
From: Gordon Watson
Sent: 13 July 2016 19:20
To: Strathard Community Council
Subject: Strathard Camping Provision - Additional Information

Dear Fiona

Thank you for the helpful telephone call yesterday. As promised, I now forward some of the additional information and clarifications we discussed. I hope this allows you to disseminate this to all those residents who have been looking at the proposals.

1. **South Loch Ard Permit Area** - I attach a map of the proposed permitted area at South Loch Ard. This area would purely be an area where it is permitted to camp with a permit within this part of the byelaw zone. It is not proposed to allow vehicles to access this location and people would have to park at the existing car park and walk into the permitted area. We would be monitoring how the permitted area is working on an annual basis and review the extent of the area and the numbers permitted. People could walk beyond the boundary of the camping management zone to camp and we would regard this as genuine wild camping where people were walking a significant distance carrying their camping equipment with them.

We would be happy to receive comments on the extent and number of permits in this area, but would not be supportive of no camping in the Loch Ard area covered by the byelaw.

2. The **ranger data** has been sent to you on disk separately by post
3. **Camping Provision Numbers** - In terms of our work on camping provision in other camping management zones we are still finalising discussions with landowners and so the numbers may change. The split presented below represents things as they stand but are likely to be subject to further adjustment as we finalise matters. There are no other plans for provision in the Trossachs West zone in addition to the Loch Chon and Loch Ard proposals.

Combined tent and permit pitches for each management zone.

West Loch Lomond - 42 (13.7%)

East Loch Lomond - 41 (13.6%)

Trossachs West - 42 (13.7%)

Trossachs North - 180 (59%)

4. The various **environmental studies** undertaken for the Loch Chon site are as follows;

Ecological Survey

The purpose of the survey was to review the potential for the site to contain, or be used by, species protected under both UK and European nature

conservation legislation, namely the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Habitats Regulations 1994 (as amended). Any impacts upon these habitats or species likely to result from the proposed development were then assessed.

Tree Survey

The survey covered all the proposed areas of the development, including a nominal construction corridor, and provides the following information;

- - A tree schedule providing individual tree data on all of the trees surveyed including tree measurements and condition information.
- - Arboricultural overview providing a 'collective' assessment of the trees surveyed in order to assist with an appreciation of the tree stock as a whole. Collective assessments are carried out under the criteria:
 - I. Tree Quality
 - II. Tree Condition
 - III. Age Class & Life Expectancy
 - IV. Species Composition
 - V. Significant Trees
- - Tree work recommendations listing trees requiring pruning or felling works to facilitate the proposals
- - The Arboricultural Method Statement provides a methodology for implementation of any construction activity that has the potential to result in loss or damage to a tree

Archaeological Survey

The aims of this survey are to determine as far as possible the character, extent, condition, date and significance of any archaeologically significant remains; and to record these where necessary in line with national and local policies and standards.

Flood Risk Assessment

This survey was carried out to assess the level of flood risk for the proposed development.

Toilet Provision

Our approach to providing facilities on site is to use portable units in the first instance. This offers us flexibility in being able to look at how a site is working before committing to provide permanent facilities. Units can be redeployed to other locations if necessary. This was the approach taken at Sallochy Campsite in East Loch Lomond which now has permanent composting toilets having originally had portable facilities.

The proposed waste water treatment provides a robust, reliable and low cost system for treating foul water on the site. The effluent that is discharged after the treatment process is suitable for discharging in to the local water course. It requires very little maintenance as the majority of solids are broken down and so it does not need to be cleared out on a regular basis. It is also fitted with an alarm in the event of a blockage, thus ensuring that the system

always works. We are looking at the provision of composting toilets, however, there are issues that require to be considered especially in relation to volume of use. The experience in Scotland is that due to the lack of consistently warm temperatures the waste is not always properly broken down and so removal of the partially composted human waste is hazardous and still requires to be disposed of with a licenced provider. We would nonetheless look to review and improve facilities on the site as we gain experience of how it is being used and what users are looking for.

5. **Loch Chon Size** - In terms of the number of pitches I am prepared to consider modest reductions if that provided some comfort to those concerned about the size of the site. I would be prepared to reduce the number by 5 to 28 and to keep this under review. Below this number and it is not viable for us to invest in and run a campsite. The scale of campsite proposed is both what we consider the site to be capable of accommodating and also the size which can justify the investment and running costs associated with the site. When promoting the camping byelaws during consultation we consistently referred to Salloch Bay on East Loch Lomond as the type of campsite provision we were looking to introduce in other locations. It also has 30 pitches.
6. **On-Site Supervision** - We would be looking to generate income from the site that could cover as much of the running costs as possible including a site management presence. We are investigating a number of options. Salloch campsite is staffed on a shift pattern to ensure a site presence during the day and into the evening. An alternative would be to provide 'site hosts' whereby there was a constant presence living on the site. At this stage I can't say which it will be as we need to see what interest there would be in being a site host, but we are committed to providing the best cost-effective management presence we can achieve.
7. The Park Authority does not have powers regarding an **alcohol byelaw**. It would be a matter for the community to pursue with Stirling council as was the case on East Loch Lomond. We support the police to enforce those byelaws that exist including where there is an alcohol byelaw.

I hope this additional information assists and clarifies further points I made at the meeting. We have pursued the camping byelaw management zone in Strathard in good faith that this was supported by the community and have always made clear that reasonable camping provision was an essential part of the solution. The byelaw would be unworkable if there are not a reasonable number of camping locations to direct people to and we would not operate a byelaw without this. I would hope that the provision of a well-managed site at Loch Chon with basic facilities and toilets is a significant improvement on the current experience both for residents and visitors. I would ask interested residents to visit Salloch campsite to see for themselves what an excellent facility this is.

Please let me know if you require anything further. As promised I am happy to call again on Friday.

Best regards

Gordon Watson
Chief Executive
Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park