

## INCLUSIVE CAIRNGORMS

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2013 at 11.00am  
At the Grant Arms Hotel, Grantown-on-Spey

### Present:

Elspeth Grant	CNPA
Anne MacLean	Mobility and Access Committee Scotland
Eric Baird	Cairngorms Ranger Services
Moira	Carer
Margaret MacLaren	Badenoch and Strathspey Community Arts Group
Claire Ross	CNPA
Gordon Riddler	CNPA Board
Jonathan Kitching	Aberdeen City Council
Alasdair Johnston	Aberdeen City Council
Miranda Geoghegan	Forestry Commission Scotland
Hector MacDonald	SDEF
Aileen Graham	B&S Access Panel
Morag Campbell	B&S Access Panel
Grant Moir	CNPA

### Apologies:

David Atkinson	Scottish Rural Churches Group
Kevin Hutchens	Independent Social Worker
Maggie Lawson	B&S Community Transport Company
Carole Butler	VABS
Jim Brown	Blackrock Productions
Jackie Cropper	Grand Central Savings
Alan Melrose	COAT
Jane Cox	COAT
Hazel McLaren	Aberdeenshire Community Planning
Shiela Fletcher	Community Transport Association
Matt Tyrer	SCVO
Gail Woodcock	Aberdeen City Council
Alison Cush	Loch Lomond & the Trossachs NP
Clifford Graham	Barnardo's Works
Kate Christie	CNPA
Scott Sangster	Creative outdoors
Carolyn Cornfield	Caberfeidh Horizons
Ruaridh Ormiston	Cairngorms Riding for the Disabled
Ivor Souter	Highland Council

## **Welcome and Introduction**

1. AM welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the apologies.

## **Minutes of Last Meeting**

2. The minutes of the last meeting held on 22 November were approved, proposed by AG and seconded by GR.

## **Matters arising from the Minutes**

3. Re para 33, EG to carry forward action to clarify specification of 'grass reinforced mesh'.

### **Action EG**

4. Re para 39, GR reported that EG had provided a summary of the minutes which had been circulated to the CNPA Board. This had generated a few enquiries through the Board with the projects concerned. This was felt to be a worthwhile exercise in building relationships and communication between IC and the Board, and thanks were given to GR for coordinating this.

## **Presentation – Margaret McLaren, A Splash of Colour**

5. Margaret and her colleague, Moira a local carer, gave an insight into a project they are involved in to create a Social Enterprise for adults with learning disabilities and vulnerable people. With cut backs in funding and the future of the day care centre in Kingussie in doubt, there is a gap in services for this client group. Through drama, dance, media, the facility will provide a 'splash of colour' into their lives.
6. They are still in the initial stages of planning this facility, visiting other social enterprises to gather information, holding a community Open Day recently, applying for charitable status, preparing a business plan, and applying for funding.
7. They are working with the Community transport company so that transport can be provided to the facility.
8. MC suggested they might work with the Access Panel as this might open up sources of funding. She invited Margaret to come to the next meeting of the Panel.

## **CNPA Public Duties (standing item)**

### **Equality Duty**

9. EG had circulated a paper setting out CNPA's draft equality outcomes and action plan for comment. Some useful comments had been received by Matt Tyrer from SCVO which would be taken into consideration. Other comments put forward included:
  - Include a definition of 'equality groups'
  - the wording of Outcome 2 'disabled people will be able to access more barrier-free paths in the Park' was felt to be a bit loose, not specific enough for measuring.

10. Any further comments should be sent to EG by the end of the following week ie 29<sup>th</sup> March. These will be presented to CNPA Board for approval before publishing on 30 April.

### **Outdoor Access**

11. An update on outdoor access work being delivered across the Park was circulated for information. Any questions or comments should be forwarded to EG. Email [ElsbethGrant@cairngorms.co.uk](mailto:ElsbethGrant@cairngorms.co.uk) Tel: 01479 870506

### **Planning**

12. Kingussie housing application – IC has been invited to respond to this application. Under our planning protocol, IC including Access Panel representatives, is invited to comment, particularly regarding issues of disability, young people and low income. Copies of the relevant papers were made available, but are also available on CNPA website and at CNPA offices and HC Service Point in Kingussie. Any comments should be forward to EG by 8 April.
13. With reference to the planning protocol flowchart, EB noted the importance of considering inclusive design at the earliest stages of the planning process, eg as per the toolkit used by the Eden Project (previously circulated). EG noted that she had forwarded this to CNPA planners for their consideration.
14. HM added that SDEF have worked with Architecture and Design Scotland, advocating meeting with developers and designers in the pre-application stage.
15. CR noted that there is a new group formed to improve communities' engagement in the planning process. The Community Planning Reps Network has about 25-30 members from community councils across the Park; it is chaired by Roger Clegg and meets three times a year. The next meeting is on 13 May. It would be useful to have an Inclusive Cairngorms member sitting on this group to raise awareness of inclusion and accessibility issues in planning. Morag Campbell expressed an interest in joining the group. **Action EG to follow up**

### **Young People (standing item)**

16. EB gave a short presentation that he had delivered at a Europarc conference in 2012 on 'Reconnecting young people with nature'. He referred to the gap between CNPA's aspirations for developing a Park for All, the reality on the ground, and why we should be supporting young people and nature based on the evidence / benefits.
17. Research suggests that exposure to nature at an early age in the life cycle has a huge impact on people's health and life pathways, and this has a greater impact on the most disadvantaged people in society.

18. Where children don't engage with the outdoors, they tend to be inactive, disconnected from society, eat unhealthy foods and have a shorter, lower quality of life. With a result that the costs of inactivity costs the UK government £8.3 billion per year.
19. On the other hand, children who engage with the outdoors from an early age tend to be active, connected to people and society and eat healthy foods, resulting in them living longer lives.
20. When asked how we can help to bridge the gap between vision and actual provision, it was noted that countryside rangers can provide opportunities through learning programmes for schools / young people. These may be more accessible for those communities in the Park, but may be more difficult for schools beyond the Park, eg in cities such as Aberdeen.
21. At a more strategic level, it was suggested that CNPA should work with partner agencies eg in and outwith the Park, to facilitate a programme that will enable this to happen from both sides (linking client groups with the Park).
22. JK added that as a local authority (Aberdeen City), there are various barriers to bringing groups into the Park, eg knowledge, cost (staff, transport) and confidence of staff. They have an outdoor centre in Cromdale which they would like to make more use of, but these barriers are preventing this happening.
23. EG noted that the Outdoor Learning in National Parks project has been set up to address some of these issues, eg there is CPD training available, along with development of Education Packs for NNRs in the Park and other resources. See [www.cairngorms.co.uk/learn](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk/learn) . CNPA is also exploring setting up a transport grant fund for schools and outreach groups to visit the Park.
24. MG added that Forestry Commission at Glenmore experiences similar issues.
25. GR noted that CNPA Board are interested in improving engagement with schools, and are currently undertaking a programme of school visits in the Park.

#### **Disability (standing item)**

26. AM reported that the Rural Bus route project has progressed with confirmation from HITRANS and Highland Council that there is now funding to install new automatic doors at Aviemore railway station in 2013/14.

#### **Low Income**

27. There were no items to report.

## **AOCB**

28. AM noted that MACS (Mobility and Access Committee Scotland) will be recruiting new members shortly, and are particularly interested in users of public transport. EG will circulate details in due course. **Action EG**

29. It was noted that the Scottish Parliament's Infrastructure and Capital Investment committee are carrying out a study on how community transport can be improved. Views are invited by 19 April.

30. AM welcomed Grant Moir, CNPA's new chief executive, to the meeting, providing a brief background to Inclusive Cairngorms, its role and main achievements over the years. Grant introduced himself to the group and asked IC about its key priorities for the future.

Responses from around the table included:

- Involvement in planning eg similar to HC planning protocol
- Communications – better marketing of Park for All and the work of Inclusive Cairngorms
- Importance of young people and nature
- Reducing the barriers to enable disadvantaged groups to access the Park, eg
  - transport provision / funding (use of community buses);
  - training for rangers to be better equipped to engage with outreach groups;
  - dialogue with policy makers in Local Authorities in 'outreach' areas to sell the benefits of visiting the Park (ideally through Community Planning Partnerships).

### **Date of next meeting**

31. The date of the next meeting is on **13 June 2013 at 11.00am at the Lecht Ski Centre**, by Tomintoul.

**Elsbeth Grant**