

INCLUSIVE CAIRNGORMS

Minutes of the meeting held on 26th March 2015
at 11.00am in CNPA office, Grantown-on-Spey with video link to LL&TNPA

Present:

In Grantown:

Anne MacLean (chair)	Mobility and Access Committee Scotland
Elsbeth Grant	CNPA
Hector MacDonald	Scottish Disability Equality Forum
Alasdair Johnston	NP resident
Anne Dempster	Strath Sunshine Club
Pete Carson	Health and Happiness
David Clyne	CNPA
Bridget Trussell	CNPA
Gordon Riddler	CNPA Board
Brigitte Vallance	Citizens Online

In Balloch:

Alison Cush	LL&TNPA
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Apologies:

Eric Baird (vice chair)	Cairngorms Ranger Services
Kevin Hutchens	Independent Social Worker
Maggie Lawson	B&S Community Transport Company
Jane Cox	COAT Walking to Health
Morag Campbell	B&S Access Panel
Sasha Devine	Highlands and Islands Equality Forum / SCVO
Anna Carey-Miller	Aberdeenshire Council
Kate Christie	CNPA
Fraser Cardow	Cairngorms Skills Project
Suresh Paul	Equal Adventure
Saran Cleary	Barnardo's Works
Vittoria Hancock	Scottish Rural Churches Group
Maggie MacAlpine	Crathie Opportunity Holidays
Alan Melrose	COAT
Dan Cottam	Grantown Museum

Welcome and Introduction

1. The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting the apologies.

Minutes of Last Meeting

2. The minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2014 were approved.

Matters arising from the Minutes

3. Ref para 25, EG reported that she had received replies from three Local Authorities about the accessibility of approaches to polling stations. Still awaiting a response from Highland Council re the Grantown venue. It was noted that councils have a duty to review polling places every 4 years and this includes consulting with user groups including disability and minority groups. Both internal and external accessibility is looked at.
4. Ref para 23, GR noted that the Marr Area Partnership have moved into the Ballater 'Community Hub' alongside CNPA, with RSPB and COAT also interested in having an office there.

Guest speaker – Brigitte Vallance, Get IT Together project

5. Brigitte gave a presentation on her project as part of her work through Citizens Online, a national charity that provides support to people to get online, particularly in rural areas.
6. Some facts:
 - 16 million people in UK do not have online skills
 - 63% over 65s don't see a reason to get online
 - £5.1 million could be saved by developing and promoting digital public services
 - Many services and savings are online
 - Average household is over £560 a year better off online
 - Digital literacy can break down feelings of social isolation
7. Get IT Together is funded by BT and HIE until March 2015, although HIE have extended their funding till Sept 2015.
8. The project is community based, using church halls, community centres to set up BIG (Beginners Internet Group) Clubs in Nairn. They provide support and training to people of all ages and abilities to gain confidence and skills to get on line to access online services such as:
 - Joining local groups and finding out what's on in their community
 - Music, reading, shopping, library
 - Family history
 - Travel
 - Communication – skype, facetime
 - Central and local government and local news
 - Universal credit, car tax, etc.
9. Saltire Award students help to support the weekly BIG clubs.
10. Looking to set up similar BIG clubs in Grantown, Aviemore and Kingussie involving Saltire students, as well as approaching businesses, care homes, sheltered housing to train staff and embed it for when the project ends. Working with partners including Cairngorms Learning Partnership and Highlife Highland.

11. Brigitte explained that she can work with groups with visual and dexterity /touch impairments. There is specialist software available such as voice recognition (Siri). She is interested to know if there is someone locally who can be trained? **Action AM to find out through Sight Action**
12. GR asked if the project area would extend to Ballater in Deeside, and what are the costs involved? Brigitte to follow this up. **Action Brigitte**

CNPA Public Duties (standing item)

Equalities

13. EG reported that CNPA is required to provide a progress report on how it is meeting its Equality outcomes (2013-17), along with a report on how it is mainstreaming equality into its day to day work to help deliver the aims of the general equalities duty. These reports will be published by 31st April and will be available on the CNPA website.
<http://cairngorms.co.uk/park-authority/about-us/equalities/>
EG will circulate in due course. **Action EG**

Outdoor Access

14. David Clyne, Outdoor Access Manager gave an update on the Active Cairngorms consultation which ends on 10th April. He has had meetings with over 40 individuals and groups, with positive interest from NHS Highland and Grampian, regarding GP referrals. The finalised strategy will be published in June.
15. A draft National Walking Strategy Action Plan had been circulated to IC for consultation. A response from Kevin Hutchens had been received. An additional comment made the point that all ability paths developed by community groups should also be considered, as well as those developed by other organisations such as Woods for All.
16. The recently published Easy Access Paths Guide in Badenoch and Strathspey is now available, and suggestions were made on its distribution including Visitor Information Centres, health centres, ranger bases and through the B&S Transport Company, Health walk groups (through COAT), and senior citizen groups. It will also be available to download from the CNPA website.
17. Media coverage is also planned which will provide some PR for Inclusive Cairngorms and the B&S Access Panel. A photo is to be arranged with Anne MacLean and Kane at Kynlindra, Grantown / Morag Campbell at the Glebe Ponds, Kingussie. **Action EG / Comms**
18. AC reported on access projects in LL&T:
 - Shopmobility scooter project: <http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/looking-after/balloch-scooter-station-branch-of-clyde-shopmobility-recruits-first-member/menu-id-483.html>
 - Countryside Trust Health Walk <http://trustinthepark.org/walk-in-the-park/>

Local Outdoor Access Forum (LOAF) update

19. AJ noted that there was no issues to report on the LOAF.

Planning

20. 2014/0296/DET - Construction of Care Home, Grantown-on-Spey. The decision notice for planning permission includes a condition for a minimum of 4 and maximum 8 parking spaces.

21. 2015/00111/DET – Cambus O’May Farm Shop. Comments submitted from IC on 24.3.15

- ‘To ensure that the proposed extension and wider site, including parking, is fully accessible to people with disabilities’.

22. 2015/0050/DET – Grantown Heritage Centre. Comments submitted from IC on 24.3. 15:

- ‘We are concerned how accessible the two train carriages (cafe) will be for wheelchair users, in terms of the entrance width of doors, the aisles, internal doors, and allowing sufficient space for turning. From the documents, these look like they will be the older style carriages which are not known to be wheelchair friendly.
- The statement notes that the road surface will be of gravel chippings. We would recommend the use of quarry dust, particularly for the access areas to the site, as this is the recognised standard for all abilities access (in the CNP). This is not only better for wheelchair and buggy access, but also people who are visually impaired who are using a long stick.’

23. 2014/0356/DET – Mini golf course, Aviemore for consultation. Hector offered to draft response and get back to EG by 31st March. **Action HM**

Cairngorms Local Development Strategy

24. Bridget Trussell gave an update on the LDS (2014-20) which is now in its second year. Presentation slides are attached. Key points made / discussed:

- Local Action Group (LAG) is driving the process rather than reacting to it.
- LAG wants to engage partners at both strategic and grass-roots level.
- LAG members will be confirmed in April.
- Under Target groups, ethnic minority groups are listed. It was asked who and where are such groups in the Park?
- It was noted that Young people and Businesses will be priorities in Year 1, with Elderly and Disabled in Year 2.
- How often will applications be considered?

25. BT to get back to EG with responses to questions and slides to circulate. **Action BT/EG**

Young People (standing item)

26. EG passed round a poster received from Fraser Cardow promoting the Cairngorms Skills Project which is open for applications for 2015. It was noted that over 80% of trainees move into jobs, apprenticeships or education.

27. AJ asked if there was a similar scheme on Deeside? **Action EG to pass on to FC**

Disability (standing item)

28. AM had attended an Accessible Transport Summit, discussing issues of connectivity, physical improvements, information and assistance, training and customer service. A report will be issued at the end of May outlining priorities. Key points:

- Alot of support for disability assistance on trains, but this service is not widely known.
- Accessible buses are a requirement by 2017 (and coaches by 2020) but accessible bus stops in rural areas may be difficult to achieve.
- Co-ordinated services are important (linking ferries, buses, trains)

29. PC reported that the Caberfeidh / warehouse project has fallen through due to HC funding being withdrawn. This means the books online project has ended with the loss of 16 young people. The impact on Health and Happiness means Pete's job ends in May.

However H&H will still have some funding available to

- support young people / school leavers with learning disabilities.
- continue projects such as the Wildlife Wombles,
- Work with employers to provide work opportunities for people with learning disabilities (Partners including Cairngorms Business Partnership, Nansen, Barnardo's)

Low Income

30. There were no items to report.

AOCB

31. It was noted that a Learning and Inclusion paper is being presented to the CNPA Board at the Board meeting on 27 March. Copies were circulated. It was also noted that Backbone and other learning partners were attending the informal Board meeting that evening to highlight the range and impacts of CNPA's learning and inclusion activities.

32. AC noted the recent launch of 'contactSCOTLAND' - the new British Sign Language (BSL) online Video Relay Interpreting Service which will allow the Deaf community to have the same access to public services as everyone else. This is a significant development for the Deaf community and more information on how the service will work can be found at www.contactsotland-bsl.org

Date of next meeting

33. **Tuesday 16th June, 11am to 1.00pm in CNPA offices in Grantown with video conference available in Ballater and LL&TNP.**

Elsbeth Grant
CNPA