
CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

Title: UPDATE AND FORWARD LOOK

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Purpose: This paper provides an update on the main areas of work both undertaken and planned towards delivery of the five year outcomes in the Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan 2012-17.

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP PLAN 2012-17.

Long term outcome: People enjoying the Park through outstanding visitor and learning experiences

Key work package 9 - Active Cairngorms

1. **Active Cairngorms Strategy** – Production of this updated strategic document is now moving towards a consultation draft and following the update given at this meeting, CLOAF will continue to be kept informed of progress.
2. **Kingussie Cycle Friendly Community Award** – the town has been successful in securing £19,000 of funding from Sustrans to support local cycling initiatives. This investment is a significant step in delivering elements of the CNPA cycling action plan and a boost the profile of Kingussie as a centre for cycling in the National Park.
3. **Paths with Easy Access Guide for Badenoch & Strathspey** – this will be available before the end of the year and is designed to complement the existing community path leaflet for the area. The initiative has been funded by CNPA and delivered in conjunction with Inclusive Cairngorms and the Badenoch & Strathspey Disability Access Panel.

Key work package 12 - Visitor and access infrastructure

4. **Management of core paths and outdoor access:**
 - a) **Hurricane ‘Bertha’ damage:** – CNPA has submitted a bid to Scottish Government for contingency funds (circa £300k) to allow reinstatement of flood damage to paths and infrastructure resulting from this severe weather event. A response is currently awaited.
 - b) **Ellan Bridge, Carrbridge** – CNPA has agreed to contribute £3k towards maintenance of the Ellan suspension bridge and continues to work with the Carrbridge community to progress the project. Further funding will be necessary from additional sources and is currently being explored.

- c) **Speyside Way Extension** – An award of £90K is now in place from the Active Places Commonwealth Games legacy fund which matches the £115K funding commitment already given by Sustrans. This allows construction of the next section of the extension to Kincaig to begin in respect of which planning applications have been submitted. Detailed update to be given at this meeting.
- d) **Upholding Access Rights** – access casework continues to be reported and dealt with according to protocols. An update will be presented under Agenda Item 7.

2015/16 Financial Planning

- 5. Public sector finance continues to be subject to downward pressure due to ongoing spending constraints therefore the available budget for 2015/16 will again be tight.
- 6. Budget allocations for the forthcoming financial year are currently being drawn up and following the adoption of Active Cairngorms it will be necessary to carry out prioritisation in favour of partnership projects where opportunity exist to lever in contribution.

Other National Park Initiatives

- 7. **Capercaillie Framework** - Work continues in preparation of this document in response to the continued threat to this iconic Scottish species. The initiative is now close to producing key recommendation including measures targeted towards reducing disturbance arising from recreational use of bird habitat. An update will be given under Agenda Item 8.
- 8. **Laggan Forest Centre** – Laggan Forest Trust are building a new Forest Centre at Laggan Wolftrax. Intended to benefit visitors and the local community alike it will incorporate a bike hire shop, café, toilets, showers, the LFT office and a learning space. Construction of the new centre is now well underway with the building now being wind and watertight. The project is part funded by NPA through Scottish Government shovel-ready funding.
- 9. **HLF Tomintoul / Glenlivet** – A stage 1 bid for HLF Funding for the Tomintoul / Glenlivet Landscape Partnership has been successful with the CNPA as lead partner in this first phase. The total bid to HLF for project development (one year) and project delivery (four years) is for £2.5m out of a total projected cost of £3.6m. The project includes improvements to access infrastructure and can now progress to Stage 2.
- 10. **Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland** – The Highland Cluster MTB e-Guide was launched during October and is now available to view on a variety of digital devices. The aim of the guide is to make it easier to visit the area to participate in mountain biking and help the sport grow to its forecasted level of £10.58m per annum. The guide includes a range of routes in the Cairngorms National Park and has been developed in with input from CNPA. See <http://www.highlandeguide.co.uk/>

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