
CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

- Title:** UPDATE AND FORWARD LOOK
- Prepared by:** Douglas Stewart, Outdoor Access Officer
- Purpose:** This paper provides an update on the main areas of work both undertaken and planned towards delivery of the five year outcomes in the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17.

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2012-17.

Long term outcome: People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences

Key work package 9 - Active Cairngorms

1. **Active Cairngorms Strategy** – This will focus CNPA actions towards activity which benefits health for the 5 years it will be in place. Public consultation has recently ended. An update will be given at this meeting and CLOAF will continue to be kept informed.
2. **Kingussie Cycle Friendly Community Award** – the town has been successful in securing £19,000 of funding from Sustrans to support local cycling initiatives. As part of this the CNPA Access Team are currently working with the community to map local cycle routes in the area to populate a forthcoming CNPA cycling focused webpage. Note that *Bikefest Scotland* will be held on Saturday 13th June at Ardvonie Park.
3. **Revised Path Leaflet for Nethy Bridge** – Due for print shortly, this leaflet has been updated to include new trails around the games park in Nethy Bridge. The leaflet will be available locally and also distributed directly to VIC's in the area.

Key work package 12 - Visitor and access infrastructure

4. **Management of core paths and outdoor access:**
 - a) **Hurricane 'Bertha' damage:** – COAT has recently completed reinstatement of Core Path LBS61 alongside the River Dulnain, the path was badly washed out by a spate on the river. This work cost £3,000.
 - b) **Ellan Bridge, Carrbridge** – CNPA has awarded a grant of £3k towards necessary repairs on this important pedestrian bridge. It is anticipated the work will be carried out during 2015.
 - c) **Wildcat Trail, Newtonmore** – CNPA has awarded a grant of £500 towards purchase of vegetation cutting tools (inc 2 strimmers) by the NCDWT for maintaining this popular path and others in the Newtonmore area.

- d) **Speyside Way (existing)** – CNPA are currently in discussion with Sustrans who have indicated they may fund a survey of the existing Speyside Way between Cromdale and Boat of Garten. A survey would cost approx £25k and allow future improvement works to the route to be specified.
- e) **Upholding Access Rights** – access casework continues to be reported and dealt with according to protocols. An update will be presented under Agenda Item 7.

2015/16 Financial Planning

- 5. Public sector finance continues to be subject to downward pressure due to ongoing spending constraints and as a result the operational budget for CNPA Access Team during 2015-16 is significantly reduced from previous years.
- 6. Budget allocations are such that there will be no discretionary capital available for spend during the forthcoming financial year. We will therefore be focussing on partnership projects where opportunity exists to lever in additional contribution against projects already underway or as new grant funding.

Other National Park Initiatives

- 7. **Capercaillie Framework** - This document has now received approval by the CNP Board having drawn up a number of recommendations including measures targeted towards reducing disturbance arising from recreational use of bird habitat. The next phase of the work will involve working directly with land managers and communities to take forward the recommendations to develop specific proposals at key locations. An update will be given under Agenda Item 8.
- 8. **Laggan Forest Centre** – The awaited new cafe/centre at Laggan Wolftrax is now open to the public offering food, drink, toilets and coin operated showers. Bike hire and uplift is currently not available, but is intended to be provided soon. The project has been led by Laggan Forest Trust and part funded by CNPA through Scottish Government shovel-ready funding.
- 9. **HLF Tomintoul / Glenlivet** – A stage 1 bid for HLF Funding for the Tomintoul / Glenlivet Landscape Partnership has been successful with the CNPA as lead partner in this first phase. The CNPA Access Team will now be working with the TGLP Project Team to draw up specifications for £360k of improvements including upgrade of 7km of the Speyside Way spur at Tomintoul. A further 2km of local path will also receive upgrade/improvement.
- 10. **Cairngorms Nature Festival** – The festival will be taking place on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th May this year focussing on events within a 20 minute drive of four Visitor Information Centres at Aviemore, Ballater, Blair Atholl and Tomintoul. The event includes a range of interactive activities for families including guided walks, wildlife watching and photography. See www.cairngorms.co.uk/look-after/cairngorms-nature/festival

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