

The Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority – a board in crisis?

Description

11 September 2023 National Park Authority Board Meeting

A meeting of the Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority Board will be held at Kinlochard Village Hall, Kinlochard, Stirling, FK8 3TL from 1000 on Monday 11th September. This meeting will be accessible for members of the public to attend in person. Due to technological constraints, we are unable to livestream today's meeting, we apologise for the inconvenience.

The paragraph above is what is currently on the Loch Lomond and Trossachs National Park Authority (LLTNPA) website ([see here](#)). When the Board Papers for this meeting first appeared it was indicated that it would be 'Live Streamed' as usual. It was only when I logged on to the Board meeting at 9.50am that there was any indication that the meeting would be **audio only**.

The audio didn't work. I tried the 'REFRESH' button numerous times to no avail. Eventually, I fired up another machine. Having logged on to the Board Meeting it simply gave apologies that audio was not available either.

The agenda was split into three sessions:

Session 1: 10:00am – 11:30am

Session 2: 11:45am – 1:15pm

Session 3 [Closed]: 2:00pm

Given the extremely short open meeting, lasting only 3hrs 15 mins (including a 15min comfort break!) it is doubtful if any members of the public attended.

I attended the last Board Meeting held in Kinlochard with my husband who was then Chairman of the Loch Lomond Association. The only other member of the public attending was Nick Kempe and we all had to get there by car.

Given that record, one wonders why it was held there in September 2023? Or was that the reason? No 'Live Stream' and no Audio either!

The LLTNPA board meeting and sustainable transport

Also, given the 'Net Zero' aims of LLTNPA, how 'green' was it to hold the Board Meeting at Kinlochard at all? The paper at Item 7 on the Agenda was titled "Sustainable Travel Programme". Did Board members travel to Kinlochard by public transport?? Unlikely, because there is isn't any. Perhaps the LLTNPA hired a minibus for board members? If so, why wasn't this facility advertised to the public?

Agenda Item 11 of the LLTNPA's 2023-24 Annual Operational Plan Progress to August contained a section on "Improve sustainable transport services for visitors and communities":

<p>Complete early actions emerging from the Modal Shift Study, including a comprehensive National Park Active Travel Strategy, and the feasibility and early development work of gateway hubs at Balloch, Drymen/Balmaha, Dunoon and Aberfoyle.</p>	<p>The Futures group meeting on August 15th was deemed a success providing a springboard to develop enhanced partnership and governance discussions as outlined as key actions. Our CEO will be meeting SPT CEO within August. The Place Programme is covering the early gateway hub development work. <u>The National Park Active Travel Strategy work is being reconsidered due to changes in available funding from Sustrans.</u> The team are feeding into both the TACTRAN and SPT Active Travel Strategies.</p>	<p>On Tr</p>
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"On track" despite nothing meaningful happening!

<p>Work with partners to pilot at least one visitor shuttle bus service at congested visitor hotspots</p>	<p>The market was unable to provide an operator for a service in the Trossachs nor Tarbet/Arrochar area. Follow up conversations with partners and funders has indicated general agreement that the best next steps are to confirm</p>	<p>Behin sched</p>
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Blame the market! This is in the second year that the LLTNPA has failed to deliver even a **pilot** shuttle bus service In March 2022 the LLTNPA adopted a planning framework and delivery plan for Strathard ([see here](#)) which included this:

KEY PROJECT 2 - Sustainable & Active Travel

Aim

Provide active and sustainable transport options across Strathard such as a shuttle bus supports both visitor and community needs (in particular older and younger people).

Timescales

2021-2025

Funding

National Park Authority will resource meetings.

Funding for infrastructure projects will be determined at a later date and further information will be added as available.

Lead

Stirling Council transport team and National Park Sustainable

Did either the local councillor or locally elected member on the board question the lack of progress in Strathard? We will probably never know.

Meantime the deck of governance, projects and staffing in the LLTNPA is continuously re-shuffled:

Develop a Climate Adaptation Plan for the National Park Authority	Climate Action Manager recruited and will take forward organisational adaptation planning in Q3-4. Mission Zero governance review and refresh completed and approved by	Behind Schedule
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Another manager!

And where for the next Board Meeting??

2023 meetings

- 30th January – Special Meeting (Loch Lomond Byelaws) – National Park HQ: 2:00pm
- 13th March – National Park HQ: 10:00am
- 12th June – National Park HQ: 10:00am
- 11th September – Kinlochard Village Hall: 10:00am
- 11th December – Location TBC: 10:00am

Screenshot 28th December

Category

1. Loch Lomond and Trossachs

Tags

1. Governance
2. LLTNPA
3. public transport

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Author

mary-jack

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