

## INCLUSIVE CAIRNGORMS

Minutes of the meeting held on 22 September, 2011 at 11.00am at Lecht Ski Centre.

### Present:

Elspeth Grant	CNPA
Gordon Riddler	CNPA Board
Anne MacLean (Acting Chair)	RNIB
Claire Ross	CNPA
Saran Cleary	Barnardos Works
Adam Streeter Smith	CNPA
Kevin Hutchens	Independent Social Worker
Mairi MacDonald	Community Development Officer
Hector MacDonald	SDEF
David Atkinson	Scottish Rural Churches Group
Annette Johnston	Aberdeenshire Council
Jackie Owen	Mental Health Outreach
Cat Scott	Young Scot
Jane Cox	Walking to Health
Matt Tyrer	Highlands & Islands Equality Forum
Kirsty Riach	Badenoch and Strathspey Transport Company
Alasdair Johnston	Aberdeen City Council

### Apologies:

Eric Baird	Cairngorm Countryside Ranger
Miranda Whitcomb	Forestry Commission
Suresh Paul	Equal Adventure
Kate Christie	CNPA
Ken MacMillan	Inverness & District Trade Union Council
Ivor Souter	Highland Council
Hazel McLaren	Aberdeenshire Community Planning
Debbie Greene	SNH
Morag Redwood	Highlands & Islands Equality Forum
Jim Brown	Blackrock Productions
Julie Cropper	Grand Central Savings
Karen Derrick	Community Development Officer
Ronnie Macrae	HSCHT
Karen Thomas	Aberdeenshire CLD
Lewis Thomson	Badenoch & Strathspey Transport Company
Cliff Graham	Barnardos Works
Elspeth Kennedy	Highland Disabled Ramblers
Liz Scott	Highlands & Islands Enterprise

Sheila Fletcher

Community Transport Association

**In Attendance:**

Lynn Anderson

Minute Taker

**Welcome and Introduction**

1. The Chairman unfortunately broke down en-route to this meeting and Anne MacLean kindly agreed to act as Chairperson for this meeting.

**Minutes of Last Meeting**

2. The Minutes of the last meeting held on 16 June were accepted as an accurate account by those present.

**Matters arising from the Minutes**

3. Ref Para 3 EG has had no further response from the Council regarding the letter that was sent with regards to visually impaired people receiving assistance at Service Points during CNPA elections. AMcL felt it would do no harm to send a gentle reminder. **EG to action**
4. Ref Para 7 EG had received a list of “supported businesses” in Scotland. EG pointed out there were very few businesses in the Highlands and none in the CNPA area. The Park does try to use local businesses as far as possible so it comes down to a balance of supporting local businesses with those who employ disabled workers across Scotland. It might be CNPA can tap into CBP collection of business interests.
5. Ref Para 13 Mairi MacDonald gave a quick update on “Our Community A Way Forward”. All the communities within the Park had now been through the process. It was agreed these had been very successful events. CR explained that within the communities of Tomintoul and Glenlivet, CNPA is encouraging the Community to take leadership and linking them to outside agencies that can help them. In Tomintoul itself it has been recognised that the village is under economic threat. An economic assessment is currently being carried out involving CNPA, Crown Estate, HIE and Moray Council, this report should be finished by Christmas.
6. The communities of Dalwhinnie and Laggan are also under threat and this will be addressed with vigour and vitality.

## **Presentation – Annette Johnston – Tackling Poverty & Inequalities Co-ordinator, Aberdeenshire Council**

7. Annette gave a presentation on Tackling Poverty & Inequalities within Aberdeenshire and the different types of help and support offered. This initiative tries to meet the challenges of living in communities, both rural and urban, where those living there may feel excluded or unable to access help and advice.
8. Funding for this project had initially come from the Fairer Scotland Fund but with other funding from Europe and Scottish Government over 7000 people have accessed opportunities and services through FSF in Aberdeenshire. Annette went on to give examples of the different types of projects available. It might be help to return to work, access extra benefits or ways of improving home life.
9. This initiative is about trying to encourage people to access the services provided, either by phoning or going on-line. Individuals and families may be referred to this programme by an outside agency or may decide themselves to seek advice and help. It's about giving each person the help they need.
10. Annette went on to explain the different kinds of barriers people might have in returning to work and went on to explain the different initiatives offered which might overcome these. These might involve training to enable a person to work from home or help with transport costs.
11. Annette explained that some of the people that have been helped have not been a “quick fix” but a small investment in one person can have massive benefits to that person, their family and the community.
12. This project tries to help people who may be struggling, to improve their way of life, It may take the form of advice to gain extra benefit, or help in finding employment or retraining by going to college.

## **CNPA Public Duties Equality Schemes**

13. EG gave a brief update. Last week Scottish Government began consultations on the second draft regulations for specific duties, there is not too much difference from the previous consultation. The CNPA have until 24<sup>th</sup> November to respond to these new regulations and it has been decided to put together a draft response which will be circulated to the members of Inclusive Cairngorms. **Action EG**

## **National Park Plan and Local Development Plan**

14. Claire Ross gave an update on the NPP and LDP. Consultations on this began on 19<sup>th</sup> September until 9<sup>th</sup> December. Most people in the Park have received a copy of “Your view” which explains how the process will work and how residents of the Park can have their say. There are a number of community events being run across the park, VABS along with CNPA are co-ordinating events in Badenoch and Strathspey and Perth and Kinross. In Aberdeenshire, Glenshee and Angus events are being run with Marr Area Partnership. Claire stressed the importance of involving the different sectors of Communities. Communities need to be encouraged to take ownership of their own areas and think about how they see them in 20 or 30 years time.
15. AMCL asked whether provision had been made for childcare and transport with the meetings being held in the evening to allow people to attend? Another member asked about advertising these meetings out with the Park area. Claire responded they have tried to make the meetings as accessible to all as possible and this is only one strand of the consultation process.
16. It was agreed at this meeting that there should be an exploratory session at the next Inclusive Cairngorms Meeting in 2 months time. This will allow members to consult with their own networks and feedback to the next meeting.
17. EG mentioned that there is a specific consultation with Youth Workers and young people on 29<sup>th</sup> November to identify what they would like to see.

## **Outdoor Access**

18. Adam gave an update on Outdoor Access and gave a brief summary on the Speyside Way Extension. The CNPA took control of this route last year, and it is hoped to improve the accessibility of the existing route. Upgrading of path signage had commenced and Community Path leaflets had been developed to better promote the network of paths around each village.
19. Alasdair Johnston brought up the problem with a local cycle route with gates obstructing the route and road crossings at fast stretches of the Deeside road. The CNPA were aware of the problems with this route and it is a case of working with local authorities to try and resolve these issues.

## **Young Scot**

20. Cat Scott gave some information on “Young Scot” and the work this organisation does. Young Scot is a national youth information charity aimed at 11-26 year olds.

The organisation provides information and advice tailored to specific age groups either by website, information line or handbooks. They also supply the “Young Scot” card which is issued to all children in first year of secondary school. This not only acts as a “proof of age” card but also entitles the person to discounts both locally and nationally.

21. Cat went on to explain that a new rewards system will be introduced this year which will involve raising points to gain benefits. Cat stressed this wouldn't be gifts but experiences linked to their own interests.
22. Regarding providing accessible information for people with disabilities, Cat acknowledged this was an issue, which they were trying to address in conjunction with other agencies and Dialogue Youth co-ordinators.

### **Disability**

23. Jackie Owen from Mental Health Outreach gave a brief outline of the work they do. They work with people who have had some kind of mental breakdown, some of whom with the right help and support will go on to make a full recovery, and return to a working life and others who will never return to work. The project is about promoting mental well-being and social inclusion by helping people be active and positive and encouraging them to enjoy the outdoors. They are looking for further opportunities in the CNP eg with rangers, walking to health.

### **AOCB**

24. AMcL updated Inc Cairngorms on the Bus Stop Project which has seen no progress since the last meeting. Anne also reported that she has been asked to stay on as advisor on the Highlands & Islands Community Care Forum, Anne is attending the Visit Scotland and Capability Scotland seminar on 4<sup>th</sup> October which will give disabled people a chance to feedback regarding access to tourist attractions.
25. Sara from Barnardos Works gave a very brief update on this project which has now come to the end of its Future Jobs Fund placements. There are now placements available through Community Jobs Scotland. This is paid employment for a young person for a minimum of 26 weeks. Currently they are working with several different organisations to try and secure placements for young people.

**Date of next meeting 24 November venue to be decided**