

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

ÙGHDARRAS PÀIRC NÀISEANTA A'
MHONÀIDH RUAIDH

Cairngorms Equality Advisory Panel

Tuesday 23rd February 2021

5:00pm – 6:30pm - Held virtually

Minutes

Present:

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| Fiona McLean (Chair) | Linda Bamford |
| Celia Sweeny | Kevin Hutchens |
| Heather Earnshaw | Anita Howard |
| Bo Hickey | Patrycja Kupiec |
| Kirsteen Allison | Peter Kennedy |

In Attendance:

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Kate Christie | Vicky Walker |
| Louisa McDaid (Captioner) | Gail (Captioner) |
| Murray Ferguson | Liz Henderson |

Apologies: Vanessa Altweck

1. Introduction

- 1.1. Fiona welcomed everyone and introduced Murray Ferguson and Liz Henderson who were attending to discuss Planning and the Badenoch Great Place project.
- 1.2. The meeting notes for the previous meeting were agreed.

2. Panel Member Talk

- 2.1. The panel member's talk reflected on their personal experience of being deaf with a visual impairment and helped to educate the group on challenges deaf people face, as well as how organisations and individuals can help to tackle these barriers.
- 2.2. The five different types of deafness were discussed.

- 2.3. The panel member discussed adjustments, emphasising that this should be looked at individually as different adjustments might not work for everyone. For example, not all deaf people are able to use hearing aids or cochlear implants or are able to lip read. Make sure the deaf individual has control over the adjustments.
- 2.4. The panel member described how they use a hearing dog to alert them to important sounds such as a fire alarm or doorbell. The panel member explained that all types of assistance dogs have the same access rights, however, this is not always recognised.
- 2.5. If any of the panel members had further questions that they were not able to ask at the time they were asked to email this to the equalities email address.

Response from the Group

- 2.6. It was asked whether Brexit had affected the ability to travel with an assistance dog – it was identified that this is a recognised issue that is being discussed but has not been resolved as of yet.
- 2.7. It was asked how live meetings such as CNPA board meetings can be made more accessible. Live captioning was discussed, the importance of booking captioners who are properly trained and recognising the limits of automatic captioning.
- 2.8. It was asked how reception areas can be made more accessible. The panel member discussed the use of clear face masks or using Perspex screens. Ensuring there are details of how to access a BSL interpreter and contact details for organisations such as Contact Scotland. The panel member stressed the importance of keeping loop systems on at all times as it is not always possible for the individual to say they need it switched on.
- 2.9. In response, a panel member suggested that CNPA purchase clear facemasks for use at reception and to hand out to groups CNPA works with as they can be difficult to purchase due to a lack of supplies.

3. Murray Ferguson – Overview of the Planning and Rural Development Work

- 3.1. Murray discussed the following five key areas of his work;
 - Formation of the National Park – Murray described how this focused on people valuing special places. The formation of the board was discussed and the commitment to avoiding the park becoming an elitist environment.
 - Planning Process - Murray explained it is a contentious but transparent process which is reviewed yearly.
 - Community Work - Murray explained the current community group reach and the aim to improve this through grant funding.
 - Tourism - Murray emphasised the importance of being able to use the term sustainable tourism as well as discussing the Tourism partnership, the right of responsible access and how this is helpful for equalities work.
 - Businesses and Economy – The Cairngorms Business Partnership was discussed and how grant funding is used to encourage the partnership to act on our

behalf. It was suggested that it may be a useful exercise to have someone from the partnership speak at the equalities panel.

- 3.2. The panel were asked to note how the partnership approach is used to affect change within the national park and identify any future areas of discussion for the panel.

Response from the Panel

- 3.3. It was asked how CNPA encourage engagement from all sectors of communities and how do we ensure there are not a select group of dominant voices, for example community councils. The structure and power of CNPA was discussed and how this is mainly completed through grant funding and the community action planning process.
- 3.4. It was asked how the panel can influence areas that are out with the gift of the national park authority? The response was to get the right influential people to the meetings, grant assistance and exploiting the brand of the national park to influence partners.
- 3.5. There were several topics identified for wider discussion;
 - Sustainable tourism and how do we ensure that it is accessible for all socio-economic groups.
 - Community involvement and funding.
 - How do we encourage people who don't even know they want to come to the park/voices we don't hear?
 - Business partnership.
 - Detail about the sphere of influence of the panel.
 - People on the panel from the local council or different partners so they can hear the thoughts of the panel.

4. Liz Henderson - Badenoch Great Place Project

- 4.1. Liz gave an overview of the Badenoch great place project, including the partners that the project works with, how it is funded and the main aims of the project.
- 4.2. Liz discussed the planning phases, looking at the different stories that could be involved and the accessibility of sites which could be part of CNPA's visitor offering. This was combined to create a brand.
- 4.3. Liz also discussed the impact of Covid-19 on some of the projects that were planned and how this effected relationships with partners and consumers of brand. The funding from the lottery was extended, which Liz explained has been beneficial for content creation which had fallen behind.
- 4.4. The website and the Badenoch Great Place app was discussed. Some of the different experiences that individuals can use on the app were discussed such as augmented reality, music and stories. Liz explained there will be more traditional forms of media interpretation such as interpretive boards. Liz explained a lot of this work is the developmental stage, the next part is to use the tools that have been developed and work with local communities such as school groups.

Response from Group

- 4.5. It would be useful to integrate with the Badenoch and Strathspey access panel who have an app which is through testing.
- 4.6. Due to the short amount of time at the end of the meeting any further questions were asked to be sent to the equalities email which can then be forwarded on to Liz.

END OF MEETING