

National Park Authority Board Meeting



Agenda Item 5 – Appendix 1

Your Park Project Update

Appendix 1

Your Park Project Update

The project overall is on course for delivering all essential elements by 1st March 2017 when the camping management byelaws and associated camping provision come into effect. The key elements of progress are as follows:

Campsite Development and Infrastructure Management

Loch Chon campsite is on course for completion and handover by the contractor for operation by the National Park Authority in time for 1st March 2017. Three seasonal staff have been recruited to operate the site.

All site signage for camping permit areas has been installed. This includes signage marking the extent of permitted camping areas as well as welcome signs to assist visitors with orientation.

Threshold signage has been installed on public roads and recreation routes to mark the Camping Management Zones. Exit signage has been installed on footpaths. Exit road signage has been designed and specified and installation will be undertaken in the next few weeks. BEAR Scotland and Stirling Council undertook the installation on behalf of the National Park Authority.

Site design and feasibility works are underway at locations at South Loch Earn and the Three Lochs Forest Drive to specify further improvement to camping facilities at these locations. Toilet facilities will be introduced in time for the main summer season. Further feasibility is being undertaken at Inveruglas to explore the potential to expand motorhome provision at this location.

Operational Management

The booking system for campsites and permits went live on 16th February and bookings are now being made. Dedicated pages on the National Park Authority website now provide a comprehensive guide to all campsites in the National Park including links through to the websites of commercial sites. The website includes full descriptions of permit areas including photographs and use of Google maps. Customers are required to sign up to a full set of terms and conditions which help manage the use of permit areas and support responsible camping. Exemptions for organised groups are in place and a booking has already been placed by a Duke of Edinburgh Award group at Loch Chon.

The recruitment process for Seasonal Ranger staff is complete and training implemented. Joint training with Police Scotland has also been undertaken on the new byelaw implementation.

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Communications and engagement

An extensive programme of awareness raising, communication activity has been undertaken. Briefing meetings have been held with Community Councils where Camping Management Zones exist. A roadshow has visited four locations in the Park to provide a drop-in opportunity for people to obtain information. A wide range of businesses in the area have been visited and supplied with materials and information to provide to their customers. Camping and campervan/motorhome membership organisations have been contacted and information provided to include in their publications.

All members of the Your Park Stakeholder Forum have now been invited to the next Stakeholder Forum meeting on 30th March. Further updates have been issued to wider stakeholder groups, with organisations including Scottish Canoe Association, Ramblers Scotland and Mountaineering Scotland including updates on the operation of the camping byelaws and associated camping provision to their members.

Two map-based leaflets 'Camping in the National Park' and 'Angling in the National Park' have been produced for wide distribution. Digital versions are also available for download from our website. In addition simple tear-off, zoomed-in maps of the Camping Management Zones have been produced which are being made available to shops and businesses to provide to their customers. These leaflets provide information on all camping opportunities in the National Park, highlight where the Camping Management Zones are and how to get a camping/motorhome permit, and guidance on responsible camping with reference to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code.

Awareness-raising through the media, online and via social media will be undertaken for the 1st of March commencement of the byelaws and campsite/permit area operation. Further emphasis will be given at key points in the visitor season including Easter and the school holiday period.