

INCLUSIVE CAIRNGORMS

Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2016 at 11.00am in Cairngorms National Park Authority Office, Grantown-on-Spey

Present:

Anne MacLean (chair)	Mobility and Access Committee Scotland
Eric Baird – Via VC	Cairngorms Ranger Services
Elsbeth Grant	CNPA
Kate Christie	CNPA
Gregor Rimmell	CNPA Board Member
Dan Cottam	Grantown Museum
Sandra Macallister	NHS Highland
Nicola McKenzie	Highland Small Communities Housing Trust
Ros Munro	Badenoch & Strathspey Transport Company
Kevin Hutchens – Via Telephone	Independent Social Worker
Jacki Munro	CNPA (minutes)

Apologies:

Glyn Jones	Cairngorms Ranger Services (Balmoral)
Jane Cox	COAT Walking to Health
David Atkinson	Scottish Churches Rural Group
Alison Cush	LL&TNP
Pammy Johal	Backbone
Morag Campbell	B&S Access Panel
Alasdair Johnston	NP Resident
Doris Carlin	Caberfeidh Horizons
Sheila Fletcher	Community Transport Association
Jim Campbell	B&S Access Panel

Welcome and Apologies

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, introductions were made and apologies noted.

Minutes of Last Meeting

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2016 were checked for accuracy and approved with no revisions to be made.

Matters arising from the Minutes

3. Ref para 1: DC stated the Museum visit had been well received. Feedback had been given regarding re-surfacing works externally.
4. Ref para 8: EG reported it was hoped to have Cairngorms on a Shoestring and Cairngorms Easy Access websites published by end of current week. **Action - EG to confirm by e-mail.**

5. Ref para 9: EG and AM attending CBP Accessible Tourism seminar on 28th September. It was hoped that CBP will continue to encourage businesses to advertise access statements in a bid to increase visitor numbers. It was generally felt businesses currently meet minimum requirements regarding accessibility, but could be doing more at little or no cost, particularly by providing more information online. GR commented Visit Scotland's website stated the accessible holiday market was currently worth more than the golf market and therefore investment should be made. RM stated BSTC offer free training to its volunteers on visual impairment, which could possibly be opened up to local businesses and suggested approaching CBP with a view to organising courses. AM recommended asking CBP where they would be taking things following the seminar. EB enquired what inclusivity criteria there was with the Park's Brand Charter application. **Action - EG to look into this and report back.**
6. Ref para 11: MC stated Aviemore VIC had refused to take leaflets due to lack of display space. **Ongoing - Action: EG to speak to GM**
7. Ref para 12: Copies of Heather Trench's presentation on NP Visitor Survey produced for the Accessible Tourism Seminar (see para 5) to be circulated. **Action: EG**
8. Ref para 15: EG confirmed following meeting with West Aberdeenshire Access Panel on 20th September at the Ballater office, CNPA will be implementing improvements, in particular with regard to the fire evacuation escape route. Only the ground floor was looked at due to the Park's responsibility to staff members, however, AM commented the upstairs meeting room, used for Board Meetings, should also be taken into consideration. KC stated this could be looked at further as part of our equalities work in supporting Board member diversity and ensuring that venues for Board meetings are accessible. **Action: KC**
9. Ref para 14: EG reported a contractor is still to be appointed for the building works at CNPA office but the timeframe for demolition is likely to be early next year. As part of the staff group overseeing the development, EG will be seeking advice from IC members on access to the building and internal furnishings. **Ongoing - Action EG.**

NHS Reach Out – Presentation by Sandra Macallister

10. SM gave a short presentation on the NHS Reach Out project launched by NHS Highland with one key aim - to tackle loneliness and social isolation in the Highlands and Argyll & Bute. Sandra explained the importance of the project, how organisations or individuals can get involved and where to find more information.
11. Following a brief discussion as to what evidence there was to prove the validity of the project and how the NHS would publicise who is lonely, SM pointed out the objective is to raise awareness as opposed to pinpointing individuals. KH stated as a member of the Board of Contact a Family he was aware of work being done with carers on social isolation. It was also felt the profile of B&STransport Company should be raised to help bring people out of

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their homes and into social environments. It was noted that Walking to Health programmes have social and mental health benefits as well as fitness and physical benefits.

CNPA Public Duties (standing item)

Outdoor Access:

12. EG reported the Kincaig to Ardegal section of the Speyside Way is now open.
13. Inshriach to Ruthven sections have been surveyed and the specification almost completed. Planning and funding still to be carried out.
14. The Park is also looking to upgrade sections of the existing Speyside Way from Grantown to Boat of Garten.
15. AQSS is carrying out revisions to community paths leaflets incorporating the new path grading format.
16. AM stated the path to access the all abilities path in Anagach Woods is inaccessible and could this be upgraded as part of the Speyside Way improvements. **Action EG to follow up**
17. KH suggested the Speyside Way on a budget should be promoted to the public.
18. KH enquired what the timetable for completing the Speyside Way. EG stated 2018-2019 was proposed.
19. EB stated Balmoral Estate has done a lot of work in this area, recently hosting Backbone's Community Leadership trainees, and young people working through Venture Trust. It was suggested Glyn Jones be invited to elaborate on this work at a future meeting. **Action EG**

Local Outdoor Access Forum (LOAF)

20. AJ has resigned due to his many other commitments. EB thanked him for all of his work.
21. EB stated LOAF had submitted their response to the NPPP consultation. The main point honed in on was the lack of effective transport links to trail heads.

Planning: update on recent consultations

22. EG reported there were no recent consultations since the last meeting.
23. EG reported that IC's response to the National Park Partnership Plan consultation had been circulated. Following review of all responses the Park Plan goes to the Board in April and to Ministers thereafter.
24. EG reported that the Cairngorms & Glenmore Visitor Strategy on which IC had been consulted, has been revised and was approved by the Board in September. Pete Crane has circulated details.

Equalities: consultation on draft Equality Outcomes and Action Plan 2017-20

25. KC addressed the meeting looking for IC's input on the draft equality outcomes that have been drawn up for CNPA's current review due 30 April 2017, asking whether they are ambitious enough and suggestions as to what targets should be set. Comments included:

26. Draft Outcome 1 – Ensure a gender balance in senior management positions

- Include outreach work with schools and colleges to increase awareness of job opportunities
- Promote NP employment opportunities through Inclusion Scotland, Enable magazine.
- Part time and job share options – and benefits of these - should be more actively promoted

27. Draft Outcome 2 – More equality groups will visit and experience the National Park

- include reference to national average
- Promote Easy Read in publications
- Targeted publicity to key equality groups eg publications for disabled people, BME groups.

28. Draft Outcome 3 – More equality groups will participate in CNPA led consultation and engagement

- relate actions to National Standards for Community Engagement
- target groups through promotion and publicity

29. General Comments

- Need to strive to be more ambitious with targets
- CNPA Staff consultative forum – need better gender balance of members

LEADER / Local Action Group Update – Eric Baird

30. EB commented there had been a degree of uncertainty since Brexit.

31. Questions had been raised as to whether funding should be provided in some instances for things that people/organisations ought to be doing anyway. It was suggested there is a lack of awareness within businesses when it came to inclusiveness. EG noted where a project involves planning permission then accessibility will be raised through a planning protocol with Inclusive Cairngorms. She will be meeting with the Planning team soon to discuss this.

Action: EG

32. EG reported that a Leader applicant had been in touch with Inclusive Cairngorms regarding the development of Ballater Station Square, to seek advice on accessibility. She had directed them to West Aberdeenshire Access Panel members who had provided useful comments.

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33. GR noted that Highland Council will continue to have a Building Standards Officer available to the B&S Access Panel.
34. GR wished to express his appreciation to the NP Leader team, stating they had done a great job and in his opinion were streets ahead of other councils.

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35. NM stated she was also representing the Cairngorms Skills Project that has 10 trainees, the majority of whom are from B&S. However if funding and criteria were met they hoped to widen the geographical area.
36. GR reported that a group of young people had recently won their planning application to build affordable housing for themselves at Inverdrue. This was much applauded.
37. EG reported that a group of 15 GGS and KHS pupils attended the last Planning meeting as part of the CNPA's social impact pledge to do something that will benefit local communities. The students were given an insight into how planning decisions are made in the Park and a chance to speak to Board members, and it was felt to be a very interesting and useful session.

Election of Chair and Vice-chair of Inclusive Cairngorms

38. Chair - Dan Cottam proposed by AM
Vice Chair – Kevin Hutchens proposed by AM
AM welcomed both to their new positions.
39. EG thanked AM and EB for their work with IC having held office since 2012, helping to embed equality in the Park's work and developing a Park for all. Their contribution was greatly appreciated by the Park and its partners.
40. EB expressed thanks to Julie Jarvis at the Ballater office. Without her assistance and support it would not have been possible for him to take part in IC meetings from there.

Date of next meeting

41. Spring – Date and Venue TBC.