

CAIRNGORMS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

ÙGHDARRAS PÀIRC NÀISEANTA A'
MHONaidH RUaidH

Cairngorms Equality Advisory Panel

30th August 2022

5:00pm – 6:30pm - Held virtually

Minutes

Present

Anita Howard	Becca Mayo
Heather Earnshaw	Lina Payne
Linda Bamford	Peter Kennedy
Stuart Hall	Vanessa Altweck

Attending

Caroline Stanton (CNPA)	Fiona Holmes (CNPA)
Fiona McLean (Chair)	Kate Christie
Katherine Willing	Matthew Hawkins
Sally Mackenzie	

Apologies

Kevin Hutchens	Liliana Corrieri
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1. Welcome

- 1.1. Fiona welcomed the group back after the summer break and welcomed the speakers to the meeting.
- 1.2. Kate gave the group an update on the face-to-face event and itinerary. It was proposed that the September virtual meeting be cancelled due to the time commitment for EAP members attending the face-to-face event.

2. Re-cap and Actions from Previous Meeting on 28th June 2022

- 2.1. The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed and are ready to be published on the website.
- 2.2. The actions arising from the previous meeting were agreed upon.

3. Item 1: Heritage Horizons Cairngorm 2030 – Nature Based Solutions – Conservation

Matthew Hawkins

- 3.1. Matthew gave a brief overview of Heritage Horizons with a specific focus on nature-based solutions projects. Matthew asked the panel to think about the following questions as they heard about each project:
- What is the potential to achieve this principle?
 - What would be the priorities?
 - Where are we likely to miss?
 - Do we need to adopt a common approach or a project by projects basis?

Project 1: Climate Resilient Catchments - Sally Mackenzie

- 3.2. Sally gave a presentation on the project.
- 3.3. The panel raised that it would be beneficial if the core principles and consideration of the societal impact of the Nature Based Solution projects echo the core principles of the “Just Transition”. Matthew explained that this has already been considered, transparency and fairness are important, and the focus is on how the benefits can be shared amongst all.
- 3.4. The river restoration was welcomed. The panel asked that if as part of the engagement and planning phase any thought had been given to opening the green and blue spaces to more than just cars to help people access the riverside to help with their mental health. Sally explained there was a good likelihood of doing this, particularly with the Brechin project.
- 3.5. The panel explained that to help with engagement it was important to consider how the information was presented to encourage equal access. The panel suggested considering who lived in the area, how was the land used historically and what impression people may currently have because of this and to use diverse images.
- 3.6. The panel suggested involving local schools to help build connection between the community and the project. Sally felt the project opened itself up to those kind of learning opportunities and felt there was more that could be done in this area.

Project 2: Future Farming Project – Fiona Holmes

- 3.7. Fiona gave an overview of the project.
- 3.8. Multiple panel members raised that the results were being shared with the scientific community and farmers, but it was important that this should also be shared with the community. Fiona discussed how this was challenging as the local community will see big benefits, but this is due to lots of small changes which the community may not be interested in. The panel felt strongly that the community would be interested in the small changes and that this should be communicated with the community.
- 3.9. The panel suggested that to encourage community engagement, communicating to the community what is going on and how this can relate to them is key., The panel expressed that it is important to show the journey as well as the destination to keep conversation going and create interest. Matthew discussed some communication ideas around articles and social media. The panel suggested

ensuring communication and engagement is active as well as passive and gave examples of involvement such as volunteering to help gather data.

Project 3: Cairngorms Community Landscape Engagement – Caroline Stanton

- 3.10. Caroline gave an overview of the project.
- 3.11. The panel reflected that the project sounded positive, with the initial stages listening to the community. The panel asked whether the data would include qualitative as well as quantitative data. Caroline explained the project will be collecting both.
- 3.12. The panel suggested that to ensure a diverse range of responses affordability and accessibility would need to be considered, for example some people may find it difficult to engage in person or some people may struggle with the costs associated with filling out online methods.
- 3.13. The panel suggested that SPICE, the Scottish Household Survey, Census and Public Health Scotland all hold data that may be relevant.
- 3.14. The panel suggested working with schools to help find the right language, suggesting this may tie in with lessons around language and communication. Building links with local schools may help to create positive and active engagement and co-creation. Caroline explained that they have already picked this up as a part of the potential methodology and that the ranger team has been helping to facilitate this.

Key Points

- 3.15. Matthew then summarised the key points such as making sure there is access to riverside, active communication of what the projects are doing and active engagement through initiatives such as volunteering. Matthew reflected that they would like to come to a future meeting closer to the delivery phase to show how they have implemented some of these ideas.

AOBs

- 3.16. Travel arrangements for Face-to-Face event – the panel asked whether they should go ahead and book transport. Kate asked that the panel book their own transport and it will be reimbursed.

Next Meeting 25th October

END OF MEETING