

**5 Lochs Visitor Management Stakeholders Group
3rd December 2014
Callander Youth Project Office 19:00 – 21:00**

Attending:

Bridget Jones (BJ) (Chair)	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
Owen McKee (OMcK)	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority (Board)
Alistair Barclay (AB)	BLS Community Council
Nicé Muir (NM)	St Fillans Community Council
Mike Luti (ML)	Callander Community Council
Darren Crawford (DC)	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
Graeme Archibald (GA)	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority

Apologies:

David Warnock (DW)	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority (Board)
Martin Earl (ME)	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority (Board)
Gene Maxwell (GM)	Trossachs Community Council
Judith Hogg	Scottish Land and Estates
Gerry McMenemy (GMc)	Police Scotland (FV)
Liz Walker (LW)	Forestry Commission Scotland
Paul Roberts (PR)	Scottish Natural Heritage
Elaine Fotheringham	Sport Scotland
Lori MacIntyre (LM)	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority

1. Welcome and apologies

1.1. BJ welcomed the group and thanked everyone for coming and noted apologies.

2. Minutes from previous meeting

2.1. Action 1 BJ to confirm the statutory consultees involved in clearway designation.
C/F to next meeting.

2.2. Action 2 - GMcM to forward literature on ESP to Community Councils.
C/F to next meeting.

2.3. Action 3 - BJ to investigate use of local paper advertising for raising awareness.
On hold.

2.4. Action 4 - Group to e mail ideas/comments for the 5 Lochs implementation programme to BJ and CW. **Complete.**

2.5. Action 5 - BJ to take note that FW willing to host the trial of a temporary toilet project at Loch Ard (Leddard). **Complete**

3. Matters arising

3.1. None

4. Your Park

4.1. Overview BJ provided the group with an introduction and overview of the Your Park project. It was also explained that there is a 12 week consultation currently underway due to conclude on the 12th Jan 2015.

OMcK asked BJ if she could confirm that the NPA would be interested in hearing from landowners outwith the identified key camping provision zones. BJ confirmed this saying she would be keen to hear from anyone who could provide any additional provision that would contribute to a positive camping experience.

OMcK went onto ask how BJ envisaged a camping permit system working. BJ informed the group that a system for managing camping using permits was currently being worked on, but it was likely that a permit to camp would apply to a geographic area probably adjacent to a shore line. The area would be marked on the ground and there would have to be consideration given to parking for a vehicle associated with the system especially along single track roads.

OMcK asked how many responses there had been to the consultation to date. BJ said there had been a reasonable number. These were made up of both objections and support for the proposals. There were various reasons associated with the comments including, the principles of access rights and the Land Reform Act/ S.O.A.C.

NM raised the point that there may be a danger of this process and the proposals being viewed as the NP becoming a middle class destination and had the NP considered this? BJ explained that the proposals were not about excluding but it was about raising standards and hopefully everyone will see and enjoy the benefits of safer better managed areas.

OMcK supported this point by pointing out that it is not 'our park' but 'Your Park'. It is for everybody providing that they respect it.

AB asked if there were plans to publicise the consultation further around the villages. BJ said that a number of drop-in sessions had already taken place with a couple more still to happen in Balmaha and Balloch. There had been low attendance at the events but the quality of the discussions with those attending had been very good. OMcK went onto inform the group that the consultation period had been well published by the media with both radio and television.

BJ encouraged information about the consultation to be shared with their communities and for as many people as possible to respond.

ML noted that there had been a huge improvement to the visitors experience along the A84 corridor between Callander and Lochearnhead with the improvements to NCR 7 and Mhor 84 opening up. ML asked about partner support to help with the Your Park improvements and the proposed byelaws. BJ reported that the good work that has already taken place with Police Scotland would continue and partnerships with the local authorities and FCS were essential to making things work. Additional capital would be required and bids made as appropriate. ML highlighted there need to ensure support from the local authority.

Clarification was given on the variations in approach by the local authorities to waste and litter management, particularly on road verges and any private land such as at Loch Earn where Perth & Kinross (P&K) provide wheelie bins in countryside

locations, in contrast to SC who do not uplift from rural laybys or private sites but encourage the public to take litter home. It was suggested by the group that this approach has limited success but BJ said that SC were keen to pilot new ideas that may reduce the impact of litter in the countryside. Recycling is an important part of waste disposal but the NPA is finding it difficult to secure a contractor to service the recycling hubs the NPA wish to place at its sites.

ML raised the issue of charging at countryside car parks, he was supportive but had concerns about how the fees are set. BJ replied that due to declining budgets public sector organisations are looking for revenue generating options to help retain levels of service, car parking is one way of doing this and well established in other parts of the UK. A number of organisations in the 5 Lochs Area already charge for parking including, Local Authorities, Forestry Commission, Loch Katrine Steamship Co., Cashel forest and the NPA at Lubnaig. The NPA along with others are mindful of keeping charges proportionate and reasonable. An integrated charging policy between all providers to make the process simpler and easier for visitors was discussed but there was an acknowledgement that it was not straight forward to implement. Annual permits were available from FCS and NPA for NP residents, commercial operators and visitors at a much reduced cost eg NPA £5 a year for residents.

ML also suggested that the A84 corridor would benefit from some vegetation clearance to open up views for visitors. BJ informed the meeting that a programme of work to do precisely this along the A82 adjacent to west Loch Lomond was already underway, supported by Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs. ML added that road side vegetation clearance used to be carried out by the Local Authority.

Action 1 NP to investigate options for vegetation clearance along Lubnaig side of A 84

AB informed the meeting that NCR7 was also becoming increasingly overgrown.

ML informed the group that FC were planning to add 15 chalets to their existing development on the west side of Loch Lubnaig. OMCK said that when this development was first proposed FC had wanted to put in 53 Chalets but were encouraged to opt for a lesser number.

ML raised the issue of car parking capacity along the A84 specifically at Ardchullarie and that it seemed to be used to capacity most weekend days. OMCK agreed and thought that perhaps some longer stay provision could be made available. BJ added that this would be subject to local landowners becoming involved. ML suggested it could be [REDACTED] who owned adjacent land. NM asked if the change in First Minister and Nicola Sturgeons commitment to reforming land ownership would have any bearing. BJ confirmed that the NPA was on good terms with the respective landowners.

5. Loch Lubnaig site update.

- 5.1. DC gave an update on the two Loch Lubnaig sites both of which are now complete and all snagging addressed. There had been some drainage issues on the camping area but this has now been rectified. The remaining task is installation of the brown information sign by Transport Scotland to be complete by end January 2015

- 5.2. BJ informed the group that the kiosk has now had a full season of operation and the NP tourism section had received positive feedback from the public using the site
- 5.3. ML asked if the site was to be open over the winter. OMcK added that there was a good opportunity to tap into the regular stops by the small tour bus operators that travel this road on a daily basis. DC advised that the operators were gauging the use of the site and had made no decision one way or the other at this point.
- 5.4. AB asked for confirmation that motor homes were not currently able to use the site for overnight stops. DJ confirmed that the operator would run the camping and motorhome facilities together rather than just the motorhome element on its own

6. 5 Lochs VMP Phase 2 Developments

- 6.1. BJ informed the group that the sites owned by the NP around Loch Venachar would be next to be looked at for improvements by the NPA.
- 6.2. DC confirmed that site designs were being finalised for the 2 NP car parks on north Loch Venachar and the car parking on the south Loch Venachar road next to the harbour and potentially a small car park further along the road. The programme of work was still subject to planning consent being granted and construction costs. Any site work would commence in January 2015.
- 6.3. The design style for the sites would be similar to Loch Lubnaig but with no buildings or toilets. The options being considered for the 2 north site would see the western car park being managed for day visitors and the eastern car park trialled for motorhome overnight stops.
- 6.4. OMcK asked if an electrical hook up would be provided for motor homes and where the power supply would come from. DC confirmed that no hook up would be provided and the site would be a basic facility, short stay and with bookable space giving views over the loch.
- 6.5. OMcK suggested that the Harbour Cafe might make a good location for motorhome overnight stops as there were existing facilities available.
- 6.6. The sites proposed on the south shore would both be for day visitors only.
- 6.7. AB then asked if the Trossachs Community Council had any concerns as they were not in favour of the initial proposals for the north shore sites. BJ replied that the previous plans include camping provision which had caused concerns, and this was no longer part of any plans.
- 6.8. ML mentioned group that he believed that historically Callander Community owned the sites and wondered who had legal title to them now. OMcK confirmed that this had been raised previously when the sites were transferred from Stirling Council to the NPA.
- 6.9. BJ confirmed to the meeting that although the work would hopefully commence in January it may not be completed until the next financial year.

7. Clearways

- 7.1. GA provided an update on the request that had been made to Transport Scotland (T.S.) earlier in the year regarding the introduction of clearway status for sections of the A84 & A85. Currently the proposal is with TS and they are looking at the NPA request along with other roads nationally.
- 7.2. ML asked if use of the lay-bys would be effected by the clearway designation, BJ confirmed that they would not be affected.
- 7.3. GA reminded the group that there was still the issue of minor public roads to be considered following up on the letter sent to the CC's asking for their opinions. AB said that in his opinion the Balquhiddier Glen road was probably the worst of the minor roads for road traffic access issues

8. Alcohol Byelaws

- 8.1. AB provided an update on the progress made by BLS CC on the possible introduction of alcohol byelaws. The process was taking longer than hoped but it is still progressing. The maps defining the areas are complete and have been discussed with St Fillans CC who are making representation to PKC for alcohol byelaws.
- 8.2. AB asked if Callander CC had given alcohol byelaws consideration. ML stated that they had discussed the matter and the police had indicated support. ML added that there were concerns that a draconian approach to enforcement might adversely impact people who currently enjoyed a small glass of wine and cause no issues.

9. Scenic Routes in the 5 Lochs Area

- 9.1. DC updated the group on the NP Scenic Routes project which is now complete in the 5 Lochs area. There are two installations one at Loch Lubnaig Beag and the other in Balquhiddier Glen. The one at Balquhiddier was only to be a temporary installation but due to its popularity the hotel are keen to leave it in. The scenic routes project had also received national recognition at a recent design awards ceremony.

10. AOB

- 10.1. ML asked what was planned for Inverlochlarig. BJ informed the group that this site had been considered but due to budget constraints the 2nd phase projects at Loch Venachar had taken priority. There were still plans to improve the car park in the future. ML said that there were people camping right the way along this stretch of road on a regular basis and some other provision was required.
- 10.2. NM asked what was planned for Glenoglehead. BJ said that this was the same situation as Inverlochlarig but was a fall back option if funding became available, though a review of requirements would take place before progressing anything.
- 10.3. AB informed the meeting of a recent meeting held with residents and landowners of Loch Earn. The meeting had been very positive and that the two estates were

being proactive in addressing the community concerns relating to the long term caravan encampments in lay-bys on the north shore.

10.4. ML then raised the commitment of the new First Minister to further changes to Land Reform. BJ told the group that there was now a new Environmental Minister Aileen McLeod.

10.5. ML asked that the minute show that he was disappointed with the attendance at this meeting

11. DONM

11.1. It was agreed that the next meeting should take place in April next year and could incorporate a site visit to the newly upgraded Loch Venachar sites.

12. List of proposed actions

Action 1 NP to investigate veg clearance along Lubnaig side.

Actions carried forward from previous meeting.

Action 1 BJ to confirm the statutory consultees involved in clearway designation.

Action 2 - GMcM to forward literature on ESP to Community Councils.