together.

Action Theme 3: Promoting Visitor Information about outdoor access opportunities

6. **Community Path Leaflets-** Work is continuing with the development of three leaflets for Glen Doll, Glen Clova and Glen Mark. Work has already started on the Tomintoul, Strathdon and Dulnain Bridge community path leaflets. Initial discussions have taken place with both the community and the estate on the potential for a Blair Atholl community path leaflet. The Carr-Bridge path leaflet is now complete which complements those that have already been developed for Ballater, Kingussie, Nethy Bridge and Boat of Garten.

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

7. CNPA continues to promote non-car travel and is working with groupings such as the Rural Transport Corridor Project that is exploring the accessibility of bus routes in the Grantown – Aviemore area to the disabled and bus timetabling.

Action Theme 5: Promoting healthy lifestyles

8. There are 10 communities that have a health walk operating and participation levels continue to increase with 190 led walks having taken place in the quarter to 30 June. In addition there are groups operating tackling health specific issues such as alzheimer’s disease, diabetes and weight management.

Other National Park Initiatives

9. **National Park Plan** - The public consultation on the next Park Plan will begin on the 19th of September and run through to the 9th of December. The consultative draft has been shaped by extensive informal consultation with communities and partners. Over the last year each community in the National Park has come up with a vision statement and these will be referenced in the Park Plan. An early draft of the plan can be seen at <http://www.cairngorms.co.uk/resource/docs/boardpapers/08072011/CNPA.Paper.4376.Board.Paper.I.Annex.I.pdf>. There will be a paper at the November LOAF meeting

highlighting both the process of developing the Park Plan and raising issues for discussion on matters relating to outdoor access.

10. **Local Development Plan** - Work has already started on the next Local Development Plan, which will in due course replace the Local Plan. The [Development Plan Scheme \(DPS\)](#) outlines how the CNPA will prepare the new Local Development Plan - including how we intend to engage with the public in this process. The first stage in this process is to compile a Main Issues Report which will go out for public consultation in September 2011 and will be undertaken at the same time as the National Park Plan.
11. **Cairngorms National Park Junior Ranger Project**- There are three groups running at present taking children from Grantown Grammar, Kingussie High, Aboyne and Alford Academy and Webster's High school in Kirriemuir . Seven junior rangers have also taken part in an exchange visit to Bavaria to look at National Parks in Germany and the Czech Republic.

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