

---

# CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

---

## FOR INFORMATION

**Title: COMMUNITY HERITAGE**

**Prepared by: Fiona McLean, Community Heritage Officer**

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this paper is to brief the Board on the activity of this project and its achievements. It also highlights how cultural heritage is being carried forward.

### **Recommendation**

The Board is requested to note the content of this paper.

---

## COMMUNITY HERITAGE – FOR INFORMATION

### Background

1. The Community Heritage Project was a two year initiative, supported by funding from LEADER, phase one of which was completed in August 2011. There were two key objectives:
  - a) To support communities to develop and implement projects to understand, conserve, promote and enjoy their local heritage;
  - b) To co-ordinate the work of communities, NGO's and public bodies for the benefit of cultural heritage within the Park.
2. At the Board meeting in October 2010 where a paper on the project was discussed, the Board advised that a more strategic approach be adopted in the final year of the project. This paper updates on the situation at the culmination of the project.

### Achievement of Project Objectives

#### *Supporting Communities*

3. Over the two years, the Community Heritage Officer (CHO) was involved with over 40 community heritage projects, a number which far exceeded original estimates. Major projects included the Badenoch and Strathspey Shinty Heritage Project which resulted in funding from LEADER and the Heritage Lottery Fund and will produce a lasting legacy. Small projects such as collaboration between Glenbuchat Heritage Association and Historic Scotland at Glenbuchat Castle have initiated useful long-term relationships between communities and national agencies.

#### *Co-ordinating Cultural Heritage Activity*

4. This was a significant role for the CHO, bringing communities together with regional and national organisations and assisting them in their fund-raising efforts. Community projects secured funding from LEADER, Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland, Marr Area Partnership, Aberdeenshire Council, Highland Council and Creative Scotland. The CHO also worked collaboratively with Highland Council, Aberdeenshire Council, Historic Scotland, RCAHMS, Fèisean a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh, Laggan Forest Trust, ScotWays, ARCH, Hi-Arts, Scotland's Rural Past, and the University of the Highlands and Islands in developing and realising projects.
5. The CHO has created a networking climate where communities could share their expertise and learn from the experience of others, through a conference and heritage connections visits.

6. Within the CNPA, the CHO has input to internal activities and integrated cultural heritage, through for example, contributions to a number of web sites, discussions on landscape and biodiversity issues, and interpretation. The CHO has also taken advantage of a number of promotional opportunities, such as presentations, talks and radio interviews.

## **Community Heritage 2011-12**

7. The CHO's contract has been extended for a further year, two days on community heritage matters and two days funded by LEADER to develop the HLF Landscape Partnership bid.
8. The CHO is continuing to contribute to a number of ongoing projects, usually as a steering group member. Major cross-Park strategic projects have also been initiated. 'Where Long Shadows Fall' celebrates the Year of the Forest 2011, with funding secured from LEADER, SNH, and Marr Area Partnership. The result is a number of initiatives at Glenbuchat and at Laggan, in collaboration with Glenbuchat community, Laggan Forest Trust, Fèisan a' Mhonaidh Ruaidh, Gergask Primary School, Laggan community and Cosmic Sky Productions.
9. A strategic approach to cultural heritage has been adopted with the collaborative CNPA and RCAHMS project in the Aviemore/Glenmore area which will reveal the stories of the area over the next three years. This initiative built on previous collaborative activity between CNPA and RCAHMS, and has potential to be further developed for future activity in other areas using community networks as well as support from CNPA.
10. Cultural heritage is also an integral part of the HLF Landscape Partnership bid, and over the next year the CHO will be leading on the CNPA submission. This is aimed, amongst other things, at putting cultural heritage firmly within the strategic approach of the next Park Plan.

**Fiona McLean**

**October 2011**

**fionamclean@cairngorms.co.uk**