

INCLUSIVE CAIRNGORMS

Minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 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
Maggie Lawson	B&S Community Transport Company
Maureen Smyth	Children's Disability Services
Anne Dempster	Strath Sunshine Club
Pete Carson	Health and Happiness
Kate Christie	CNPA
Adam Streeter-Smith	CNPA
Bridget Trussell	Petalpower Biking
Jane Cox	Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust
Hector MacDonald	Scottish Disability Equality Forum
Fraser Cardow	Highland Small Communities Housing Trust
Holly McAuly-Brand	CNPA
Alice Mayne	CNPA
Sasha Devine	Highlands and Islands Equality Forum / SCVO
Morag Campbell	B&S Access Panel
James Campbell	B&S Access Panel

In Ballater:

Gordon Riddler	CNPA Board
Eric Baird	Cairngorms Ranger Services
Kevin Hutchens	Independent Social Worker

In LL&TNPA:

Alison Cush
Lisa Duggan
Jaki Carnegie

Apologies:

Carole Paterson	Braemar 3 rd Age lunch group
David Atkinson	Scottish Rural Churches Group
Dan Cottam	YMCA Grantown
Jonathan Kitching	Adventure Aberdeen
Alasdair Johnston	Aberdeen City Council
Aileen Graham	B&S Access Panel
Shiela Fletcher	Community Transport Association
Liz Scott	HIE
Carolyn Cornfield	Caberfeidh Horizons

Susan Culliford
Suresh Paul
Simon Jeffrey

Highland Disabled Ramblers
Equal Adventure
Highlife Highland

Welcome and Introduction

1. The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, which had been re-scheduled from 5 December due to the weather.
2. EG noted that Miranda Geoghegan from Forestry Commission has now moved abroad, and passes on her best wishes to the group for the future. It was agreed to send a note of thanks to Miranda for her contribution to the group. **Action EG**

Minutes of Last Meeting

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 26 September were approved.

Matters arising from the Minutes

4. Ref para 3, EG reported that equalities training for rangers services in the CNP had taken place on 29 October, delivered by EG and Eric Baird, focussing on practical tools to engage with disadvantaged groups. Further training on diversity awareness will be arranged with Chris McCoy of Visitscotland. **Action EG**
5. Ref para 7, EG had supplied Access Panel contact details to Nick Mardall.
6. Ref para 12, Mike Dennison was following up contacts regarding future developments for the electric bike project.
7. Ref para 21, EG had circulated the evaluation report of the Health Walks programme, and paper copies were available.
8. Ref para 23, action to carry forward re the use and promotion of the inclusive design toolkit. **Action EG to speak to planning team**
9. Ref para 24, action to carry forward re clarifying product specification of the grass mesh used in the Tullich cemetery extension. It was noted that the work hasn't started yet. **Action EG to contact Aberdeenshire Council**
10. Ref para 28-29 on the CNPA Design Awards, MC clarified that under the new regulations, the Equality Act must be considered in private buildings, not just civic buildings. This would apply to new builds.
11. Ref para 28, MC also asked if CNPA had considered having a architect member of the Alliance of Highland Disability Panels on the judging panel, and if so, then Hector MacDonald was suggested. EG suggested that Inclusive Cairngorms could have a role in promoting the Awards and to encourage entries that demonstrate good accessibility. **Action EG to report back to Design Awards staff**

12. GR reported that the CNPA Board continue to receive an abbreviated version of the IC minutes.

Presentation – Petal power biking

13. Bridget Trussell gave a presentation of the background to PetalPower Biking, a club set up in 2012 to get more women out mountain biking in the Aviemore to Grantown area. Following the success of ‘Ride like a Grrl’ event, the club had grown to include 90 members, 14 training days, 40 social rides with a 3 year development plan.
14. KH asked about funding for carers / child care. In 2015-16 they plan to widen their audience base, including harder-to reach groups.
15. A leaflet is available with contact details, which EG will circulate. **Action EG**

CNPA Public Duties (standing item)

Equalities

16. EG noted that CNPA is undertaking some equality impact assessments including one for the preparation of the Local Development Strategy which will inform the future grants programme for the Park. Alice Mayne introduced this work, seeking input from Inclusive Cairngorms on how to make the consultation process inclusive. The draft LDS is out for consultation on 10 February for 4 weeks.
17. It was agreed that IC would like to discuss the draft LDS at their next meeting – date to be confirmed.
18. Alice also invited a member of IC to sit on the working group of the LDS group which would meet twice on 6 Feb and 26 March. It was agreed that Anne MacLean would represent IC. **Action AM**
19. There will be opportunities for further IC input once the draft LDS has been sent to Scottish Govt, and in future development of the grants programme, application process, etc.
20. Alice noted that various forms of consultation are being used including on-line at www.cairngorms.co.uk, 4 public events in the Park, 3 focus groups, and staff attending partner meetings and forums.
21. AMc highlighted the importance of providing alternative ways to consult/respond than on-line, as many people cannot access computers.
22. On other equalities matters, Sasha Devine from HIEF, noted that Scottish Government has recently published a report on how public bodies are performing with regard to their equalities duties. It is available in paper copy and online at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/12/9408/1>
23. Sasha also noted that the Scottish Accessible Information Forum (SAIF) which provides advice to organisations about producing accessible information has become part of SCVO.

Outdoor Access

24. An update paper on outdoor access work being delivered across the Park had been circulated. Adam noted some highlights including

- the Speyside Way extension with work now progressing at Dalraddy and Allt na Criche.
- Scottish Government's Walking Strategy on which CNPA will be consulted. Opportunity for IC and the Local Outdoor Access Forum to be involved in this response.

25. Some comments from members included:

- Consideration of A9 dualling within the Walking and Cycling strategies, specifically regarding the issue of space on either side of the A9 for walking / cycling.
- HM noted that SG should make use of Local Access Panels to consult on all stages of planning the A9 going through the Park.
- Speyside Way will be made as barrier-free as possible depending on the terrain, to allow for multi-use including all abilities. Using enhanced Fieldfare Trust standards as adopted by CNPA.
- One month is a limited time to expect groups to respond to the Walking Strategy consultation.

Cycling Action Plan

26. Adam had circulated a paper highlighting the 5 broad themes proposed within the Cycling Action Plan for the Park, and seeking views from IC on how to ensure an uptake in cycling from a broad range of groups.

27. Comments from members included:

- Nothing specific mentioned in the Plan about biking facilities, bike rental or promotion to disadvantaged groups such as those on low incomes, BME groups, carers, disabled people. (This could be covered under section 3c in the Plan).
- Infrastructure and public transport needs to be integrated so that they can accommodate bikes and link in with routes.
- B&S Transport Company can provide links to public transport, accommodating scooters, wheelchairs.
- Multi-use paths can be an issue where cyclists and walkers share the same path. Use of a bell should be encouraged and education to increase awareness and responsible use of paths by different users (covered in Section 4).

Planning

28. There were no items to report.

Young People (standing item)

29. Fraser Cardow gave an update on the Cairngorms Skills project which is now in its fourth year. 9 young people (16-24 yrs) are on the current programme which involves training in construction and outdoor activities with local employers, college placements and mentoring. If anyone has / knows about employment opportunities that could be offered

through the programme, please contact Fraser, email fraser.cardow@hscht.co.uk, tel 01463 233 548.

30. Maureen Smyth works with the FACES group, a support group for people with learning disabilities in Badenoch and Strathspey, and Cairngorms Sport for All. Are there equivalent organisations on the east side of the Park? EG noted Sport Anyway which is based in Braemar. **Action EG to provide contact details to MS.**

Disability (standing item)

Easy Access Guide to Badenoch and Strathspey

31. Adam thanked members for providing comments on the suggested routes to be included in the guide. A designer and map maker has been commissioned and the script writing is being put out to tender. Adam asked for any further comments at this stage.
32. MC referred to the B&S Access Panel's 'Spey Access Guide' which provides access information on a range of sites, which they are planning to update. It was agreed CNPA should work with the Access panel on both publications to avoid duplication.
33. The need to involve local path / community groups was noted eg Anagach Woods Trust.
34. Regarding classification of paths for different users, it was agreed that the best model – as recognised by Fieldfare Trust – is to provide a good description of the path so that users can make their own decision based on their own ability. Adam noted that he is looking at what is being done in other National Parks in England. **Action AS-S**
35. It was noted that it is the responsibility of ranger services in the Park to keep paths barrier-free and advise users of potential locked gates on paths, etc. Rangers contact details should be included in the Easy Access Guide as a first port of call for path users who need further information or to report any access issues. **Action AS-S**

Low Income

36. There were no items to report.

AOCB

37. KH asked if a note of this meeting could be sent out nationally as a press release. EG noted that she was continually seeking new members to join IC, but will speak to communications team for advice on this. **Action EG**

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 11 March, 11am to 1.00pm in CNPA offices in Grantown with VC to Ballater and LL&TNP.

**Elsbeth Grant
CNPA**