
CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

Title: UPDATE AND FORWARD LOOK

Prepared by: Douglas Stewart, Outdoor Access Officer

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.

- 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.
- Phase 1: Feasibility and preliminary design report completed. Full report at: <http://cairngorms.co.uk/caring-future/developing-park-access/activeaviemore/>
- Phase 2: Detailed design funding of £175,000 will be sought from Sustrans Community Links Fund from 2019-20 onwards.
- New Aviemore hospital planning application has been submitted to the Highland Council and 'called in' by CNPA

2. Wee Walks Week 2019

Wee Walks Week will take place during the week of the 9th of September 2019. Like previous years the objective is to raise awareness of the need to be physically active every day and to celebrate those using short walks to improve health outcomes. In the lead up to and over the course of Wee Walks Week the public will be encouraged to pledge to walk. They will be encouraged to take a Wee Walk by either:

- a. Joining a health walk group;
- b. Undertaking a walk in one of the Community Path Leaflets;
- c. Undertaking their own walk.

This year we are hoping to launch an app that will help the public find a short walk to enjoy the Park.

3. Active Travel in Badenoch & Strathspey

- 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.
- Both the Kingussie and Dulnain Bridge communities have secured Sustrans funding for feasibility studies to look at infrastructure required to improve active travel.
- Laggan are developing proposals for a similar bid later in 2019.

5. Speyside Way Extension

- Construction of the section SE of Kincaig to Inshriach is now complete, in addition surface improvement works have been carried out between Aviemore and Boat of Garten, these deal with water damage to the existing surface.
- Funding has been secured via CNPA and the ERDF Low Carbon Transport Challenge Fund to construct the remainder of the route from Tromie to Ruthven. Planning permission is now approved and the route is set to be completed to Ruthven by end of 2019.
- Further work is being carried out in collaboration with the Kingussie community to examine how the route might best be connected through to Kingussie.

6. Upholding Access Rights

Access casework continues to be reported and processed according to agreed protocols. Since the last LOAF meeting there has been an upturn in the number of new cases received, logged and undergoing processing. We are now operating with a new, more comprehensive system of case work logging with improved record keeping and response timescales. An update will be given under Agenda Item 4.

Other National Park Initiatives/Matters

6. 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 available of current activities are available at the project website: <http://themountainsandthepeople.org.uk/>

8. HLF Tomintoul / Glenlivet Landscape Partnership Project

The project website at <http://tgdt.org.uk/tomintoul-glenlivet-development-trust/current-projects/landscapepartnership/> provides details of the project and its objectives. The 'Accessing the Landscape' project is now beyond the midway point with the access project outputs which include improving the Tomintoul Spur (Speyside Way) and a new low level path linking Glenlivet Distillery and Blairfindy Castle are now well underway with contractors on site. The physical works are now 50% complete aiming for completion in the autumn. The Access Project delivery budget is £360k.

9. Cairngorms Capercaillie HLF Project

The Heritage Lottery Fund has now formally committed £346,500 towards the 18 month development phase of the Cairngorms Capercaillie Project with a further £2.25million potentially available for the delivery phase.

The five-year project will focus on two main areas; providing suitable, improved habitat for capercaillie together with engaging and involving the public in the future survival of the species. Carrbridge has been chosen as a pilot community with work underway to develop the project outputs in conjunction with local residents who will have a major say on key elements of the project development.

The delivery phase, if successful, will, carry forward tested methodologies with successful initiatives being replicated throughout the National Park in the future.

10. 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.

Douglas Stewart
Outdoor Access Officer
douglasstewart@cairngorms.co.uk