## **AGENDA ITEM 13**

APPENDIX I

2014/0242/DET

REPRESENTATIONS

## aviemore & vicinity community council

"Stand fast, Craigellachie"



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PH22 1TH

Tel. No. Email.

Cairngorms National Park Authority Planning Office, 14 The Square Grantown on Spey PH26 3HG

16th August 2014

Dear Sir,

PLANNING APPLICATION - 2014/0242/DET - CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW AGGREGATE PATH 857M LONG AND 2M WIDTH SOUTH WEST OF AVIEMORE AS PART OF THE SPEYSIDE WAY EXTENSION ON LAND TO NORTH AND SOUTH OF THE COTTAGE, EASTER KINAKYLE, AVIEMORE

I refer to Planning Application 2104/0242/DET and have to inform you that Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council support the application. The application is for the completion of the length of the Speyside Way that runs through our area and it is well overdue. However, we wish to make the following comments;

- i. The documents shown on the Cairngorms National Park Authority Eplanning website did not match those shown on the Highland Council planning website. Important documents on the Highland Council site, e.g. COAT's Speyside Way Proposal document were missing from the CNPA site. Consultees should not have to look at two different websites to get information.
- ii. The applicant is Cairngorms National Park Authority. We find it odd that the Authority has made the application and then called it in when surely the Authority would have made sure that any issues in relation to the enjoyment and understanding of the Park, natural heritage and the social and economic

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development of the area would have been taken care of before the application was made. There would have been no need to call it in. The Highland Council, who have to take cognisance of the Cairngorms Local Plan and the Aims of the Park, would have been able to deal with the application. We have a situation where the applicant is making the decision on their own application and not allowing a Local Authority which is independent take that decision.

- iii. Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council is concerned about the road safety aspects of this application. The path is billed as being off road yet for 452 metres it runs along the west verge of the B9152, which is the main road into Aviemore from the south. The definition of a road includes the verge. The road has a 60mph speed limit and is unlit. The crossing is on a corner and we feel that raises significant safety issues. There is no detail other than a cursory comment about half barriers and signs to indicate what road safety measure are to be taken. We note that at the planning application for a Caravan Park off the B9152 north of Aviemore that there was a recommendation for lighting on the path, multiple pedestrian crossing signs and rumble strips on the roadway. We consider that, bearing in mind the close proximity of the path to the roadway and that there is no fence or safety barrier separating the path from the roadway, lighting, multiple pedestrian warning signs, rumble strips and half barriers, should be a minimum requirement. It is essential that the motorist is fully aware of the crossing and that the pedestrian users are fully aware of the potential speeds on the road.
- iv. Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council are aware that dealing with such safety issues will increase the cost of the project but it would be much more preferable to accept that cost than have to carry out remedial action at a later date.

In view of the insufficiency of information contained within the application and on the CNPA planning website, Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council requests that a representative be allowed to address the Planning Committee to enable comment to be made on planning issues identified in any subsequent submissions on this application and that the members of the Committee may have a better understanding in terms of planning and its effect on Aviemore and its environs of this particular development.

Yours faithfully,

Chairman

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