

Cairn Gorm, the Folly and the Masterplan

Description

The Folly

A folly is defined as:-

- (1) the quality of being foolish.
- (2) a foolish action, idea, etc., and,
- (3) an imitation castle, temple etc. built as a decoration in a large garden or park (National Park?)!

And that is exactly what the Cairngorm ski resort has become because of the failed aspirations of management at Highlands and Islands Enterprises (HIE) and Cairngorm Mountain Scotland Ltd (CMSL). Management who refuse to take notice of the snow sports enthusiasts who have been trying for years to get the kind of ski resort that would make Cairn Gorm, Badenoch and Strathspey the U.K. number 1 ski destination again.

The Masterplan.

Usually in a Parkswatch post I would work my way through the document, as proposed by the consultants involved, looking for the flaws in the arguments. But this has already been done in my posts on the SE Group report ([see here for example](#)). Most of this version appears to be just a re-hash but without any up-to-date figures or costings. This is what happens when you pay Â£80k+ to one business consultancy and only about half that to another!

Few people will be aware that, besides Alan Mackay's posts recently featured posts on 'beyond the funicular' ([see here](#) and [here](#)), after my post on 'A plan for the future of snowsports at Cairn Gorm' ([see here](#)), a number of other people with a great deal of expertise in snowsports infrastructure developed alternative proposals for Cairn Gorm and submitted them to the Masterplanners.

On a personal note I would like to thank those people, both individuals and businesses, who, some at my request, sent their own detailed ideas to the consultants. Sadly, It looks like it was a complete waste of time and effort as nothing from that work has been included in the masterplan!

What needs to happen

Until HIE realises that the ski resort is the key part of any business at Cairn Gorm and changes its attitude to include snow sports enthusiasts whether from locally, Scotland or the wider UK, Cairn Gorm will become the newest folly as defined in (3) above.

That would be an incredible loss and devastating blow to Scotland and the rest of the UK!

HIE last week extended the consultation period until 14th September ([see here](#)). If responding to the online questionnaire ([see here](#)), please rate your answers to ensure that snow sports needs to be central to the vision, strategies, principles and any activities that take place at Cairn Gorm

Category

1. Cairngorms

Tags

1. Cairn Gorm
2. HIE
3. snowsports

Date Created

September 2, 2020

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