

Cairngorms Local Outdoor Access Forum
MINUTES OF THE FORTY SECOND MEETING
Community Hall, Boat of Garten

Tuesday 25th November 2014

Summary of Action points arising from meeting

- AP1 - EB to contact CNPA Board re representation at LOAF**
- AP2 - Nominations for Deputy Convener should be submitted to DS**
- AP3 - DS to contact David Frew on behalf of the LOAF**
- AP4 - AQSS to take LOAF recommendation to Highland Council**
- AP5 – DClyne to re-look at the use of Core Mountain Areas versus Wild Land**
- AP6 – AQSS to prepare a paper for the Forum on Ranger support**
- AP7 – DS to clarify meaning of ‘refuge area’ with JP**
- AP8 – JP to add ‘Glenmore’ to Appendix I, number 18**

Item 1 – Welcome

EB welcomed everyone to the meeting including guests from Inverness & Nairn Access Forum

Forum members in attendance:

Eric Baird (Convener)	Paul Webster
John Grierson	Vicky Hilton
David Lyle	Richard Gledson
Nigel Williams	Peter Mackay

Others in attendance:

Adam Streeter-Smith, CNPA	Stephanie Lawrence, CNPA
David Clyne, CNPA	Alastair Johnson
Doug Stewart, CNPA	Bridget Trussell, CNPA (minutes)
Stewart Eastaugh, HC Access Officer	
5 members of Inverness & Nairn Access Forum	2 members of the public

Item 2 - Apologies

Stewart Blair	Jeremy Usher Smith
	Gordon Riddler

EB noted Gordon Riddler’s apologies from the last 3 consecutive meetings and asked DClyne to contact the CNPA Board to convey that their representation at the LOAF meetings is necessary and valuable.

API – Eric Baird to contact CNPA Board

Item 3 – Deputy Convener Nominations

No nominations have been received. EB encouraged people to nominate or volunteer. Each person needs to be nominated and a seconded. Nominations should be submitted to Doug Stewart.

AP2 – Nominations for Deputy Convener should be submitted to DS

Item 4 - Minutes of the last meeting – approval and matters arising not otherwise appearing on the agenda.

The minutes were agreed with 1 amendment:

- Page 2, Item 10: 'to endorse the CNPA's request providing a review of the appropriateness of provision has been made.'

Matters Arising:

- It was noted that NTS have yet to make decisions on what is needed on Mar Lodge Estate. Scotways is keen to help with a memorial bridge and David Frew has been contacted. DS is chasing. The Forum noted that they would like to see expeditious replacement. DS will contact David Frew on behalf of the Forum.

AP3 – DS to contact David Frew on behalf of the LOAF

Action points arising from the last meeting:

- API-** Carried.
- AP2-** Discharged.
- AP3-** Discharged.
- AP4-** Discharged.

Item 5 Right of Way advice, Insh:

The LOAF was confirmed to be competent to comment on this issue on advice from AQSS.

1. AQSS presented Paper 1 supported by maps and photographs of the site.
2. Criteria for determining a Right of Way was highlighted to the meeting (Paper 1, item 5)
3. A response was sought from the meeting to be passed to the Highland Council.
4. LOAF has a statutory authority to comment on such matters and is competent to do so.
5. The meeting discussed the criteria and need for the Right of Way.
6. The Forum felt this is a matter for Highland Council to decide and therefore supported AQSS. He will now take the recommendation to Highland Council.

AP4 – AQSS to take LOAF recommendation to Highland Council

Item 6 Active Cairngorms:

7. DCL presented paper 2 and highlighted the draft action plan and graphics.
8. The Forum were asked to comment on the appropriateness of the questions on page 1 of paper 2. These questions will form the basis of the Public Consultation.
9. (a) The meeting requested that the wording of para 1.2 on page 4 be looked at and specifically the use of the wording 'killing'.
10. (b) Appendix 2, page 7. DCL was questioned about the priorities and responded that this is a strategic document and more specific areas will be considered at the public consultation phase.
11. (c) The question was put re the lack of waterways in the priorities. The response was that CNPA will focus on access & egress points to rivers and that the Spey and the Dee are noted in the appendix.
12. (c) The Forum are keen that waterways are seen as a priority.
13. (c) It was queried why 'Core Mountain Areas' are identified rather than the SNH Wilderness maps with 'Wild Land'. The Forum requested that DCL re-examine this.

AP5 – DCLyne to re-look at the use of Core Mountain Areas versus Wild Land

14. (d) Members can feedback their organisations contribution during the Public Consultation phase.
15. (e) The strategy will be monitored during year one and targets set after that phase.
16. (f) AQSS will prep a paper for the Forum to show how Rangers are currently co-ordinated and supported by CNPA.

AP6 – AQSS to prepare a paper for the Forum on Ranger support

17. (f) The Forum looked at the current map of the Active Travel Zones (Strath/Deeside)'. These will be detailed on an enhanced map in the final adopted version.

Item 7 Speyside Way Extension

18. DCL gave a verbal update on progress with the Speyside way and showed some slides of pathways around Kinrara Estate
19. Three planning applications are going forward to the next Planning Board to finish the link through to Aviemore.
20. Further construction is planned for January to April which should complete the Aviemore to Kinraig section. Funding for this has included £115k from Sustrans and £950k from the 2014 Legacy Fund.
21. The Forum noted that it was good to see the progress.

22. Looking forward there an overall aspiration to link Newtonmore to Aviemore and also to improve the existing Cromdale to Boat of Garten section.
23. The use of local contractors and innovative construction solutions was noted.
24. The Forum noted the change in attitude towards the project from stakeholders due to the hard work of the Access Team.

Item 8 Capercaillie Framework

25. Doug Stewart presented paper 3 on behalf of Justin Prigmore.
26. Appendix I numbers 3 & 4: habitat expansion as an area of change during the life of the project was highlighted.
27. Appendix I number 7: Dogs & dog walking was highlighted as were refuges for Capercaillie. JP is in a 'feeding back' phase currently so concerns or comments can be noted to him.
28. Appendix I, recommendation number 12: clarification was sought about the meaning of a refuge area – is this an exclusion zone or more of a 'keep dogs on leads' zone? The Forum felt the latter was more in keeping.

AP7 – DS to clarify meaning of 'refuge area' with JP

29. Appendix I, Awareness & Engagement number 18: 'Glenmore' needs to be added as per item g) in Summary of Advice given by LOAF August 2014

AP8 – JP to add 'Glenmore' to Appendix I, number 18

Peter Mackay left the meeting at this point

30. The Forum noted that Wildlife Photography and Wildlife Tourism should be shown under 'Access Management' in some respect (Theme 7)

Item 9 Section 13 Duty Casework

31. Doug Stewart presented the current casework and highlighted the following:
32. Signage on the Dalmunzie Estate; DS showed a slide of this sign which shows access restrictions for stalking.
33. The sign is within the Act but advice is sought from the LOAF as to how to proceed.
34. The Forum discussed what is reasonable for the estate and the area and the dates affected.
35. The Forum suggested the use of the standard CNPA worded signage should be encouraged.

36. Richard Gledson declared an interest in number 24: Baddoch Burn. DS advised this is an ongoing query re gating and no issue is anticipated.
37. Number 22: Revack signage; The Estate has signage up prohibiting dogs and 'closure' of the estate after 5pm. The estate have clarified this 'closure' relates to the buildings only. There is an ongoing complaint from the estate relating to Highland Council Rangers using the estate land for activities.
38. The Forum noted the importance of the Access Team's work to the National Park.

Item 10 Activities update and forward look

39. DS presented Paper 5.
40. Hurricane damage was highlighted and the CNPA bid to Scottish Government to help with the reinstatement of infrastructure.
41. There is a possibility that this funding might need to be sought from and through communities as this funding bid is still pending.
42. The Forum sought clarification on how the bid would be allocated. DS confirmed that the Core Paths would form the basis for this.
43. The team's 2015/16 budget will significantly reduced so priorities will be on partnership projects as set out in Active Cairngorms.
44. DS highlighted the HLF Stage One bid has been successful; and Tomintoul Glenlivet Landscape Partnership are now working towards Stage Two which includes the employment of a Development Officer.
45. The new Mountain Biking e-guide was also highlighted www.highlandeguide.co.uk as a great resource.

Item 11 A.O.C.B and Updates from members

46. VH: went to Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland conference. There is a big focus on participation of women and young people.
47. DL: Ramblers are working with Transport Scotland on the new A9. All existing culverts and passes are being included, with the exception of Crubenmore which would potentially not be until 2019, with horse access in particular restricted until then.
48. RG: Attended the AGM of Deer Management Group. Points from the meeting were that there is an increase in disturbance of stalking by walkers. The hills are increasingly busy. The Salmon Fishery Board reported that an Angler & Paddler Management Leaflet will be published.
49. NW: Sportscotland Glenmore Lodge continue to support local initiatives like the Ride Like a Grrl Mountain Bike event.

50. EB: Attended the recent National Access Forum Meeting. He reported that NAF discussion surrounded access cases are sitting on the books for 6 months plus and cuts may highlight this issue. The British Horse Society felt access was not working – LOAF members were surprised at this view. The launch of the new Path Grading system was presented and seemed positive in its approach.
51. Comments from the Inverness & Nairn Access Forum (in attendance): they noted how active the Cairngorms LOAF is and that it had been an interesting evening.
52. EB thanked all members and staff.

Item 12 Date of next meeting

53. Next meeting date to be confirmed.