

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Local Access Forum

Agenda Item 6

Access Team Update



Upholding Access Rights

1.1 Section 13 Public Access

Glen Auchreoch, Crianlarich

Improvements to the access infrastructure in Glen Auchreoch are now complete. Following discussions with the land manager, the locked vehicle gate has been supplemented with a new self-closing gate. Ben Dubhchraig (978m) and other hill walking opportunities are now available to visitors from the access track.

Old gate and signage:



New infrastructure:



Ballimore Farm, Balquhider

Following several recent complaints from hill walkers, the Park Authority convened a 2nd meeting with the landowner to review issues relating to car parking, the enclosure diversion and visitor signage. Additional signage was agreed and installed in early-April. This appears to be proving effective, and the Park Authority has not received any new complaints. We will continue to monitor the situation at Ballimore.

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Drumlean – See agenda item 10.

Other access issues

Since the last meeting on 17 January, a further 4 access issues have been raised and are under investigation.

1.0 Outdoor Recreation Plan delivery

2.1 Priority projects updates

West Loch Lomond Cycle Path

In partnership with Luss Estates and the Carrick golf course, the Park Authority have completed signage improvements on the West Loch Lomond Cycle Path with several oak finger posts illustrating the alternative option via the loch shore and golf club. This gives people an option away from the busy A82 roadside path.

St Fillans to Lochearnhead

Phase two construction is now underway (complete by end of June 17). All funding is secured for next phase in 17/18.

Drymen to Balmaha

Sustrans continue to support this project and have committed £104,000 for 17/18 year subject to match funding.

Balloch to Gartocharn

The community paths group are considering options to progress with Phase 1 which would link Gartocharn to the War memorial and the RSPB visitor centre. We await an update following a community meeting held in April.

Tyndrum to Dalrigh (Pilgrims Way)

The Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust have completed the new path link, with Sustrans funding, between Tyndrum village and Dalrigh the first phase of path construction on the link to Crianlarich as part of the Pilgrims Way. This new stretch of shared use path provides an excellent resource for the local community creating a new loop path and place to learn to ride a bike. Opening event being planned for the summer.

Parkmobility Project

This Project is developing nicely and received very positive radio and TV coverage in April/May. The new resource for Trossachs Mobility on Callander Main St is expected to be open on June 1st which will be shared with Stirling Cycle Hub. This pilot new venture in Callander will provide information and resources for visitors wishing to access all abilities, walking and cycling routes from the town. The Park Authority are supporting the hub with officer input and providing image / print resources.

SNH Improving Public Access funding

The Park Authority will submit 2 and facilitate 1 applications to this funding stream to deliver path projects in 2018. Including; The Rob Roy Way Improvement Project (Braeval – Invertrossachs), the

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Lochgoilhead Community Path Project (path and bridge) and the Callander Landscape Project featuring new paths and restoration work in the crags woodland area. Following project assessment, SNH will contact the Park Authority in July/August 2017.

2.0 Other access projects

Google Trekker

Over the next 3-4 weeks, the Park Authority will be using the 3D Google camera to record a variety of our picturesque paths. Using staff and volunteers we hope to record the paths on Inchcaillioch, around Balloch Castle Country Park, the Lodge paths in Aberfoyle and Pucks Glen and if time permits other paths. Google analyse the recorded data and if all goes well, it will be hosted on Streetview. This is a pilot project to see how easy the kit is to use, and with the main purpose of making information easily available for people to then inform visits to the Park. We think this information will be particularly useful for those who need to pre—plan visits ie those with a disability.

The Mountains and The People

Path restoration work has now been completed on Ben Lomond, Cobbler (main summit path & return), Ben Ledi with Ben Venue (Loch Achray) are close to completion.

Balloch Placemaking project

Sustrans held a third public consultation event on 17th May which approx. 80 people attended. Feedback was generally very positive. A separate event was held with local businesses where concerns were raised. The project group of WDC, Park Authority and Sustrans will be feeding back on final designs in June 2017. WDC are lead partner and have secured £40,000 (approx) from Sustrans to progress detailed design.

Callander Placemaking project

A successful community consultation event was held on April 24th where 80 people attended throughout the day. Feedback has been very positive and the consultants continue to progress outline designs which will be presented at a second event on May 20th. Sustrans have committed £50,000 towards detailed design by Stirling Council in 17/18.

Park Authority people counter network

As part of the Mountains and The People project, a new automatic counter has been installed to record visitor numbers on Ben A'an.

Justice in the Park

The first projects were completed in spring 2017 and were well-received by local user groups and visitors. The Park Authority are planning the next tranche with local authority partners, aiming for delivery in late-summer 2017.

Cowal Way

Following sites visits and collaborative work with the Cowal Way ranger in March, the Park Authority has received planning applications for 2 new sections of path located near Inveronich (Lochgoilhead) and at Curra Lochan (Glenbranter). These sections are suffering from erosion and the new paths will improve the user experience and minimise environmental impacts.

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3.0 Other partnership working

Stirling

Stirling Council have done excellent work on NCN 7 between Callander and Kilmahog on a path surface upgrade to bitmac. Unfortunately the long-serving Access Officer (Richard Barron) at Stirling will be leaving post in June. New arrangements are still to be confirmed.

FCS

Section 11 application received for the forest estate in Argyll, the Argyll car rally event is scheduled for end June.

Scottish Swimming and TriScotland

Joint meeting held to discuss open water swimming leaflet and endorsement of safety and responsible behaviour messages. Hope to revise leaflet in 2018 with logos and potential for NAF sign off.

Long Distance Routes Forum

The LDR Forum, organised by SNH, met in Arrochar last week to discuss Scotland's Great Trails. Focus was on development of a new web portal, route updates and the importance of business activity and services such as baggage carrying in making routes successful in terms of visitor numbers and economic benefit. A site visit on the Cowal Way illustrated path management challenges in an upland environment.

6.0 Scottish Outdoor Access Network update

SOAN

The June event will be held in Battleby on the 8th and looks at the changing landscape of outdoor access across the country.

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