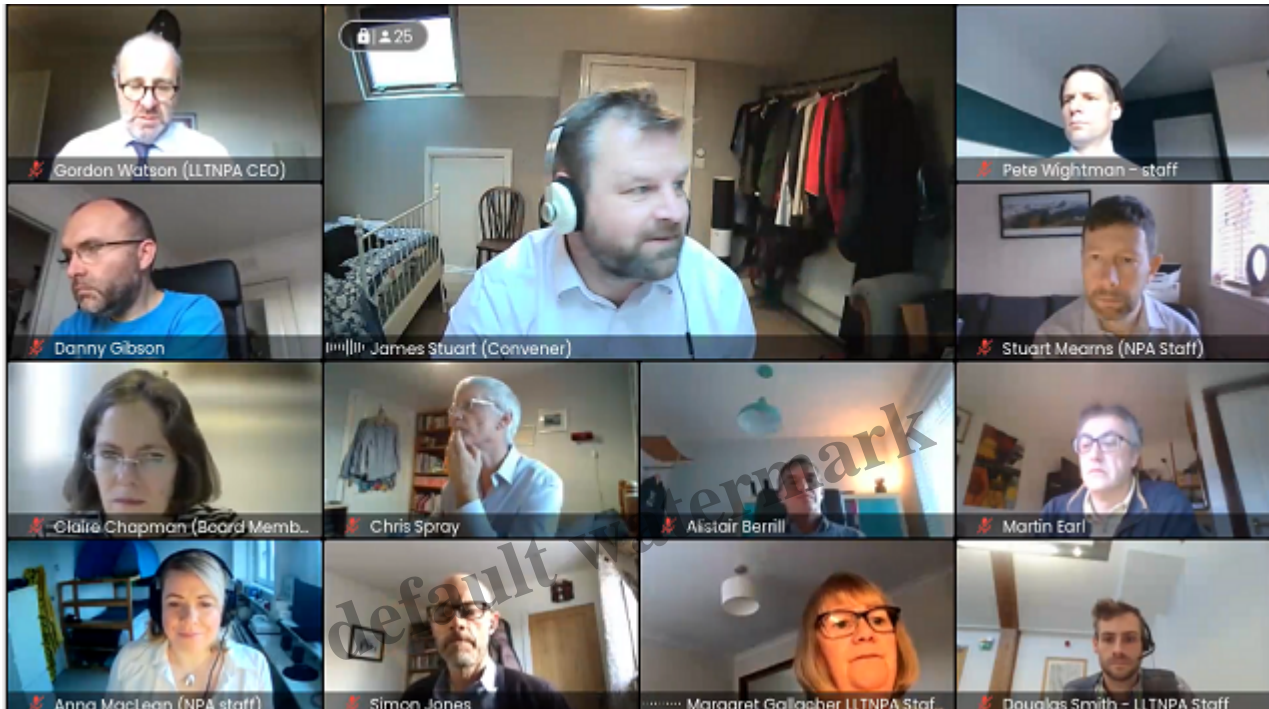


Hot air and the leadership of the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority

Description



Screenshot from LLTNPA Board Meeting on Monday – why doesn't the Convener wear a woolly jumper when working from home?

I am not a hair shirt environmentalist but, sitting at home with three layers on observing the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTNPA) meeting last Monday, I could not help but notice how many members of the Board and senior staff sat through the proceedings in their shirt sleeves.

It is possible of course that one or two may live in passivhaus homes and had their heating turned off. But the exhortations from the green movement to help the planet and turn down your heating a notch sadly don't appear to apply to the leadership of the National Park. (The rich, of course, consume far more carbon per head than the poor and have little idea of what fuel poverty – what it feels like to be cold – actually means). This points to some of the hypocrisy at the heart of the LLTNPA's approach to the climate emergency.

The LLTNPA's plan ([see here](#)) to reach net zero excludes any consideration of carbon emissions outside of their own buildings and travel while at work, including all the carbon consumed by staff and Board Members working at home or travelling to work. But tackling that might force the leadership of the LLTNPA to change their lifestyle.

Increasingly the LLTNPA leadership is exhorting members of the public to cut our emissions, for

example by thinking twice before travelling to the National Park. There was a good example of this in the meeting Gordon Watson, the Chief Executive asked: “How much do we accommodate demand in terms of our climate and nature obligations”? The implication being that one thing the LLTNPA could do to combat climate change would be to stop people visiting. He said this while sitting in his shirtsleeves (top left) in his nice house in Gartocharn.

The question of course the LLTNPA should be asking is how do they make the case for a public transport network across the National Park which enables visitors and residents to stop/reduce travelling by car? A major obstacle to that is the LLTNPA leadership are the sort of people who will be able to afford electric cars. They don't have to be concerned about what they will do as petrol and diesel engines are phased out apart from ensuring that there are convenient electric car charging points across the National Park (which has been the main focus for the LLTNPA's work on sustainable travel).

What the screenshot and the meeting demonstrated is that most of the LLTNPA leadership have no insight into their own privilege and as a result are extremely unlikely to tackle the issues that really matter.

Category

1. Loch Lomond and Trossachs

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Author

nickkempe

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