
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 2012-17.

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2012-17.

Long term outcome: People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences

Key work package 9 - Active Cairngorms

1. **2014 Commonwealth Games Legacy Physical Activity Fund** - CNPA has now secured £67,325 from this fund which is being used to support a CNPA Legacy 2014 Physical Activity project. The project is progressing well and CNPA will be working in partnership with four medical practices this summer to increase levels of participation in walking. Aviemore, Dufftown, Strathdon and Ballater practices will refer 60 patients to the Cairngorms Walking to Health programme. Four new walking to health groups are currently in development: Glenlivet, Lumsden, Cromdale and Newtonmore. A well-received health walk volunteer celebration day was held at Glenmore Lodge on 26th April 2016. The event was attended by a number of volunteers and Cameron McNeish spoke in support of the project and it's aims. The project will be evaluated by James Hutton Institute and Strathclyde University by December 2016.
2. **Active Cairngorms Partnership – Update**
 - a) A revised Active Cairngorms (Promotion) action plan will be discussed at the next Partnership meeting (Summer 2016).
 - b) CNPA Access Team will be attending the Royal Highland Show in June 2016 as part of RAFE 'Healthy people, healthy lives' promotion. The theme will be sponsored by other agencies attending including SEPA.
 - c) CNPA will be partnering with recreational user groups to promote a 'Cairngorms Big Walk' weekend during September 2016 (see below).
3. **CNPA Nordic Walking Programme**
 - a) £18,000 of Education Scotland funding has been secured to operate a Nordic Walking programme targeting female secondary school pupils.

- b) Nordic walking poles have now been purchased and delivered to six schools in and associated with the National Park, they are: Grantown GS, Kingussie HS, Aboyne Academy, Speyside HS, Webster's HS and Blairgowrie HS.
- c) Alan Melrose has delivered training to all the staff involved in taking the project forward and staff have already been delivering sessions.
- d) Delivery of the electronic activity trackers is awaited prior to carrying out an action research project with secondary school girls (as the target audience).

Key work package 12 - Visitor and access infrastructure

4. Management of core paths and outdoor access:

- a) **Cairngorm and Glenmore Strategy** – CNPA, Forestry Commission, Highland Council, SNH and Highlands and Islands Enterprise recently consulted on a strategy and action plans for this popular area. The consultation closed on 8th March with 43 online responses and 17 NGO and agency submissions received. Approx. 50 people submitted comments at an Aviemore drop-in event. The partners are now preparing a response to be widely circulated and also discussed at the forthcoming CNPA Board meeting in June. *For more information contact Pete Crane petercrane@cairngorms.co.uk Direct dial 01479870532.*
- b) **Speyside Way Extension** – Work is now underway building the relatively short section between Kincaig and Ardeal. Planning applications for the remaining sections between Ardeal and Kingussie will be submitted later this year. Funding options are also being explored, including Sustrans who have expressed early interest in supporting this next phase.
- c) **Cairngorms Big Walk Weekend** – Scheduled for 9-11th September 2016. To promote physical activity and celebrate walking CNPA will be co-ordinating the Big Walk Weekend event by encouraging all Health Walking Groups, Ramblers Clubs, schools, clubs, and groups of friends to go for a walk on the second weekend in September.
- d) **Upholding Access Rights** – access casework continues to be reported and dealt with according to protocols. An update will be presented under Agenda Item 2.
- e) **Storm Frank** – The winter weather brought devastation to Deeside particularly, with other areas of the National Park less badly affected, unfortunately a number of paths and bridges were damaged or destroyed as a consequence. The damage affecting Deeside has now been fully assessed and Aberdeenshire Council is to approach the Scottish Government to secure funds to reinstate damage in the area. The CNP will work closely with the Council should the bid for funds be successful. Meanwhile Deeside remains resolutely open for business, to visitors and for recreation.

Other National Park Initiatives/Matters

5. **HLF Tomintoul / Glenlivet Landscape partnership Project** – The final components towards the second round submission have now been put together. Feedback from HLF suggests the project is on track and award of grant is likely barring any unforeseen problems. The access project delivery phase outputs include investment towards improving the Tomintoul Spur (Speyside Way) and a new low level path linking Glenlivet Distillery and Blairfindy Castle to encourage visitors to spend more time in the area. (Blairfindy Castle is also programmed for repair and improvement). The project delivery budget is £360k.
6. **A9 Dualling** – The CNPA have submitted Stage 2 consultation responses to designs for the Pitagowan (Bruar) to Glen Garry and Pitagowan to Killiecrankie sections. The next formal phase will commence with preparation and consultation on 'Stage 3' designs for these sections. Stage 3 will see working up of detailed road designs and infrastructure catering for specific issues such as non-motorised users. Consultation on Stage 2 for Glen Garry to Dalwhinnie is likely to have commenced by the date of this meeting. The next A9 Dualling Non-Motorised User (NMU) Forum will take place on Friday 27th May from 12.00pm to 4.30pm at the Dewars Centre, Perth.

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