

Cairngorms National Park Core Paths Plan

Consultation and Engagement Process - Stage 1

Community Engagement & Results – Insh

Introduction

The core paths plan process targeted four main interest groups to engage with, these included; communities, land managers, people who recreate in the National Park (visitors and residents including businesses, national organisations and clubs e.g. Ramblers, Scottish Canoe Association, Cairngorm Club etc.) and visitors to the National Park (those who may not specifically come to the Park to recreate but may do so whilst they are here). The following report details how the Cairngorms National Park Authority (CNPA) engaged with the Insh community, the people who participated in the engagement process and the feedback and results that they provided.

Engaging with the Insh Community

The engagement period ran from 1st September to 30th November 2006. Questionnaires for the community were made available on the CNPA website, through contacting the CNPA directly and at a drop-in event. The community drop-in event was run to enable people in Insh and the surrounding area to find out more about core paths planning and to advise the CNPA of the routes, paths and areas that are important to them and why. The drop-in event also provided the community with an opportunity to view the results of a core paths pilot exercise that was run in September 2005.

The event was held at the Kincaig Village Hall on Tuesday 31st of October from 2:30pm to 6:30pm. CNPA staff Adam Streeter Smith and

Sandra Middleton ran the event with assistance from John Anderson of the community council

Drop-in Event Promotion

The event was advertised in the Badenoch & Strathspey Herald and was also the subject of a press release. Invitations were sent out to all local land owners/tenants and the community council. An email invitation was sent out to a wide range of local activity providers, businesses and individuals. Posters were displayed around the village a week in advance of the event and fresh posters were put up on the day of the meeting including a large board outside the event.

Drop-in Event Format

Participants were provided with a core paths planning leaflet which included details of the core paths plan process in the Cairngorms National Park and Frequently Asked Questions. The leaflet was made available to participants along with questionnaires and maps to record their views. A questionnaire containing a map was available for each settlement in the Park as well as for the wider areas of the Park. Large maps of the wider area were also available to help people identify routes outwith settlements. There was also an opportunity for people to record their views on the path network in the area in relation to what they thought was good or bad about it or what could be improved, this was recorded in an 'H-Diagram' format.

Drop-in Event Feedback

Approximately 19 people attended the event, a total of 5 questionnaires were completed at the event and a number of people took questionnaires away to complete in their own time. 12 questionnaires in total were completed for the Insh settlement. Participants were asked to complete an evaluation sheet of the event, the results recorded are as follows;

	% of Participants Responding			
	Very Useful	Useful	Not Useful	Waste of Time
Location	73%	27%	0%	0%
Venue	84%	16%	0%	0%
Timing	75%	9%	16%	0%

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Questionnaires	90%	10%	0%	0%
Information Available	81%	19%	0%	0%
Opportunity to speak to staff	80%*	10%	0%	0%

* Included comments- very welcoming, VG, friendly

Participants in the Engagement Process

Throughout the 3 month period a total of 12 questionnaires were completed for the Insh settlement. To help the CNPA gauge whether or not the process successfully engaged with a wide enough cross section of the community, the questionnaires asked people to provide information on their gender, age group and where they live. The results are shown below.

Participants by Gender

Male	55%	Female	45%
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Participants by Age Group

Under 16	18%	16 - 24	0%	25 - 44	0%	45 - 64	64%	65 - 74	9%	Over 75	9%
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Where people came from

% of people from each place who completed questionnaires					
Insh	18%	The Kincaig Community Council Area	3%	Elsewhere	12%

Results of the Engagement Process

At the drop-in event people were asked their views about the path network in and around Insh. No comments were recorded.

Map Results

People were asked to identify the paths that are important to them on a map in the questionnaire, they were also asked to identify any new routes or areas that they would like to have easier access to and were encouraged to make comments. Participants at the event were given the opportunity to annotate large maps highlighting their popular routes in detail and also adding comments. Where someone made a comment on the maps this has been listed in a table shown in Annex 1, the routes identified can be viewed on a map in Annex 2. Each comment has a number attributed to it to enable cross-referencing with the map in Annex 2 (only where the comment is specific to a geographic area). The routes shown in a solid line are those which

people identified as being important to them. The dashed lines are proposed routes that people identified.

Questionnaire Results

A total of 12 questionnaires were received for the Insh area. The responses to each of the questions are outlined below.

What outdoor activities do you currently do in and around Insh?

Activity	% of respondents who undertake the activity
Low level walking	100%
Dog walking	27%
Hillwalking	64%
Running	18%
Getting about in a wheelchair	0%
Walking with a pushchair	0%
Cycling on-road	64%
Cycling off-road	73%
Horse-riding	9%
Watersports	9%
Wintersports	73%
None	0%
Other*	9%

*Other activities identified were: 'xc skiing', and 'photography, bird watching, woodland management'.

Why do you do these activities?

Reason	% of respondents who identified the reason
To keep fit/healthy	100%
Enjoying the Countryside	100%
Travel to work/school	0%
Getting about	55%

Other*	18%
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* Other reasons identified were: 'Its why I live here!'

What activities would you like to see better opportunities for in and around the area?

Activity	% of respondents who identified the activity
Low level walking	64%
Dog walking	18%
Hillwalking	27%
Running	0%
Getting about in a wheelchair	0%
Walking with a pushchair	9%
Cycling on-road	18%
Cycling off-road	36%
Horse-riding*	0%
Watersports	0%
Wintersports	18%
None	9%
Other**	18%

*Comment: No way!

** Other activities identified were: 'Horses ruin footpaths very quickly', and 'Could develop cycle trails in forest more'.

Would better opportunities for these activities encourage you to;

Reason	% of respondents who identified each activity
Walk to work/school	9%
Cycle to work/school	18%
Try new activities	0%
Get fit	18%
Get outdoors more	45%
Other*	18%

One respondent recorded: 'No- I spend ½ my life outdoors'.

*Other reasons identified were: 'Enjoy better variety'.

Summary

During the public engagement process it was found that most people seem to be fairly content with the local network with the exception of one or two issues. The most popular paths identified were the Badenoch Way (91% of respondents), the routes in Inshriach Forest close to Insh (75% of respondents) and the path over to Uath Lochans (58% of respondents).

Many activities were reasonable popular in the area, low-level walking was by far the most popular activity followed by cycling off-road and wintersports. Most people doing activities did so to keep fit and healthy and equally to enjoy the countryside and no one did so to get to work or school. There was a reasonably high demand for better opportunities for low level walking and for off-road cycling.

Reflections

The drop-in was generally well attended with positive feedback and a number of people have returned questionnaires since. The engagement process has failed to capture any data from the 16-24 and 24-44 age groups in the Insh area.

Next Steps

The issues raised and the information gathered throughout the process will be used to inform the development of selection criteria for core paths. The selection criteria will then be used to select core paths for the Cairngorms National Park. The selection criteria and maps of the selected paths will be drawn up into an Interim Draft Core Paths Plan which will be completed by the end of March 2007. This Plan will then be made available for the public to make comment.

Cairngorms National Park Authority

1 March 2006

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Annex 1 - Comments received on maps at the events and in the questionnaires

Where the comment relates to a geographic area on the map the number of the comment has been written on to the map in Annex 2.	
No.	Comment (<i>as written by respondent</i>)
1	This section of path needs maintained
2	no access to marsh across fields
3	Problem at this point to access Badenoch Way- new fence blocks established path
4	would like gate or stile here
5	This is a lovely walk to the summit of Creag Dubh. However the tress at the top obscure the view felling a few would make such a difference

