

**CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM**  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> of August 2021 from 6.30pm – 8.00pm**  
**CNPA Lifesize meeting room**

<https://call.lifesizecloud.com/988805>.

<b>Who</b>	<b>Representing</b>
Pete Crane	CNPA
Grant Moir	CNPA
Adam Streeter-Smith	CNPA
Douglas Stewart	CNPA
John Grierson	LOAF – Chair
Trevor Thorley	LOAF
Neil Wilson	LOAF
Mark Johnston	LOAF
Eleanor Mackintosh	CNPA Board
Alisa Villegas	LOAF
<b>Apologies</b>	
Eilidh M Scobbie	LOAF
Pete Wright	LOAF
Sally Devlin	LOAF

<b>Item</b>	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>Welcome and Minutes of last meeting on 4 August 2021</b></p> <p>JG welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p><b>Matters arising from Minutes</b></p> <p>Meeting note agreed</p> <p>PC reported that Transport Scotland are still considering two options for the Carrbridge to Aviemore cycle path with the decision likely in September</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <p>I. <b>AQSS to publish meeting note on LOAF meeting webpage</b></p>	<p><b>AQSS</b></p>

Item	Action
<p><b>National Park Partnership Plan Review</b></p> <p>GM introduced this item highlighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan for the Park not the CNPA:</li> <li>• Covers all four aims of the Park and how to implement them:</li> <li>• Will be subject to public consultation form mid-September to mid-December:</li> <li>• Will require Board sign off in April 2022 before Scottish Ministers agree and sign off in June 2022:</li> <li>• 206 responses to informal consultation</li> <li>• Key agendas influencing plan are climate change, nature crisis, covid, grouse and deer review amongst others.</li> </ul> <p>GM highlighted that the LOAF will play a crucial role in helping to shape the key indicators around mental and physical health outcomes for more people in nature and enjoying the Parks special qualities.</p> <p>Members asked questions around establishing baseline and how to make the measures credible, EM particularly mentioned how quantitative assessment of people impacted will be measured.</p> <p>AV highlighted that wellbeing assessment are being carried out with structure groups and activities encouraging physical activity but that the key challenge was measuring self-led activities.</p> <p>GM invited the LOAF to submit comments to the formal consultation which was discussed and an approach agreed.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <p>I. <b>AQSS to facilitate response to NPP4- with a focus on actions and outcomes relevant to outdoor access.</b></p>	<p><b>AQSS</b></p>
<p><b>Managing for Visitors update</b></p> <p>PC introduced this time highlighting that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 8000 people had spoken with a CNPA ranger and that this equates to 1% of visitors:</li> <li>• Significant amount of litter had been picked up by the ranger team:</li> <li>• Positive feedback across the UK for the work going on in the Park:</li> <li>• 99% plus of visitors want to do the right thing:</li> <li>• Work has highlighted need to improve visitor infrastructure</li> </ul> <p>Members highlighted that there was a good news story here that needs to be conveyed better to the public as there is a risk this isn't happening.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <p>I. <b>As above</b></p>	

Item	Action
<p><b>Update on casework volumes and types over period 2019-2021</b></p> <p><b>Actions</b></p> <p>DS reported that there has been an upward trend in cases relative to the same period in previous years.</p> <p>EMS (written input received) stated there was interest in reporting any cases that had been on the books for a long time or had proven difficult to resolve.</p> <p><b>I. As above</b></p>	
<p><b>Dalwhinnie Railway Crossing</b></p> <p>AQSS introduced this item highlighting that the recent closure of the public crossing adjacent to the private crossing south of Dalwhinnie station is having a significant impact on access to Loch Ericht and the wider hills for walkers and cyclists, and was having an impact on the ability of resident and visitor to access the low ground path network.</p> <p>He asked members the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given the significance of the outdoor access demand in the area and the safety issues involved, are the proposed new arrangements satisfactory in principle?</li> <li>• Are the LOAF content with the proposed next steps?</li> </ul> <p>In the discussion that followed members highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had the risk assessment been supported by reports of near misses by drivers or was it solely based on observations of the public at the crossing?</li> <li>• If the private crossing has mitigation measures in place why not the public crossing for example traffic lights or locking gates?</li> <li>• That the closure of the crossing was having a significant impact on local walking options:</li> <li>• That the crossing was well established and had been used for many years:</li> </ul> <p>LOAF members agreed that the current measures were not satisfactory and in fact were most likely making the safety situation worse.</p> <p>LOAF members were keen to support the CNPA in meeting with relevant stakeholders and Network Rail to find a solution.</p> <p><b>Actions</b></p>	

Item	Action
<b>I. AQSS to feedback to LOAF on outcomes of the stakeholder meeting</b>	<b>AQSS</b>
<b>AOCB</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members supported the idea of paper on LOAF membership and meetings going forward post pandemic.</li> </ul>	<b>AQSS</b>
<b>Next Meeting</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TBC November</b></li> </ul>	

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