

INCLUSIVE CAIRNGORMS

Minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2014
at 11.00am in CNPA office, Grantown-on-Spey with video conference link to
CNPA Ballater

Present:

In Grantown:

Anne MacLean (chair)	Mobility and Access Committee Scotland
Elspeth Grant	CNPA
Hector MacDonald	Scottish Disability Equality Forum
Jane Cox	COAT Walking to Health
Anne Dempster	Strath Sunshine Club
David Clyne	CNPA
Fraser Morrison	Highlife Highland
Sandra South	B&S Access Panel
Doris Carlin	B&S Access Panel
Sara Paul	Equal Adventure
Ivor Souter	Highland Council
Francoise van Buuren	CNPA
Andy Rinning	CNPA

In Ballater:

Eric Baird (vice chair)	Cairngorms Ranger Services
Kevin Hutchens	Independent Social Worker
Alasdair Johnston	NP resident
Gordon Riddler	CNPA Board

Apologies:

Maggie Lawson	B&S Community Transport Company
Pete Carson	Health and Happiness
Liz Scott	Highlands & Islands Enterprise
Morag Campbell	B&S Access Panel
Jim Campbell	B&S Access Panel
Sasha Devine	Highlands and Islands Equality Forum / SCVO
Gill MacLennan	Autism Initiatives
David Atkinson	Scottish Rural Churches Group
Carolyn Cornfield	Caberfeidh Horizons
Anna Carey-Miller	Aberdeenshire Council
Alison Cush	LL&TNPA
Kate Christie	CNPA

Welcome and Introduction

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

Election of chair and vice-chair

2. The first 2 year term of office for current chair (Anne MacLean) and vice-chair (Eric Baird) ends in November. Both are willing to stand again for a second term, and no other nominations had been received. Therefore Anne was proposed as chair, seconded by HM. Eric was proposed as vice-chair, seconded by AM.

Minutes of Last Meeting

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 11 September were approved.

Matters arising from the Minutes

4. Re para 15, EG had spoken to planners about the protocol, and agreed that IC submits their response through the planning mailbox so that it is formally logged in the system.
5. Re para 16, GR reported on the new bus stop shelter in Ballater. Following a site meeting with Aberdeenshire Council and looking at different site options, there was no alternative than the site proposed. However changes had been made to the seating within the shelter to accommodate a wheelchair. Thanks were given to GR for all his efforts.
6. Re para 19, amendments had been made to the An Camas Mor submission and forwarded to the developer. Since then however, the application has been withdrawn. It was suggested that we invite Johnnie Grant to an IC meeting when the revised masterplan is submitted.
7. Re para 20, GR had spoken with Anna Carey-Miller about the Ballater youth club to resolve issues re flooding and seeking funding.

CNPA Public Duties (standing item)

Outdoor Access - Active Cairngorms – David Clyne, Outdoor Access Manager

8. David has prepared the draft Active Cairngorms outdoor access strategy, which is being consulted on from 12 January to 10 April 2015. Copies were circulated to IC and David is keen for some feedback from the group. Comments included:
 - Inclusion of all abilities trails and promoting them – through active promotion, CNPA will work with key partners and target audiences, such as over 55's, young women, and those living sedentary lifestyles
 - Beyond promotion, need to look at other facilities such as seating, toilets, mediation, information for these groups.
 - Ref Policy 1 – 'Barrier free' is different to all abilities. Recognise that all paths cannot be to 'all abilities' standard, but would like to see more paths with improved surface using quarry dust.
 - Ref policy 2 – it was clarified that there won't be dedicated routes developed for horse-riders, but core paths will be closely monitored for maintenance requirements.
 - In terms of supporting disabled people to participate in activities, Equal Adventure has an equipment cache available for water sports, climbing activities. But there is a need for training of outdoor activity providers in using – and promoting - this equipment to their clients.

- Ref policy 6 'Promoting healthy lifestyles' – need to speak to diversity groups and also staff who work with these groups, eg rangers in equality and diversity awareness / training.
- Ref policy 8 'Coordinate and grow Walking to Health programme' – It was noted that the funding for this ends 2014/15, but CNPA is speaking to partners about continuing the project, as part of wider volunteering project including 'cycling to health'.

Local Outdoor Access Forum (LOAF) update

9. AJ gave an update of the last LOAF meeting:

- Very positive response to the draft Active Cairngorms strategy, noting the need for it be promoted 'inclusively' when it is published.
- Cases re signage on an estate; Rights of Way in Insh
- Visiting delegation from the Inverness OAF
- Noted that LOAF meetings are open to the public.

Planning

10. 2014/0296/DET - Construction of Care Home, Grantown-on-Spey. IC comments had been submitted and the application is expected to go to Planning committee in December.

Equalities – Communications and Engagement 2015 – Francoise van Buuren

11. Francoise gave an update on communications and engagement activities for 2015, asking IC on ways to make them as inclusive as possible. Comments included:

- Having materials in alternative formats to reach out to diversity groups – this will be considered on request and subject to cost.
- Who are the diversity groups who would be interested? – all members to send contacts for diversity groups to EG who will pass on to Francoise.
- Cairngorms Nature Festival – low percentage of disabled people taking part in 2014 (4%). Target for 2015 is to increase this and other equality groups.

12. Francoise referred to the recent Accessible Tourism conference organised by VisitScotland, noting how important it is to provide information on accessibility for visitors.

Young People (standing item)

13. Fraser Morrison is the new youth worker based at the Hub in Aviemore. He introduced his key areas of work including an inter-generational IT project between older people and school pupils at Kingussie High; restarting the Youth Forum and a youth event at Glenmore; projects with the Highland Wildlife Park; and outdoor activities.

14. It was noted how important it is to get young people more involved in community councils, events and activities to give a different perspective. The Highland Youth Parliament is open to young people under 25 years.

15. Fraser has links mainly through schools, but also with uniform groups. Nothing with SYHA.

Disability (standing item)

Equal Adventure – Sara Paul

16. Sara introduced the work of Equal Adventure who recently moved to new premises in Grantown-on-Spey. Their mission is 'to inspire inclusive adventure, sport and active lifestyles with disabled people'. It has trading and charitable arms – the trading one is to design and develop equipment for disabled people to participate in adventurous activities, and deliver inclusive/ disability training. The charity focuses on inspiring and supporting disabled people to take part in these activities. They work with universities in research and development in inclusive design, and have branched into providing specialist sewing services locally.

<http://www.equaladventure.org/ea/>

17. AM noted that the Scottish Govt is publishing a draft disability plan for consultation in the spring. MACS has contributed to developing the draft plan in terms of transport, and SDEF also. CNPA will be consulted in due course.

Low Income

18. KH referred to a report 'Counting the Cost' recently published by Contact a Family, which highlights accessing leisure as a barrier.

http://www.cafamily.org.uk/media/381221/counting_the_costs_2012_full_report.pdf

19. EB asked about whether the Cairngorms on a Shoestring publication is still available. EG confirmed that some of the information is available on the visitcairngorms website at <http://visitcairngorms.com/shoestring>. But this is a useful point to make for Active Cairngorms consultation. **Action DC to note.**

20. EB also asked whether 'Park for All' is still used by CNPA as a corporate theme, and this was confirmed eg in the National Park Partnership plan, 'Parks for All' are highlighted as one of the key principles thread throughout the delivery of the Plan.

CNPA office extension

21. Draft plans had been circulated for public consultation regarding the proposed office extension to the CNPA office in Grantown. An IC group response had been submitted to Andy Rinning for his consideration. Andy came along to the meeting to discuss these points.

- Access to the new building – would it be possible to have street level access as this is better for people with disabilities rather than ramps or steps.
- Entrance door to be made to ensure that both parts of the door open automatically when disabled button pushed.
- Ensure lift is suitably sized to take account of wheelchair access.
- Provision should be made for a refuge point for wheelchair users adjacent to the lift or at some point in a fire escape route. (and need for fire/evacuation plan to support this).
- Provision to be made for sufficient space around the reception desk for disabled persons and wheelchair users. Reception desk levels to be appropriate for wheelchair users.
- Contrast and signage to be carefully considered during internal fit out. RNIB can advise on signage
- Hearing loop should be built into meeting room.

- Disabled toilet should be suitable size and close to meeting room and should be renamed 'Accessible Toilet'
 - Suggestion that architect liaise with the Badenoch & Strathspey Access Panel
 - It was noted that this project should promote best practice not just minimum standards.
22. Andy clarified that the applicant is Seafield Estate who own the building. They are working closely with CNPA and the architect to develop the plans which will be submitted to Highland Council in due course.
23. Some concern was expressed about the implication of offices being centralised in Grantown and the impact on the Ballater community. It was noted that this is a purely operational change and will not change the level of CNPA presence in the east of the Park. Indeed discussions are on-going to explore turning the Ballater office into a hub for partner organisations and agencies to use.

AOCB

24. EG circulated copies of the draft report of the recent Outdoor Festival for All held in Blair Atholl, at which over 350 people attended from multi-cultural communities and disability groups from across Scotland. The event was a great success introducing the Park to groups who had not visited or experienced the activities on offer, and inspiring them to return to the Park. A more detailed report of the impact of Backbone's projects is available from EG.
25. AM noted that the recent referendum had highlighted the accessibility of polling stations, in terms of the wider approaches to the venue as much as the venue itself. Eg in Grantown there is no footpath leading to the church hall, creating a risk for disabled pedestrians. Are there similar issues in other parts of the Park? It was suggested that we contact the Area Returning officers around the Park to raise this question. **Action EG**
26. IS reported on his work with rural community transport re the new hospital in Aviemore. He sits on the Transport and Access Group, working with NHS looking at wider transport in the area. He also noted that B&S transport Company has new funding to acquire more accessible vehicles. If you'd like more information contact Ivor Email: ivor.souter@highland.gov.uk
27. EB asked about media coverage for Inclusive Cairngorms. **Action EG to speak to FvB**

Date of next meeting

28. **Thursday 26 March, 11am to 1.00pm in CNPA offices in Grantown.**
NB Sorry no video / phone conference available from Ballater for this meeting.

Elsbeth Grant
CNPA