



Local Outdoor Access Forum

Held online and at Grantown on Spey office on 5 June 2024

Present:	Ben Dolphin (BD)	LOAF	
	Colin Cadden (CC)	LOAF	
	Eilidh Scobbie (ES)	LOAF	
	Gavin Miles (GM)	Park Authority	LOAF
	John Grierson (JG)	LOAF (Chair)	
	Mark Johnston (MJ)	LOAF	
	Patsy Richards (PR)	LOAF	
	Sara Denner (notes)	Park Authority	
	Trevor Thornley (TT)	LOAF	
	Vicky Hilton (VH)	Park Authority	
Online:	Hilary Quick (HQ)	LOAF	

Apologies: Adam Streeter-Smith (AQSS)
Pete Wright
Colin Simpson
Lauren McCallum

Welcome and introductions

JG- welcomed group and introduced new members and made apologies.
Ailsa Villegas has retired from the Forum and was thanked for her contribution and time.

Members expressed thanks for site visit and agreed going forward would like to repeat annually, followed by an in-person meeting.

AQSS

Minutes of last meeting on 21 February 2024

Discussed

- JG- Minutes of the last meeting approved.
- Previous actions discussed. One action carried forward (ASSS to send MJ a NatureScot climate report)
- Gavin Miles was introduced as Murray Ferguson's replacement.

Action

AQSS

Verbal update on-Fire Management consultation

- GM- Provided update to group. There were approximately 1200 responses, with 80% in favour of byelaw, split between 44% year

Action



round bylaw and 32% high fire risk bylaw. Responses received from landowners, residents and visitors. Paper going to Board end of the month (28 June) with recommendation for bylaw, Board need to agree in principle, then new paper prepared for September. Lots of details to go through, and if approved in September, it is likely to be 2026 before bylaw can be introduced. Confirmed that a bylaw would apply Park wide but does not apply for people having a fire on their own land.

Paper 1 Guidance on the management of water borne access

Discussed

Action

- VH- Introduced Paper. Water sports becoming more popular so more issues being seen at places such as Loch Kinnord, Loch Pityoulish and Loch Vaa. Advice has been formalised for land managers. Group discussed zoning and how to minimise disturbance of wildlife.

Paper 2 Discussion paper- Spey Access and Egress Points

Discussed

Action

- VH Introduced Paper and requested feedback.
- MJ- Concerned about wildlife disturbance (eg sand martin nests) and potential impacts in increase of numbers of users if access is better.
- PR- Queried if there is a distinction between private and commercial groups, and possibility of introducing need for a license. Suggested a 'Park and Ride' scheme or cheap taxis could be useful.
- Group discussed logistic difficulties for water users such as carrying equipment long distances and finding somewhere for users to change.
- Parking issues discussed, particularly Old Bridge Inn.

Paper 3 Statutory Duties update paper

Discussed

Action

- VH introduced Paper and requested feedback.
- General feeling was that LOAF members are happy with level of reporting detail as presented in the paper. However, would like to be more aware of live cases.



Action to share summary case work log prior to meetings and give verbal updates on 1 or 2 cases.

AQSS

- PR raised query regarding projects that Park funding. Discussion amongst members that would be nice to know what planned in communities.

Action to share an annual update of proposed access / infrastructure projects at the spring meeting.

AQSS

- Point raised about reporting back to communities – it was noted that is not a role for members, matters discussed at LOAF meetings often confidential, and the role of LOAF members is as a group (not as individuals) to advise Park Authority.

Paper 4 Update and forward look

Discussed

Action

- VH presented paper. Updates to paper:
 - Planning permission has been received for Braemar to Keiloch path and work has started.

AOCB

- BD- Queried if Park Authority was aware of a recent Government proposal to changing definition of E-bikes. VH confirmed they were and had responded to the consultation.

Date of next meeting- Wed 13 Nov 18:30-20:30 (online)

Meeting closed at 8.17pm