
CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

- Title:** Update and look forward for the next 3 months
- Prepared by:** Adam Streeter-Smith, Outdoor Access Officer
- 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 completed the installation of new path signs and way markers around Carr Bridge, Nethybridge and Boat of Garten. In March a large bid was made to LEADER to role the project out to the other communities. A reduced funding offer was made by LEADER and Park staff are currently reviewing the options.

Action Theme 2: Promoting responsible outdoor access and management

2. **Promoting outdoor access opportunities responsibly** – Staff are currently working with the Countryside Ranger services to develop the key messages and materials for a “tread lightly” campaign. Early discussions have identified issues such as litter as one of the strands to take forward.

Action Theme 3: Promoting Visitor Information about outdoor access opportunities

3. **Community Path Leaflets-** The new leaflet for Carr Bridge is published and work has also started in three leaflets for Glen Doll, Glen Clova and Glen Mark in partnership with Angus Council. In the next month work will start on the Tomintoul leaflet.

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

4. A Community Electric Car launched at the end of 2009 was being used by the Badenoch and Strathspey Community Transport Co and has now been sold as the pilot project has ended. This project was co-funded by a wide range of partners including the EU, Hitrans, Climate Challenge Fund and Community Energy Scotland. CNPA continues to promote non-car travel and are working with the Cairngorms Business Partnership and UHI on innovative digital travel planning. The car proved useful but was not effective in the worst of the winter weather.

Action Theme 5: Promoting healthy lifestyles

5. **The Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust continue** to make excellent progress in extending the number of people actively engaged in a health walk every week in the National Park. The year on year increase from the baseline in 2008 is as follows: March '08 baseline = 225; Mar '09 = 295 (+31%); Mar '10 = 320 (+8.5%), current estimate Mar '11, 443 (+38%). This is a remarkable success story and is on that the Trust is continuing to build upon.
6. A recent initiative by COAT with Highland and Grampian Health Boards has seen the production of a poster encouraging participation in health walks which will be distributed in surgeries and other similar areas. It is attached.

Other National Park Initiatives

7. **New Cairngorms National Park Boundary** – The point of entry markers are in place at the new boundary as a consequence of the extension of the National Park into Perthshire and visitor information is being upgraded to include the new boundary.
8. **Ranger bases** – Work is continuing in the upgrade of the bases at Blair Atholl and Glen Tanar.
9. **Visitor information centres**- Are being upgraded and branded in Crathie and Toimintoul.

Adam Streeter-Smith

May 2011

adamstreetersmith@cairngorms.co.uk