



Local Outdoor Access Forum

Held online on 21 Feb 2024

Present: Adam Streeter-Smith (AQSS)	Park Authority
Ben Dolphin (BD)	LOAF
Colin Simpson (CS)	Park Authority
Douglas Stewart (DS)	Park Authority
Grant Moir (GM)	Park Authority
Hilary Quick (HQ)	LOAF
Mark Johnston (MJ)	LOAF
Sara Denner (notes)	Park Authority
Trevor Thornley (TT)	LOAF
Vicky Hilton (VH)	Park Authority

Apologies: Pete Wright

Welcome and Minutes of last meeting on 13th September 2023

Discussed

- CS- welcomed group in absence of JG (connection issues)
- JG- Minutes of the last meeting approved. Both actions discharged.
- CS- Active Cairngorm Action Plan has gone to Board and been approved.

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Paper 1 Fire Management Consultation

Discussed

- GM- Provided background on increasing visitor numbers to Park with increase in recreational fires and number of fires extinguished and pressures on SFRS staff to attend multiple incidents over large geographical areas. Aim for draft of Integrated Fire Management Plan to be completed in the Spring and finalised in time for the Fire Management Conference in November in Aberdeen. Overall, there are currently 3 options in the consultation; firstly to increase education and communication, secondly to introduce bylaws for no fires during high fire risk periods, and thirdly a

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bylaw stipulating no fires at all. Lots of exceptions to these, land managers have options. Clarified that at present CNPA do not have a preference and are keen to hear opinions and feedback.

- CS- Checked that group understood and asked for feedback.
- Group discussed various options and concerns and broadly the group were of the opinion that a bylaw during high fire risk was the preferred option at this stage.
- Experience in the LOAF highlighted that there is challenge around when periods of “high fire risk” end and how to communicate that.

Paper 2 LOAF review and refresh

- AQSS- Opened discussion with group on how to encourage new members, and areas where LOAF may not be needed to be involved. Feedback was that group can be daunting to join and misconception that a good all round knowledge was required in order to be a member. Suggestions included inviting new people from varying backgrounds, induction periods and meeting in social capacity out with meetings once a year.

Paper 3 Casework

- DS- Described the key changes in reporting and approach to reporting of casework. Taken broad range of issues and queries and separated them out under Sections 13 and 14. Graph on page 5 gives summary of where we are now compared to previously. Highlighted two significant cases.

Paper 4 Update Discussed

- AQSS- Provided group with update on works in progress on Speyside way and in Aviemore. GIS technician has captured data on core paths across the Park, will be invited to future meeting. Capercaillie Project has been extended and pilot

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developing in Boat of Garten for dog walking community.
Will update the group with outcome.

AQSS

- MJ/AQSS- Discussed considering climate change when planning upgrades. AQSS will send MJ a report from NatureScot.
- CS- Advised that additional capital funding for 2024/2025 may be allocated to climate resilience fund.

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- AQSS- Advised group that Murray is retiring and recruitment ongoing. Will invite replacement to LOAF.
- CS- Cairngorms 2030 funding has meant that AQSS and VH are now permanent posts.
- JG- Expressed thanks to Murray for help over many years.
- TT- Discussed leaving group as has been a member for 6 years, agreed to phase in changes for remainder of year.

AQSS

Date of next meeting-TBC

Meeting closed 20:36