
CAIRNGORMS LOCAL OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

Title: Reviewing the Forum – a questionnaire for members

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Objectives and functions of the Forum

- To act as the local access forum for Cairngorms National Park and to undertake the functions of that body in terms of Section 25 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003;
- To advise Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) on strategic access issues and the drawing up and adoption of a Core Paths Plan in terms of its responsibility under Section 17 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003;
- To advise the Authority in the preparation of its Outdoor Access Strategy;
- To advise the Authority and any other person or body consulting it, on the existence and delineation of rights of way and the exercise of access rights;
- To promote responsible access and land management through assisting the Authority in publicising the Scottish Outdoor Access Code;
- To promote discussion and the sharing of knowledge, awareness and good practice in outdoor access matters;
- To support the provision of appropriate infrastructure that improves responsible access to the countryside for all; and
- To offer advice that will assist in the resolution of outdoor access disputes.

1) Representation and Involvement

- a. Do you think all relevant access interests are adequately represented on the Forum? If not, what interests are either missing or under-represented?
- b. Do we need more skills or experience in the Forum? If so, what are they?
- c. Are you satisfied that the Forum is made up of a committed membership and does everyone participate equally in meetings? If not, what suggestions would you wish to make to improve the current position?

2) Operational Matters

- a. Is a minimum of four meetings a year, plus an annual open event, adequate to cover Forum business? If not, what would you view as the optimum number of meetings each year?

- b. Meetings alternate generally between the east and west of the Park – does this work in practice?
- c. Papers are sent by post to arrive 5 working days before the meeting – does this give you enough time for reading etc?
- d. Do you believe there are sufficient resources directed towards the Forum's activities?

3) Role and Remit

- a. Is there a clear understanding amongst Forum members of the relationship between the Forum and the Park Authority?
- b. Are the pre-Forum meeting training events worthwhile and how could they be improved?
- c. Should the Park Authority make more use of Forum members' skills, outwith meetings and if so, how?
- d. Are there areas of work you would like to see the Forum address, and if so what are they?
- e. What are the strengths of the Forum?
- f. What are the areas for improvement in the Forum (if any)?

4) Communication

- a. Do you think that the Forum should have a more independent role in communicating with the public? If so, how could it be achieved?

5) Objectives and functions (see text box above)

- a. On a scale of 1-5, how well do you think the Forum meets its objectives and performs its' functions? (1 = not at all, 5 = fully)