

5 Lochs Visitor Management Stakeholders Group
29th April 2015
Callander Youth Project Office 19:00 – 21:00

Attending:

Owen McKee (OMcK)	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority (Board)
David Warnock (DW)	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority (Board)
Mike Luti (ML)	Callander Community Council
Sue Morris (SM)	Trossachs Community Council
Jan Young (JY)	Trossachs Community Council
Paul Hicks (PH)	Balquhiddier, Lochearnhead and Strathyre Community Council
James Fisher	Stirling Council
Nice Muir (NM)	St Fillans Community Council
Judith Hogg (JH)	Scottish Land and Estates
Liz Walker (LW)	Forestry Commission Scotland
Will Huckerby (WH)	Forestry Commission Scotland
Bridget Jones (BJ) (Chair)	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
Graeme Archibald (GA)	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
Lori MacIntyre (LM)	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority

Apologies:

Elaine Fotheringham (EF)	Sport Scotland
Gene Maxwell (GM)	Trossachs Community Council
Alistair Barclay (AB)	BLS Community Council
Fergus Woods (FW)	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority (Board)
Martin Earl (ME)	Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority (Board)
Gerry McMenemy (GMc)	Police Scotland

1. Welcome and apologies

- 1.1. BJ welcomed the group and suggested that since there were some new faces it would be helpful to go around the table with everyone providing a brief introduction.

2. Minutes and actions from previous meeting

- 2.1. The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

- 2.2. Actions from last meeting

- 2.3. Action 1 - NPA to look into vegetation clearance and opening up of views along the A 84 – no progress to date but an option might be to discuss with the Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs as they have already progressed a similar project on the A 82. The group were agreeable to this approach. BJ mentioned that Sara Melville NPA Landscape Adviser and Simon Franks NPA Woodland Adviser could offer advice and also Angus Corby of Transport Scotland.

Actions carried forward from previous meeting

- 2.4. Action 1 - BJ to confirm the statutory consultees involved in clearway designation. GA contacted Transport Scotland who confirmed there is a list of statutory consultees, once it is available he will circulate it to the group.
- 2.5. Action 2 - GMc to forward literature on ESP to Community Councils – after a brief discussion this action was closed.

3. Matters arising

- 3.1. Bridget told the group that Campbell Gerard had now left Sport Scotland and his replacement Elaine Fotheringham hoped to attend the next meeting.

4. Your Park: Park wide visitor management

4.1.

- a) BJ updated the group on the Your Park consultation which had been carried out by the NPA relating to the proposal to introduce camping management byelaws and associated camping provision. BJ reported that the consultation had produced over 330 responses with a range of comments. The responses were split around 50/50 supportive and opposing. The respondents included individuals, community councils, interest groups and organisations. BJ informed the group that all information and board papers were available on the Thisisyourpark link of the Your Park section of the NPA website. BJ confirmed that the amended proposals include 4 management zones with the original area of Wider Trossachs split into West and North and the Dukes Pass and Aberfoyle has been removed.
- b) BJ informed the group that the next stage of the byelaw process would require a one month notice period to allow written objections to be made. The Scottish Ministers will then make a decision on the application made by the NPA. WH arrived at this point and BJ continued the update. Two elements of the byelaws have been removed from the original proposal:
 - Damage and nuisance - as advised by SNH, Police Scotland and others.
 - Litter – as the Fixed Penalty litter powers introduced 1st April 2014 will be utilised by the NPA.
- c) BJ confirmed there are currently two methods proposed to deliver additional camping provision within the management zones in a sustainable manner:
 - Low cost campsite provision similar to that at Salloch and Lubnaig
 - By permit within designated areas of the zones.

DW pointed out at this stage that 96% of the Park would still be accessible for wild camping.

- d) BJ said that the project could also provide opportunities for private and commercial sites to offer a range of camping experiences in a managed way. SM asked if any of this provision would be in place for 2016 if the submission was agreed and BJ said scoping of options was taking place and a permit system could be in place in some areas along with campsite provision in the first year of operation. The Park would ensure that these areas and sites are managed to a

sustainable level taking account things such as site conditions, use, impacts and capacity. Camp site bookings would be managed online with a similar system for permits; these would also be available at local outlets. BJ said a key partner in scoping out suitable camp sites will be FCS as a major landowner.

- e) LW asked if the byelaw would be enforced in a similar way to ELL and BJ confirmed this would be the case, with intelligence led patrolling at key hotspots. BJ emphasised the role of the local residents in reporting any issues.
- f) SM asked if there would be clear signage at entry points to management zone areas and expressed her concern about a negative message to visitors. BJ advised a signage plan would be prepared and whilst there would be a requirement for a formal byelaw wording a positive message would be portrayed when possible. Over time it is anticipated that less signage would be required.
- g) NM asked what would happen to the original plan and priorities for the 5 Lochs. BJ said that there were two scenarios pending on the decision of the Scottish Ministers once a decision was made a review of priorities and actions for the 5 Lochs would take place.

5. Loch Lubnaig sites update

- 5.1. GA gave a brief update on the Lubnaig sites. There had been some remedial work carried out to the camping area and the camp site opened two weeks ago and bookings are now being taken. Discussions are taking place with the tenant on how it will be promoted. The site has nine camping and two motorhome pitches and the kiosk is now open 7 days a week. GA said that the tenant is hoping to have some kind of shelter/awning for wet weather. The group mentioned the site's popularity with mini bus tour operators and the group suggested there could be opportunities for the tenant to develop further business from these visits.

6. Phase 2 Developments: Loch Venachar

- 6.1 GA informed the group that work started in January and he had some up to date slides of the two south area sites at Loch Venachar. The harbour site has been landscaped with space for four cars and the foreshore has been developed with a seating area and curved wall feature seat. The beetle bay site has also been landscaped with spaces for six cars. WH asked if the sites would be locked and BJ said that there was an option to lock them but they would be left unlocked at present to maximise opportunities for visitors. She acknowledged the risk associated with timber gates and also confirmed this site would be in a management zone if the byelaw is confirmed. DW mentioned the lack of clearly defined passing places on the public road and no road signage causes problems. LW asked about the site capacity for camping provision. BJ indicated that a local landowner had expressed interest in offering land for camping provision which may be an option.
- 6.2 SM asked if any work was planned at Venachar north and was advised that the budget did not allow for it this last financial year but it may be an option for next.
- 6.3 The group then discussed litter issues and BJ said she had been in discussion with Nicole Paterson of Stirling Council about options for recycle on the go bins at rural sites, and highlighted previous issues with securing uplift arrangements for recycled waste in more remote rural locations. SM produced a copy of a photograph of a recent community litter pick all of which had been collected in one day around Loch

Venachar, Loch Achray and Brig O' Turk. BJ asked for a copy. JY said she had tweeted it. WH asked if there was any intelligence regarding incidents of fly tipping and was advised by JF that a database was kept by Stirling Council and incidents could be reported to him. WH will follow this up. BJ also said that litter is recorded through Ranger patrols and there is a possibility of a litter audit being carried out this year.

Action 1 – SM to send copy of litter photograph to BJ

Action 2 – BJ to report back on any progress with bins at Venachar north

7. Clearway proposal

7.1 GA reported that there is no progress to report with the two clearway proposals still with TransportScotland:

A84 north of Callander to Lochearnhead

A85 between St Fillans and Lochearnhead

GA confirmed he would circulate the list of statutory consultees once he has it, as per Action 2 of the previous meeting.

8. Alcohol Byelaw

8.1 PH confirmed that the Community Council had completed maps which have now been sent to Stirling Council solicitors for consideration. PH reported that there doesn't seem to be any opposition to the establishment of an alcohol byelaw. NM reported that St Fillans Community Council has approached Perth and Kinross Council and someone has agreed to attend the CC meeting next week.

9. AOB

- An update was requested on any plans for Glenoglehead. BJ confirmed that there were no immediate plans. ML said that the walkways must be preserved and to ensure the visual landscape is maintained. BJ agreed to look into this.
- SM mentioned she had been looking at the Your Park information on the website and had found the feedback within the Operation Ironworks section useful and recommended that everyone reads it. She asked if feedback on Operation Ironworks could be provided at the end of the season to the community council groups. GA said that Police Constable Paul Barr is looking into the best way to keep communities informed, over and above the usual attendance by Police.
- DW asked if the Rangers were now up to full complement and BJ confirmed this adding that seasonal bank staff will also be in place to draw on as required during busy periods.
- The group then had a brief discussion on responsibility for fish stocks in the lochs and ML informed the group that a fishing review was underway
- GA asked the group if they still wanted access to the secure access website page for all documents relating to the 5 Lochs. The group confirmed they would and GA agreed to send the logging on information out again.

Action 3 – BJ to look into path management at Glenoglehead

Action 4 – GA to re-send secure web access information.

10. DONM

GA agreed to circulate dates for the next meeting to the group.

Action 5 – GA to circulate proposed meeting dates

11. List of proposed actions

Action 1 – SM to send copy of litter photograph to BJ

Action 2 – BJ to report back on any progress with bins Venachar north

Action 3 – BJ to look into path management at Glenoglehead

Action 4 – GA to re-send secure web access information.

Action 5 – GA to circulate proposed meeting dates