

Europarc Charter Parks Network Meeting

Prepared by: Heather Galbraith

Purpose: To update the Forum on plans for the Europarc Charter Parks Network Meeting in Ballater in June 2007, and seek input to the planned conference programme.

Background

1. The Europarc Charter Parks Network allows sharing of information, advice and best practice amongst the 36 Protected Areas across Europe which have been accredited with the *European Charter for Sustainable Tourism in Protected Areas*. The annual Charter Parks Network meeting will be held in the Cairngorms National Park in June 2007. This gives us a valuable opportunity to showcase sustainable tourism work in the Cairngorms, as well as networking with representatives of other Protected Areas, many of whom we can learn from.

Programme and Arrangements

2. The event will be held primarily at Hilton Craigendarroch Hotel, with accommodation overspill to other hotels / guesthouses in Ballater, and will run from the evening of Tuesday 12th June until lunchtime on Friday 15th June. Around 80 delegates are expected in total.

3. A draft outline programme for the event is detailed below:

Tuesday 12th June

Afternoon: Delegates transfer from Aberdeen

Evening: Informal Networking Evening

Wednesday 13th June

Morning: Meeting: Welcome; Best Practice Examples

Afternoon: Meeting: Workshop sessions; Section Meetings

Evening: Free evening for delegates

Thursday 14th June

Day: Familiarisation trips. Potential themes: Cultural heritage; A Park for All; Activity Tourism

Evening: Networking Event - Ceilidh

Friday 15th June

Morning: Meeting: Charter Part II; Report back from workshops; Summing Up.

Afternoon: Delegates Transfer back to Aberdeen

4. In addition to the meeting sessions, all participating areas have the opportunity to contribute to a display, the 'Boulevard of Experiences'. They can display information, ask for advice or offer expertise on particular issues.

ViSIT Forum Input

5. Members of the ViSIT Forum are very welcome to attend any part of the meeting, and are encouraged to come along to networking evenings. We are keen to promote the message that the European Charter in the Cairngorms is not delivered by the CNPA, but rather by all stakeholders working in partnership, in particular those delivering tourism services on the ground.
6. Any suggestions for familiarisation trip destinations are welcome. We are looking in particular for places and projects that could showcase a truly

innovative approach to sustainable tourism issues. Likewise any contributions to the 'Boulevard of Experiences' are welcome.

7. Funding for the event will largely be met by the CNPA, however contributions from partner organisations are sought for elements of the programme, in particular the networking evenings and transport for the event.

Cairngorms National Park Authority
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