

CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

Title: UPDATE AND FORWARD LOOK

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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.

1. Active Aviemore

Project to develop non-motorised access provision for the proposed new hospital in Aviemore and wider community.

- a. The Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) is working in partnership with Aviemore & Vicinity Community Council, Hitrans, The Highland Council, Sustrans and NHS Highland to improve walking and cycling facilities in Aviemore.
- b. Phase 1: Feasibility and preliminary design report completed. Full report at: <http://cairngorms.co.uk/caring-future/developing-park-access/activeaviemore/>
- c. Phase 2: Detailed design funding of £175,000 will be sought from Sustrans Community Links Fund from 2019-20 onwards. Partial award granted – full details to be confirmed.
- d. Hospital construction has now commenced.

2. Wee Walks Week 2019

Wee Walks Week took place during the week of the 9th of September 2019. Like previous years the objective was to raise awareness of the need to be physically active every day and to celebrate those using short walks to improve health outcomes. Initial reflections internally was that it was a success with lots of engagement on social media, a successful health walk leaders event and lots on interest in the press. The CNPA will be running the week again in 2020

3. Active Travel in Badenoch & Strathspey

- a. In addition to Active Aviemore and our work with Transport Scotland to secure a Non-Motorised Users route between Aviemore and Carr-Bridge as part of the A9 Dualling programme we are also supporting the communities of Laggan, Kingussie, Dulnain Bridge and Grantown on Spey in improving their walking and cycling infrastructure.
- b. Both the Kingussie and Dulnain Bridge communities have secured Sustrans funding for feasibility studies to look at infrastructure required to improve active travel.

- c. Laggan are developing proposals for a similar bid later in 2019.

4. Speyside Way Extension

- a. Construction of the penultimate section between Tromie Bridge and Ruthven is now well underway. Contractors are now present on site with Lot 1 (Tromie to Insh Marshes) progressing to completion mid-October. Work has also started on Lot 2 (Insh to Ruthven) with a target completion date of early December. Official launch of the upgraded route is scheduled for Spring 2020.
- b. Further work is continuing in collaboration with the Kingussie community to examine how the route might best be connected through to Kingussie then to the confirmed end point in Newtonmore.
- c. An interpretation strategy for the whole of the Speyside Way (including the route outwith the National Park) is currently being drawn up. The strategy will set out how improved interpretation will be rolled out including such as orientation maps, route guidance, and local information.

Other National Park Initiatives/Matters

5. Mountain Paths

Cairngorms Outdoor Access Trust managed HLF and partner funded (CNPA, LL&TNPA, FCS, SNH) project 'The Mountains and the People' is now well into the second half of the funded project and continues to upgrade and improve key mountain paths in Aberdeenshire, Angus, Perth and Drumochter as well as Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. Further details of current activities are available at the project website: <http://themountainsandthepeople.org.uk/>

The upgraded Beinn a'Ghlo was officially opened by Deputy First Minister, John Swinney, on Friday 27th September 2019.

6. HLF Tomintoul / Glenlivet Landscape Partnership Project

The project website at <http://tgd.org.uk/tomintoul-glenlivet-development-trust/current-projects/landscapepartnership/> provides details of the project and its objectives. The 'Accessing the Landscape' project is now well beyond the midway point with the main access project output - improving the Tomintoul Spur (Speyside Way) – now completely and formally open to the public (see the attached press release). The second element of the project - a new low level path linking Glenlivet Distillery and Blairfindy Castle has recently received final planning consent and is due for completion as soon as the contractors can return to site. The physical works are now 80% complete aiming for conclusion before end of the year. The Access Project delivery budget is £360k.

7. Cairngorms Capercaillie HLF Project

Work still continues with the Carrbridge community to deliver the initial phase of this project with a view to providing evidence and support for further Heritage Lottery Funding to extend the project wider across the Park. There is now a website <https://www.cairngormscapercaillie.scot/> which provides useful background to the project.

8. Cairngorms Trust

With LEADER coming to an end in 2020, the Cairngorms LAG – with support from the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) – has established a new approach to so that funds will still be available and can be distributed effectively to worthy causes and projects in the Park. Hence the establishment in 2016 of the Cairngorms Trust as a registered charity.

From 2019 onwards the Trust will fundraise for two key projects selected by the Trust's board, as part of a wider approach to seeking charitable donations and funding activities delivering public benefit in the Cairngorms. To this end it was announced in May that the Boat of Garten Wildlife Group and the Kingussie Path Network Improvement Project are the first two Cairngorms Trust Campaign Projects.

The Cairngorms Trust will be raising funds throughout the Cairngorms National Park area for both of these deserving groups. Projects are chosen on an annual basis by the Cairngorms Trust board of Trustees.

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