

**CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**  
**ECONOMIC & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT FORUM**

**AVIEMORE HIGHLAND RESORT**  
**30TH NOVEMBER 2004**

**ATTENDEES:**

Peter Argyle, Chair  
John Rainy Brown, VABS  
Jaci Douglas, Kids-Scotland  
Kate Gordon-Rogers, Scottish Rural Property and Business Association  
Richard Robinson, SNH  
Elaine Booth, Scottish Enterprise Grampian  
Maree Thyne, Robert Gordon University  
Ron Reid, Enterprise North East Trust  
Tim Whittome, Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce  
Anne Maclean, CNPA Board  
Judith McCulloch, TIGHRA  
Kate Adamson, Association of Cairngorms Community Councils  
Alasdair Coloquhoun, Association of Cairngorms Community Councils  
Alistair Cluness, National Trust for Scotland  
Louise Clark, Highland Council  
Jim Knowles, Aberdeenshire Council  
Prue Dowie, Angus Council  
Sandra Murray, Cairngorm Mountain Ltd  
Jan Leith, Age Concern  
Bill Bailey, The Toulter  
Judith Aylett, Mar Area Partnership  
Gregor Rimell, CNPA Board  
Basil Dunlop, CNPA Board  
Eleanor Mackintosh, CNPA Board  
Joyce Simpson, CNPA Board  
Hamish Trench, CNPA  
Nick Halfhide, CNPA  
John Thorne, CNPA  
Andrew Harper, CNPA  
Fiona Munro, CNPA  
Rita Callander, CNPA

**APOLOGIES**

Andrew Mackenzie, Badaguish Cairngorm Outdoor Centre  
Heather Bantick, Boat of Garten Community Company  
Bell Macaulay, Ballater (RD) Ltd  
Ken Macmillan, All Abilities Communication Network  
James Gibbs, MBSE  
Elaine Jackson, Angus Council/Kirriemuir & the Glens Partnership  
Lorna Duguid, Scottish Enterprise Grampian

Gillian Lochhead, Scottish Enterprise Tayside  
Stuart Young, Scottish Estates Business Group  
Mark Shucksmith, University of Aberdeen  
Ranald Robertson, HITRANS  
Peter Cockhead, NESTRANS  
Bill Hepburn, Tulloch Group  
Ross Watson, Scottish Youth Parliament member  
Lesley Macinnes, Historic Scotland

**1. Peter Argyle, Chair, welcomed everyone and gave a brief introduction.**

**2. Andrew Harper, Head of Economic & Social Development at the CNPA presented a paper on the role, membership and method of operation of the new Economic & Social Development (ESD) Forum.**

- Everyone present was happy to participate in this and future ESD forum meetings
- The remit was briefly discussed and accepted
- Membership: a membership list was distributed later in the meeting. Forum members were asked to comment as to whether they saw any obvious gaps in the membership.

**ACTION AH**

- Those present felt that the time of the meeting was suitable, but it was agreed that the views of those who had not attended should be sought.

**ACTION JT**

- It was suggested that Forum meetings could include a local presentation depending on location. This would inform members and stimulate debate, sharing good practice.

**2. Nick Halfhide gave a presentation explaining the purpose of the Park Plan, and the process by which it is being developed.**

**Dr Euan Mackay of Reference Economic Consultants outlined the work he was undertaking to identify the policy context, key issues and strategic objectives for the ‘Communities Living & Working in the Park’ section of the Park Plan.**

- Concerns were raised about the review process ‘freezing’ policy, but reassurances were given that CNPA interim policies were in place, and that the policy review was seen as a continuous, fluid process.
- A question was asked as to how communities would input to the development of the Park Plan. NH responded by saying that the community was kept in touch via the Park Life magazine. Community meetings were also ongoing to consult directly on the Local Plan, and the information gained from this would also inform the Park Plan.

- It was pointed out that this review may throw up policies that are inconsistent with the Park aims. EM replied that often this was not an issue with national strategy, but rather of how policies are applied at a local level. The review process would allow these issues to be addressed.

- The comment was made that the CNP is well placed to act as a test bed for national policy.

### **3. Andrew Harper then presented forum paper 2.**

#### **Economic & Social Trends:**

The following points were made in relation to the key economic and social trends:

- In relation to the statement that a 'significant number of Park residents may be over-qualified to the available work', the objective should be to raise the quality of jobs.

- The low proportion of sick/disabled people was likely to be a reflection of people choosing to live elsewhere due to inadequate facilities/services in the Park.

- The point was raised that the national deprivation index does not adequately reflect issues within the Park. It was agreed that we should only use those indicators that are useful for the Park area, to increase confidence in statistics in general.

#### **Developing the Vision:**

- The draft community development vision was thought to be trying too hard to include all issues, and to be over-long.

- Work on the vision was undertaken in groups, the feedback from which is appended. AH explained that this would be used to draft a vision which will be circulated to the Forum for comment, before being discussed by the CNPA Board in January.

### **4. Next meeting**

- The provisional date was set for Friday, 18th February 2005

- Feedback was requested from everyone on timing, and if the structure of the day should be altered.

- The next meeting will discuss strategic objectives for the 'Communities Living & Working in the Park' section of the Park Plan.