**CairnGorm Mountain to trial the introduction of car park charges**

19th June 2018: CairnGorm Mountain Ltd will trial the introduction of car park charges later this week.

At 635m high, CairnGorm Mountain is one of the easiest and most popular access points into the Cairngorm National Park.  The attraction operates three car parks within the resort for an average of 220,000 visitors a year.

Despite operating a voluntary donation car parking scheme for some time now, only one in 20 vehicles are contributing, which has left a large deficit for the upkeep of the parking facilities.  The cost will be set at £2 per vehicle per day and a reduced rate seasonal parking pass of £25 will also be available. The cost for minibuses, caravans and campervans will be £8 per day.  Season pass holders will be one of several categories who will be exempt from the car parking charges.

The funding from car parking charges will be reinvested in a number of initiatives over the next few years including the installation of interpretative material and improved signage. In the long term it is hoped that a 24-hour toilet facility could be introduced, as well as improved campervan facilities and electric hook-ups and additional ski racks installed around the Day Lodge buildings.

Initially, however, the priority will be to resurface the car parks and improve parking bay markers and drainage. Feedback from visitors as well as season pass holders has consistently highlighted growing concerns about potholes and other maintenance issues in the car parks.

Janette Jansson, General Manager at CairnGorm Mountain said: “The maintenance of our car parks is becoming a bigger challenge every year. The introduction of the parking charge will certainly help towards the ongoing maintenance of the car parks, as well as improving the other services and activities we provide here at CairnGorm Mountain, ensuring the best possible visitor experience for our customers.”

CairnGorm Mountain is the last large car parking facility in the area to introduce parking charges and the proposed tariff has been determined in line with the existing local provision. Before introducing the trial for car park charges, CairnGorm Mountain Ltd has consulted with all the relevant statutory bodies.

**ENDS**

**Notes to editors**

About CairnGorm Mountain Ltd

CairnGorm Mountain Ltd is operated by Natural Retreats which took over the operation of CairnGorm Mountain in 2014.

For further information about CairnGorm Mountain Ltd visit: <https://www.cairngormmountain.org>

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