

INCLUSIVE CAIRNGORMS

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 June 2011 at 11.00am in International Starters, Aviemore

Present:

Jim Brown (Chair)	Blackrock Productions
Elsbeth Grant	CNPA
Gordon Riddler	CNPA Board
Anne MacLean	RNIB
Claire Ross	CNPA
Miranda Whitcomb	Forestry Commission
Morag Redwood	Highlands & Islands Equality Forum
Morgan Cowley	Highland LGBT Forum
Saran Cleary	Barnardos Works
Eric Baird	Cairngorm Countryside Ranger
Alison Lax	CNPA
Sheila Fletcher	Community Transport Association
Mairi MacDonald	Community Development Officer
Margaret McLaren	Friends of Caberfeidh
Cliff Graham	Barnardo Works
Heather Noller	Stonewall Scotland
Keith Bootle	Highland Council
Daniel Cottam	Youth Development Officer
Hector MacDonald	SDEF

Apologies:

Simon Jeffrey	HC Community Learning & Development
Kate Christie	CNPA
Bob Bennett	Perth & Kinross Access Group
Jackie Cropper	Grand Central Savings
Andy Dorin	SNH
Stuart Robertson	Aberdeenshire Council
Liz Scott	Highland & Islands Enterprise
Kevin Hutchens	Independent Social Worker
Don Ferguson	Highland Disabled Ramblers
Alasdair Johnson	Aberdeen City Council
Carolyn Cornfield	Caberfeidh Horizons
Ruaridh Ormiston	Newtonmore Riding Centre
Rachel Strachan	Capability Scotland
Kay Hopwood	Aberdeenshire Council
Peter Kelly	Poverty Alliance
Sandra Hogg	SCVO

Ivor Souter	Highland Council
Nicky Watson	HIPSHIRE Youth Project
Les Allan	Aberdeenshire Council
Karine Suller	Aberdeenshire Council

In Attendance:

Lynn Anderson Minute Taker

Welcome and Introduction

1. Jim Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and the apologies were noted.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

2. The adoption of the last minutes held on 31 March were proposed by Anne MacLean and seconded by Gordon Riddler.

Matters arising from the Minutes

3. Ref para 4, EG had written to Alistair Dodds pointing out that assistance for visually impaired people at Service Points during the CNP local elections had not been advertised. EG had received an acknowledgement of her letter and a detailed reply will be forthcoming at a later date. AMCL felt we should now write to all other councils involved asking who is responsible for providing this assistance at future elections. **Action EG**
4. Ref para 5. Jackie Cropper, Grand Central Savings thanked all those who forwarded any relevant research on to her after her presentation, in all 16 people had responded.
5. EG has put the Park for All checklists on the CNPA website and circulated these checklists around our partner organisations.
6. Ref para 13. On the back of the membership review of Inclusive Cairngorms EG was pleased to see some new faces at today's meeting with a variety of new organisations expressing an interest.
7. Ref para 16. EG has passed this on to Head of Corporate Services who will consider "supported businesses" in their forthcoming procurement review.

Presentation - Sheila Fletcher, Community Transport Association

8. Sheila gave a presentation on Community Transport talking about the different types available from car sharing, door to door transport to minibus operations.

These are usually run using a large amount of volunteers on a not for profit or social enterprise basis yet still meeting the needs of the passengers. Sheila pointed out that the difference community transport can make to people lives is vast both from a social and inclusion side. Sheila also mentioned that in Fort William and Inverness limited access had been allowed to NHS community transport for use as community buses. There is also the possibility of using council minibuses in the same way. If all resources available to us could be utilised it would probably mean extra vehicles wouldn't need to be bought.

9. Sheila also mentioned the possibility of buying electric vehicles as a cheaper alternative with rising fuel costs. AMcL said she thought they were a wonderful idea however the problem from a visually impaired perspective was that an electric vehicle makes no noise so as well as not being seen it also cannot be heard.
10. The feeling of those present was that would be useful to try and draw up a list of what community transport groups are out there and who is running them. **EG/SF to action.**
11. It was noted that the ACC would be a useful group to involve in taking forward any Community Transport initiatives.

CNPA Public Duties Equality Duties

12. EG had not much to report on CNPA's Equality Duties. Scottish Ministers are expected to make a decision on the draft regulations for specific duties later on in the year. Until then we carry on as we are, in meeting the general duty and involving Inclusive Cairngorms where required. The general duty which came into force on 5 April is live.

Our Community, A Way Forward

13. Mairi MacDonald, Community Development Officer explained her role at VABS, highlighting the OCAWF initiative had started and was continuing within communities in Badenoch and Strathspey. These took the form of discussions around identifying what the current needs of the community are and the longer term projects. These conversations identified similar issues between the communities but other issues which made them all different. MR expressed concern that perhaps not all representatives of the community were expressing their opinions. Mairi explained that they approached the local community councils, posted out information through the primary schools and invited local groups to participate. It was recognised that not everyone was getting to have their "say" but

by advertising meetings on-line, making sure venues were completely accessible and targeting key groups, they were trying hard.

National Park Plan

14. Alison Lax gave a brief update on National Park Plan 2 and Local Development Plan. The draft NPP consultation will be from August to November 2011. It is hoped that before the next meeting in September the draft plan could be circulated around the Inclusive Cairngorms members for their comments at that meeting. The draft Local Development Plan consultations will start end September/October. It was stressed how important it is for people to get involved in the planning process now, particularly for younger people, who in 25 years time will be living in the Park with buildings and developments, which are being consulted upon now.

Outdoor Access

15. A paper was circulated at the meeting with an update on outdoor access work by CNPA and partners. Comments/questions to pass on to Access team included:
 - Re paragraph 4 on sustainable transport, possibility for the CNPA linking into CTA and work activities across the Park.
 - Reference to various projects/activities. Is there any evidence of participation by target groups or under-representation.

Young People

Junior Rangers

16. Alan Smith gave a short presentation on the Junior Ranger project which has been running throughout the Park for the past 3 years. It is primarily aimed at secondary school pupils teaching them about the outdoors, the environment and also career possibilities within that remit. He explained that most junior rangers had gone through the John Muir Award in primary school. Eighty have already gone through the programme and this year 2 Junior Rangers will attend the Junior Ranger camp in Holland and a Europarc junior ranger exchange programme. It is hoped that the whole Junior Ranger programme can be extended Scotland wide in the future.

Barnardo's Works Project

17. Cliff Graham from Barnardo's Works explained about this year long project ,the aim of which is supporting young people who face multiple barriers to gain qualifications, training and employment opportunities. This project helps to overcome some of the difficulties of living in a rural area and trying to find work.
18. Currently Barnardos Works are supporting 17 young people into vocations such as

gardening, farm work, estate management, nature reserve management and supported a number of others. Hopefully in the future this kind of project can be rolled out to 16-18 year olds.

19. Keith Bootle reported that there is a new youth facility in Aviemore (above Rohan building) in addition to facilities at Badenoch Centre and YMCA in Grantown. He also referred to the summer activities programme for young people.

Disability

20. AMcL gave an update on the Roads For All project, which will upgrade bus stops between Grantown and Aviemore. The community support meeting went ahead but only 2 community councils attended. Next stage is to look at design of bus stops.

AOCB

21. EG referred to CNPA's outreach programme, building on their work with young people through schools and now looking to work with harder to reach groups outwith the Park. Resource packs have been produced in conjunction with Loch Lomond and Trossachs Nation Park and SNH, which are full of information about planning a trip to a National Park or National Nature Reserve. It has now been proposed to develop site specific resources for 8 sites between the 2 parks where we can expand on the information already in the pack. EG asked for volunteers to comment on this resource and give suggestions on its content. AMcL wondered if it would be possible to produce an audio version? It was suggested that a top 10 could be compiled eg of most accessible places within the park, or most popular things to do within the park. **Action EG**
22. MR told the meeting about a qualification in Citizenship and Human Rights through Glasgow Caledonian University. Money has been secured from the European Social Fund which would enable anyone living in Highland who enrolls for this qualification to get help with travel and accommodation costs whilst attending lectures. This money does not, however cover tuition fees.
23. Morgan Cowley LGBT Forum introduced this charity to Inclusive Cairngorms. This is a relatively new group set up to challenge people's thinking. Morgan went on to mention the issues around discrimination. He also told us how important groups like his are and mentioned in particular people living in remote areas, struggling with their sexuality and gender issues who can simply telephone their helpline and talk.
24. There was a question regarding travelling people and having their opinions heard, as the usual ways of contact eg through schools means they are missing out. It was noted that there is a traveller's site at Newtonmore.

Date of Next Meeting

22 September 2011 at 11.00 am at a venue in the east side of the Park

24 November 2011 at 11.00 am