

INCLUSIVE CAIRNGORMS

**Minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2015
at 11.00am in CNPA office, Grantown-on-Spey with video link to Ballater**

Present:

In Grantown:

Anne MacLean (chair)	Mobility and Access Committee Scotland
Doris Carlin	B&S Access Panel
Roslyn Munro	B&S Community Transport Company
Fiona Hawkins	Cairngorms Riding for the Disabled
Pat Morris	Cairngorms Riding for the Disabled
Jock Hutchison	Horseback UK
Ian Wren	Horseback UK
Jason Hare	Horseback UK
Hector MacDonald	Scottish Disability Equality Forum
Anne Dempster	Strath Sunshine Club
Suresh Paul	Equal Adventure
Ruaridh Ormiston	Newtonmore Riding Centre
Elsbeth Grant	CNPA
Alan Smith	CNPA
Kate Christie	CNPA
Jane Richardson	CNPA (minutes)

In Ballater:

Eric Baird (vice chair)	Cairngorms Ranger Services
Alastair Johnston	NP resident
Carole Paterson	Braemar 3 rd Age Lunch Group

Apologies:

Gordon Riddler	CNPA Board
Kevin Hutchens	Independent Social Worker
Maggie Lawson	B&S Community Transport Company
Jane Cox	COAT Walking to Health
Morag & Jim Campbell	B&S Access Panel
Maureen Smyth	Children's Disability Scotland
David Atkinson	Scottish Churches Rural Group
Carolyn Cornfield	Caberfeidh Horizons
Ivor Souter	Highland Council
Liz Scott	Highlands & Islands Enterprise
Margaret McLaren	Friends of Caberfeidh
Saran Cleary	Barnardo's Works
Maggie MacAlpine	Crathie Opportunity Holidays
Alan Melrose	COAT
Alison Cush	LL&TNPA

Welcome and Apologies

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made and apologies noted.

Minutes of Last Meeting

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2015 were approved.

Matters arising from the Minutes

3. Ref para 11: AM advised she hopes to have a reply from Sight Action regarding training soon.
4. Ref para 16: Easy Access Paths Guide: Copies of the guide were tabled for members of the group. EB reported he had received positive feedback from a member of the public on the guide. EB advised there is no link on the CNPA website to this publication and EG will look into this after the meeting. **Action EG to progress link on website.**
5. Ref para 22: Grantown Heritage Centre planning application. EG advised this application has subsequently been withdrawn.
6. Ref para 23: Mini Golf Course planning application. HM advised he sent a consultation response on behalf of Inclusive Cairngorms raising two issues:-
 - concern relating to safety on the water – ideas were suggested to clarify this point, and
 - if the relationship between the holes to the contours had been properly considered - a response to this has not yet been received.
7. Ref para 28: Disability assistance on trains. DC advised the B&S Access Panel have produced a new access guide that will include contact numbers for disabled travellers who require assistance. It was noted that the Scotrail Access & Inclusion Officer will be attending the B&S Access Panel meetings regularly. DC advised the guide is in the process of being finalised and once it has been published copies can be provided to the group.

Guest speakers – Jock Sutherland (Horseback UK) & Fiona Hawkins & Pat Morris (Cairngorms Riding for the Disabled Association)

8. Fiona and Pat (Cairngorms RDA) gave a presentation on the work they do and the significant benefit this has on disabled people, in particular to the connection that they make with the horses. Copies of the presentation were circulated.
9. Jock and Jaye (Horseback UK) gave a presentation on the work they do helping wounded service people rebuild their lives. Copies of the presentation were circulated.
10. The group agreed both presentations were inspiring and the need for volunteers was highlighted. AM asked for any questions to the speakers.

11. AS asked Horseback UK about the John Muir Open Day as he would like to attend to see what they are doing. Jaye said he is most welcome and advised the date for this will now be in September and he will email AS the information.
12. RO said there are many similarities with the RDA and his business and he would like to take up the offer of visiting Horseback UK and embrace the opportunity to work together and learn from each other. Pat advised there are also great benefits to be had by grooming and just spending time with the horses.
13. Jock added that getting volunteers and training is key and it is good to see clients who end up coming back as volunteers as this helps 2 people at once. Jock commented he was pleased to be able to communicate what they do today and it had been beneficial establishing this relationship.
14. EB asked if any activities are done away from their own ground and if so do access issues arise in relation to this. RO advised there are no problems with access and the communities are fully on board.
15. DC to include an entry in the B&S Access Guide regarding this aspect of the RDA including contact details. **Action DC**
16. AM thanked speakers for their inspiring presentations and for attending today.

CNPA Public Duties (standing item)

Outdoor Access:

17. EG advised that the Active Cairngorms Outdoor Access Strategy goes to the Board for approval at the end of June. EG to send out links to the papers to the group and circulate hard copies if requested. **Action EG**
18. RO and EB attended the Non Motorised Users Forum for the new dualling of the A9; they are keen to have a proper traffic free non motor users path for the full length and stressed that anything that is submitted includes this as a high focus point. HM commented on the first development of the dualling of the A9 from Aviemore to Dalraddy and advised it was a very detailed proposal for access paths and hoped this will continue for the whole route.
19. It was noted that members of the B&S Access Panel attended the Access meeting and will attend all meetings for the Disabled Access Forum.

Local Outdoor Access Forum (LOAF) update (Alasdair Johnston)

20. AJ advised at the last meeting there was a presentation from the James Hutton Institute on their ongoing review of the work of LOAF - they have been performing ongoing evaluation for some time now and reflecting on the work of the Forum. This was generally positive. RO stated it was positive and inspiring to have someone from outside review what LOAF do and compare to others in not just this Country but others. EB advised the purpose of

the study is to attend all meetings, take a transcript and do an evaluation project in terms of engagement with stakeholder groups.

Planning

21. EG advised there have been no further requests for comments about wind applications since the last meeting. There were no items to report.

Equalities Update (Kate Christie)

22. The CNPA's Equalities Action Plan and Mainstreaming Report update were circulated to the group. The Action Plan was developed 2 years ago and there is a duty every 2 years to report on how we are doing which contributes to achieving our equality outcomes. Inclusive Cairngorms will be involved again early next year when the CNPA need to produce new equality outcomes and an Action Plan in 2017. KC noted that this report highlights the main corporate areas where equality is being promoted within CNPA whilst trying to ensure compliance and taking everyone's needs and diversity into consideration. KC's role is to co-ordinate the overall work whilst different teams within the organisation take responsibility for their own work areas. AM asked for questions on this.

LEADER

23. EB gave an update on the Leader Local Action Group (on which he sits) in terms of inclusion and embedding equality into the organisation and the LAG process.
- Staff and members will undertake equalities training
 - Inclusion is likely to be one of the criteria within the application process.
 - EC has been nominated Equalities Champion for the LAG.
 - There will be an Advisory Group on which a member of Inclusive Cairngorms will sit. There was discussion around this as AM had only been to an initial meeting and EB will look into this further. It was agreed that a member of the group should be part of the Advisory Group. **Action EB**
23. EB requested guidance from Inclusive Cairngorms on the following points regarding Leader applications and the use of IT for submitting applications:
- There was discussion around the kind of support people would need (particularly as next year is targeting older people and disabled people) if they have to submit applications electronically or using an alternative format.
 - There was discussion around having local drop in centres to access and learn to use the system and also the possibility of having a monthly surgery so members of the community that are interested could be mentored through the process. It was agreed the process needs to be inclusive and the last thing we want is people having to travel to access IT / support and being expected to pay for it.
 - SP suggested Adobe have a free online readers text and speech package that he finds helpful. SP stressed the text should be simply laid out to help those with trouble reading.
 - It was agreed to be helpful to people it has to be all inclusive and offered at no cost. Technically, in terms of form design, for people who don't use text as a medium, the

possibility of locally based surgery sessions to get help to physically fill in the form so it can still be done on line should be considered.

- It was agreed, in the broader term, the group were happy for EB to attend the LAG meetings on behalf of Inclusive Cairngorms and EB will take advice from the group as required. In addition, Leader/LAG updates will be made a standing item on IC's meeting agendas. **Action EG**

Young People (standing item)

24. There were no items to report.

Disability (standing item)

25. AM advised the Mobility & Access Committee for Scotland (of which she is a Convenor) are recruiting 4 new members. The closing date for applications is 24th July and interviews will be held in August. Application forms are available from the Scottish Government website and AM can provide a phone number to request a hard copy if required. AM advised there is presently a gap of knowledge of people with learning disabilities. AM welcomed members to call her if they require further information.

Low Income (standing item)

26. AJ raised the issue of people moving away from the area because they cannot afford to live here; most jobs are involved in tourism and are seasonal and people cannot survive on this level of income. This is also a problem for local business and communities if employees cannot take up jobs here because of the cost of housing. AM advised the only powers the CNPA have is setting the number of affordable houses on a planning application - where that housing can be provided either by the Local Authority or a Housing Association. AJ added that the NHS have the same issues in recruiting skilled staff.
27. SP advised it is similar in the charitable sector, wages are not as high as they'd like to be and he has known that successfully recruited PHD students have not been able to take up the position because they have no vehicle transport and the public transport situation is poor.
28. HM stressed that this is made more complex not by the actual cost of housing units but the process of land acquisition, the cost of land and the complex planning process which is tied into the Scottish Planning process.
29. There was discussion around land reform impacting on effective community development. EB stated the CNPA is not responsible for housing provision or transport but it is responsible for development planning and identifying what houses get built and where. This will be affected by the impending Legislation that is going through government on land reform.
30. CP advised of a recent problem in Braemar where if developers were unable to find a Housing Association to take over their affordable units within 2 years they are not obliged to build them and make a payment so they will go to Aberdeenshire Council. Also the last lot that were built ended up being rented out as they could not sell them. The group were

shocked to hear developers can just walk away if they cannot find someone to take on their affordable units.

31. AJ raised the importance of tourism in the local economy and the down side to this is the number of houses that are taken off the rental market to rent out as holiday homes as it is more profitable for the estate to do that than to rent to someone who lives and works locally.
32. It was agreed EG to invite CNPA officers to the next meeting to update on the CNPA's planning policy regarding Housing and Transport with particular regard to affordability.

Action EG

AOCB

33. RO apologised it has taken so long for him to get to a meeting and thanked EG for always keeping him informed and copied in on minutes.
34. The RDA thanked the group for their time and for the opportunity to present to them.
35. CP advised in Braemar they are designing a new play park for which Aberdeenshire Council has given £30,000. CP requested guidance in suitable access and equipment for disabled children who may be visiting the area. EG can pass on ideas to CP and if anyone would like to make an appointment visit the park.
36. SP advised of a project he did for the Forestry Commission designing and installing play equipment to play standard and to inclusive fitness standard and will discuss this with CP out of the meeting. EG will pass on CP's details to SP. **Action EG**
37. RO advised Jan Filshie (Head Teacher of Newtonmore) could advise as they have gone through the process of trying to sort out their play area for the Committee and will advise of some pitfalls to avoid.
38. AM suggested NESS (North East Sensory Services) can advise on what is helpful for people with profound sensory deprivation.
39. AM thanked the guests for their inspiring presentations and closed the meeting.

Date of next meeting

40. 15th September 2015 in CNPA offices in Grantown with video conference available in Ballater and LL&TNP.

Elsbeth Grant
CNPA