

INCLUSIVE CAIRNGORMS

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2014
at 11.00am in CNPA office, Grantown-on-Spey with video conference link to
CNPA Ballater and Loch Lomond & the Trossachs NPA

Present:

In Grantown:

Anne MacLean (chair)	Mobility and Access Committee Scotland
Elsbeth Grant	CNPA
Anne Dempster	Strath Sunshine Club
Pete Carson	Health and Happiness
Hector MacDonald	Scottish Disability Equality Forum
Fraser Cardow	Highland Small Communities Housing Trust
Alice Mayne	CNPA
Morag Campbell	B&S Access Panel
James Campbell	B&S Access Panel
Aileen Graham	B&S Access Panel
Jonathan Kitching	Adventure Aberdeen
David Clyne	CNPA
Graeme Rodger	Eden Court
Gavin Miles	CNPA
Grant Moir	CNPA

In Ballater:

Gordon Riddler	CNPA Board
Kevin Hutchens	Independent Social Worker
Carole Paterson	Braemar 3 rd Age lunch group
Alan Melrose	Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust

In LL&TNPA:

Alison Cush	Education and Inclusion Adviser
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Apologies:

Eric Baird	Cairngorms Ranger Services
Maggie Lawson	B&S Community Transport Company
Maureen Smyth	Children's Disability Services
Kate Christie	CNPA
Jane Cox	Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust
Sasha Devine	Highlands and Islands Equality Forum / SCVO
David Atkinson	Scottish Rural Churches Group
Suresh Paul	Equal Adventure
Carolyn Cornfield	Caberfeidh Horizons
Saran Cleary	Barnardo's Works
Margaret McLaren	Friends of Caberfeidh
Alasdair Johnston	Aberdeen City Council
Shiela Fletcher	Community Transport Association

Welcome and Introduction

1. The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting the apologies.

Minutes of Last Meeting

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 15 January were approved.

Matters arising from the Minutes

3. Re para 2, EG noted that she had sent a note to Miranda thanking her for her contribution to the group.
4. Re para 4, EG reported that Pammy Johal from Backbone Training had met with the rangers at their annual gathering on 6 March. Pammy hopes to involve the rangers in meeting and developing relationships with her trainees from the Community Leadership Programme, which will support engagement with multicultural groups and increase their participation in the Park.
5. Re para 8, Gavin Miles confirmed that links will be made to the inclusive design toolkit from the CNPA design and Local Development Plan web pages.
6. Re para 9, EG reported that she had heard back from Aberdeenshire Council regarding the grass reinforced mesh to be used in the Tullich cemetery extension. They intend to use Terram material, the size of which has yet to be decided. But they will take on board IC's comment re people using sticks.
7. Re para 11, Gavin Miles noted that the Design Awards would be open to both public and private buildings and acknowledged that accessibility regulations applies to both (although for private new builds this is only a recent requirement). Rather than having accessibility as a single essential category, it would be best promoted as one of a number of criteria that applications should meet. It was agreed that Inclusive Cairngorms should have a role in encouraging entries which demonstrate good practice in accessibility, eg parks, paths, buildings.
8. HM noted that the SDEF website includes all the legislative requirements regarding accessible buildings, but also features guidance on good practice.
9. Re para 11, GM said that the make-up of the judging panel has yet to be decided, but they will consider IC's point in due course.
10. Re para 18, Anne MacLean reported that she had attended the Local Development Strategy working group meeting on 6 February.
11. Re para 34, EG reported that Adam had met with the B&S Access Panel about producing the Easy Access Guide, and a draft will be available for the next meeting.

12. Re para 37, EG said she had spoken to Communications colleagues about raising the profile of IC, and they advised that IC could be best promoted in relation to a story / project in which they have been involved, eg the Easy Access Guide.

Consultation on Cairngorms Local Development Strategy – Alice Mayne, CNPA Grants Manager

13. Alice is seeking a response from IC on the draft Local Development Strategy which is currently being consulted on. Alice is seeking feedback on the suggested themes and actions in the LDS, and possible projects that will mitigate equalities issues.

14. Alice noted the consultation findings so far indicated that young people should be involved more in developing the strategy; better engagement of the business community; and equalities issues are not highlighted enough.

15. Comments from IC were as follows:

16. Theme 1 – Building community capacity

- Equality training for Community council and transport providers
- All schemes/projects should have equality action plans with targets

17. Theme 2 – Grow the economy of the Park

- Issues of childcare and other caring responsibilities, transportation, broadband
- Increasing employment opportunities for under-represented groups incl disabled and young people, women.
- Equalities training for employers and monitoring

18. Theme 3 – Attract, support and retain young people

- Involve young people with disabilities
- Transport issue
- Focus groups to pick up ideas on how to engage youth, including using their language, target through schools, model used by LL&TNP.

19. Theme 4 – Improve transport, connectivity and service provision

- Need inclusive approach to accessing computers, IT
- People who don't have access shouldn't be discriminated against
- Issues of cost of adaptive equipment, knowing how to use it, transport, language used, Broadband speed
- Need training in use of IT – bringing it closer to people
- Access and accessibility are two different concepts

20. Theme 5 – Protection and enhancement of NP landscape, wildlife and heritage

- All groups should be included such as people with learning and physical disabilities

21. Theme 6 – Excellence in sustainable tourism and outdoor recreation

- Some people can't take part in health walks due to extra health needs. Separate walks could be run for people with specific needs.

- Discounts could be available to promote financial accessibility of opportunities. Promoting discounts by service providers.
- Promoting all abilities access in the Park (paths, places and services incl mobility scooters at Glenmore).

22. General equalities comments

- Equalities action plans should be part of every project
- Support for Community Development officers should continue
- Equalities awareness should be embedded in all projects, this could be supported by the CDO network and possible role of Inclusive Cairngorms and B&S Access Panel eg providing equalities / disability awareness training with local schools.
- Communication about the new programme using multi media including radio
- Equalities should be considered when producing materials, including attention to language and jargon
- Public meetings should be accessible including hearing loops
- Think about Aberdeen City
- Harness the skills and talents of volunteers with disabilities – let them know that facilities will meet their needs including transport, working from home, facilities, effort can be brought in.

23. Project ideas

- Speysound Radio community platform
- All terrain scooters at visitor facilities
- Health walks for people with specific support needs
- Call centre – to provide access to discounts / promotions for people who don't have online access
- Utilisation of spare bus capacity – community transport pilot
- Equalities training and monitoring for employers
- Equalities training as part of project development
- Accessible computer provision and support
- All abilities access information and promotion including cost savings.

CNPA Public Duties (standing item)

Outdoor Access

24. David Clyne, the new Recreation and Access manager for CNPA introduced a key part of his role is to develop a new outdoor access strategy for the Park. He looks forward to involving IC in contributing to the strategy in due course. David can be contacted by email DavidClyne@cairngorms.co.uk, Tel: 01479 870549

Planning

25. IC have been invited to comment on 2 planning items:

26. 2014/0026/DET – Braemar visitor centre

- It was felt that the application documents were lacking information on accessibility and that an Access Statement would be useful, eg although 3 disabled carparking spaces are mentioned, the surface materials to and from the visitor centre are not specified and this needs further clarity to ensure that they are accessible, for wheelchair users, and

those who are visually impaired with sticks. Reference was made to the CNPA adopted standards for all abilities paths in the use of quarry dust for top dressing of paths.

- There was also little information about accessibility within the building in terms of the exhibition area, displays, accessible toilets.
- Regarding the stands, there is no indication where disabled people (including wheelchair users) and those accompanying them will sit. It was felt that rather than being all 'corralled' together in one space, there could be a choice of spaces for disabled people.

27. 2014/0027/DET – Paths at Bridge of Muick

- As these sections of path are not of all abilities standard, there were no comments from Inclusive Cairngorms.

Young People (standing item)

28. There was nothing to report.

Disability (standing item)

29. Pete Carson, who is a Community connector with the Health and Happiness charity gave an introduction to his work. H&H was established 6 years ago in Highlands, to support people (age 13-35) who have made the transition from social care to living in the community. Pete supports his clients (experts), working with their carers and families as well as with other partners to develop life skills, social networking and work experience. Eg involving Sport for All, An Cala, Youth Opportunities BS, Caberfeidh bookshop, Speysound, Wildlife park, etc. They have funding till 2015.

Low Income

30. JK noted that Cromdale Outdoor Centre – run by Aberdeen City – has increased its occupancy from 8 schools in 2013, to 14 in 2014; some of these schools benefiting from the Outdoor Learning travel grant offered by CNPA.

AOCB

31. Grant Moir informed IC about a piece of work that will define CNPA's Learning and Inclusion work. EG and Alan Smith are drafting a statement that will identify the aims and priority work areas that CNPA is involved in, and how this links into Scottish Government outcomes around young people and other opportunities for joint working and pooling resources. This will help to take forward a pledge that GM has made to provide every child with the opportunity to visit the National Park.

32. Some comments were made including:

- What age range of young people should be targeted in this work? (In Aberdeen, involvement of S2-S4 (age 12-16) would be most valuable).
- Will carers and people with disabilities be taken into consideration?
- Links between Learning and inclusion and opportunities for joint working between the partners of the Environment and Forestry Directorate.

IC will be kept informed and involved in the development of this work.

33. Grant referred back to the last IC meeting he had attended in March 2013, when he had asked about IC's priorities. He gave an update on progress made on each of these priorities:

- IC involvement in Planning –CNPA has a protocol to involve IC in relevant planning applications
- Importance of young people and nature – schools are a main partner in our outdoor learning work / uptake of John Muir award and junior ranger schemes. Young people are a key audience for Cairngorms Nature
- Reducing barriers: transport grant scheme has been piloted 2013-14, and rangers have had training in engagement with equalities groups; at a strategic level CNPA has met with Highland Council.

34. Comments on the above priorities – or any additional ones – included:

- MC noted that she is pleased with the planning protocol, it is working well
- MC also noted that joint working with Adam S-S on outdoor access is useful for both parties and saves duplication.
- AMcL welcomes the opportunity for IC to comment on CNPA projects and activities, eg the LDS, Outdoor Access Strategy and being involved in the equality impact assessment process.
- AMcL also noted the importance of Community Development Officers in engaging with under-represented groups.
- GM noted that the proposed upgrade of the CNPA website will provide an opportunity for IC to be involved.
- Other partners to involve were suggested including SYHA, Young Scot, Badaguish, RNIB, Eden Court

35. EG referred to the consultation of the Economic Development and Diversification Strategy to which IC have been invited to respond. Copies of the document were circulated and any comments should be sent to EG by 31 March so that they can be collated and forwarded to David Watson.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 5 June, 11am to 1.00pm in CNPA offices in Grantown with VC to Ballater and LL&TNP.

**Elsbeth Grant
CNPA**