

## INCLUSIVE CAIRNGORMS

### Extract of the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2013 at 11.00am At Braemar Village Hall

#### Matters arising from the Minutes

3..... (It was) reported that equalities training for rangers services in the CNP is being held on 29 October, delivered by Chris McCoy of Visitscotland.

#### Victoria and Albert Hall refurbishments

5. Nick Mardall, Deeside and Donside Development Manager introduced a project he is involved in to refurbish the Victoria and Albert halls in Ballater ...to create a sustainable attractive community space which will cater for all ages, needs and abilities. This will include a community learning centre, library, office, community suite, which will be open to visitors as well as residents. He has come along to ask IC for input and suggestions to ensure that the proposals are accessible and inclusive.
6. Detailed proposals have not been drawn up yet, but some suggestions were put forward to help ensure the process of developing the proposals is inclusive:
  - Involve local Access Panel – Keith Weeks and Ruth Sim – BEFORE plans are drawn up..
  - Involve Carers Support groups – Chris Cairns
  - Refer to National Standards for Community engagement – available on [www.cairngorms.co.uk](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk)
7. Nick will come back to IC when more detailed plans have been drawn up.

#### Electric Bike project

9. Mike Dennison gave a presentation on the Cairngorms electric bike network which was launched in July 2013 as a partnership project between Sustrans, CNPA , Scottish Government and Electric Travel CIC.
10. The project purchased 20 electric bikes which are leased by businesses throughout the Park, who act as rental and charge points for the bikes. After the first year, the businesses have the chance to buy the bikes. The aim is for the project to become embedded in tourism and self-sustaining. He noted that it is a real enabler, removing barriers to improve health and fitness for all abilities.
11. In 2014 the priorities will include promoting / marketing the bike network; acquiring electric trikes with additional funding (which will be particular suited to people with disabilities). He is also looking at a community ownership model for the bike network which could involve more use by communities in the Park eg cycling to work.
14. More details about the electric bike network can be found at [www.ebn.com](http://www.ebn.com) or contact Mike at [mike.dennison@sustrans.org.uk](mailto:mike.dennison@sustrans.org.uk), Mobile 07825 833979.

#### CNPA Public Duties (standing item)

#### Equality Duties

15. Elspeth Grant reported that she was putting together some case studies that demonstrate where equality impact assessments have made a difference to CNPA projects eg in producing leaflets and publications, engaging communities, holding events, etc. These can be used to show Board and staff how impact assessments can improve delivery of projects, whilst also promoting good practice.

### **Outdoor Access**

19. Easy access guide to Badenoch and Strathspey – the design and printing of a booklet on all abilities paths in B&S is currently out to tender, but will come back to IC with a draft.
20. Cycling Action Plan - is a key part of delivering the new Outdoor Access Strategy for CNP. This will be brought to IC for discussion / comment at the next meeting on 5 December.

### **Planning**

21. Regarding the inclusive design toolkit as endorsed by IC, it was suggested that this could be circulated around the CNPA planning committee. **Action : EG**

### **Young People (standing item)**

22. EG reported that CNPA are launching a new Outdoor Learning travel grant scheme, which will support educational trips to the National Park. In partnership with Scottish Natural Heritage, CNPA will provide grants of up to £250 or 75% of transport costs to schools and community groups who experience disadvantage on account of their age, disability, socio economic status, health, or race. Application forms and guidance on the scheme are available at [www.cairngorms.co.uk/learn](http://www.cairngorms.co.uk/learn)

### **Disability (standing item)**

28. With regard to the CNPA Design Awards, Morag Campbell has suggested:
- That disabled access, as defined by the Equality Act, should be part of the criteria for the next Design Awards. It is included in Civic Awards.
  - That a qualified architect member of the Alliance of Highlands and Islands Disability Access Panels be considered as a judge on the CNPA's judging panel for these awards.
29. ... EG noted that she had discussed with colleagues and it ... was agreed that (accessibility) ..should be included as a broad theme in the guidelines for next year's Awards.
30. It was also noted.... that recreational opportunities for wheelchair users can be restricted in the Park because exits and gates are too narrow. Large gates are locked and the pedestrian exits can be too narrow. This is only discovered at the end of a long walk. Who do we approach when such situations come to light?
31. It was suggested that in the first instance to contact the landowner, and if this is not possible, to contact the Access Authority, in this case the CNPA.
32. One solution put forward would be the use of radar locks on gates that have to be locked, as most disabled people already carry radar keys. Could these be used on padlocks and could CNPA assist landowners with fitting these locks? **Action EG /access team**

### **Date of next meeting**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 11.00am, Grant Arms Hotel, Granttown-on-Spey