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## CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

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- Title:** UPDATE AND FORWARD LOOK
- Prepared by:** Douglas Stewart, Outdoor Access Officer
- Purpose:** This paper provides an update on Forum membership and 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.

### MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

1. Stewart Blair, RSPB joins as a member representing Land Management interests and taking up a 3 year term from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014
2. Nominations for a replacement CLOAF Vice-Convener are required.

### 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 well underway and following the update given at this meeting, the CLOAF will continue to be kept informed of progress.
2. **COAT HLF Funding** – COAT has been successful in a second-round bid for funding to carry out upland path repairs in the Cairngorms. The ‘Mountains and People’ project has a target spend of £4.6m (£3.4m planned) and is a joint bid between CNPA and LLTNPA targeting key upland paths in both National Parks.
3. **Community Path Leaflets** – Atholl paths leaflet is to be reprinted in partnership with Blair Atholl Area Tourism Association.

#### Key work package 12 - Visitor and access infrastructure

4. **Management of core paths and outdoor access:**
  - a) **Local path development** –In conjunction with COAT the CNPA has agree to fund survey and specification for a new path at Nethy Bridge linking Steels Mill and Tulloch Road. The path will be to all-abilities standard to create an additional link with the Speyside Way. Survey is programmed for completion

during the forthcoming weeks allowing planning permission to be secured before the end of the financial year. It is anticipated that, subject to funding, construction will be carried out during 2015.

- b) **Ellan Bridge, Carrbridge** – CNPA has agreed to contribute £3k towards maintenance of the Ellan swing bridge. The bridge has recently been inspected on behalf of the CC and requires circa £6.5k of repairs to ensure future safety of the structure. Further funding will be necessary from additional sources.
- c) **Speyside Way extension** – Construction of the Speyside Way extension is well underway with works running to schedule. Detailed update to be given at this meeting.
- d) **Speyside Way maintenance** – a programme of vegetation maintenance has been carried out on the Speyside Way within the NP boundary covering a total distance of 11km.
- e) **Upholding Access Rights** – access casework continues to be reported and dealt with according to protocols. An update will be presented under Agenda Item 7.

### **Other National Park Initiatives**

- 5. **Capercaillie Framework** - Work continues in preparation of this document in response to the continued threat to this iconic Scottish species. It will include an examination of disturbance arising from recreational use of bird habitat. An update will be given under Agenda Item 7.
- 6. **National Parks Week** – A programme of activities in conjunction with the CNPA's partner ranger services was timed to coincide with this event. CNPA access team Twitter presence was also ramped up to promote responsible visits to the National Park.

### **Land Reform Review Group**

The Review Group's Final Report has been published (Final Report 23 May 2014) and includes scrutiny of Part 1 of the Land Reform Act, although it should be noted that the main focus of the review is Part 2. The Land Reform Review Group is an independent review group set up by the Scottish Government to “develop innovative and radical proposals that will contribute to Scotland’s future success.” Since publication the Scottish Government has committed to the introduction of a Land Reform Bill in the current Parliament. The report (hard copies of which are available from the SG) provides a coherent framework for land reform designed to make the ownership of urban, rural and marine land and property better serve the public interest.

### **National Walking Strategy**

The CNPA has been consulted on a National Walking Strategy for Scotland.

The strategy outlines a vision for Scotland where everyone benefits from walking and presents recommendations from a Government working group to create a walking culture which delivers the range of health benefits this will provide.

The strategy lists the following three main reasons for walking:

1. Functional (transport) – getting to school, work, the shops etc.
2. Recreational – walking for pleasure, sport and active recreation and
3. Health and wellbeing – walking to feel better (physically and mentally).

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