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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | https://gallery.mailchimp.com/9f91c25a9c7c4b6d95062a20e/images/9e47dd29-61ce-4e4c-8b6f-c160662cc8c6.jpg | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Camping in the National Park: end of season update** | | | |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The second camping byelaws season drew to a close on Sunday 30th September. As one of our valued stakeholders, we wanted to provide you with a short update on how the final month of the season has gone. A more extensive update about the second camping season will be available later this year when we draft our annual update to Scottish Ministers, which will go to our Board in December. Since that’s still a couple of months away, we have also provided some headline statistics on how things have gone this season, as well as information on how you can feed into discussions over the winter to continue improving the experience for our campers, communities and businesses. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Stats from September** After a glorious summer the final month of the camping season was a soggy one here in the National Park and, as a result, our Camping Management Zones were much quieter compared to the rest of the season.  The battering winds of Storm Ali also meant that our campsites and permit areas were closed to the public for two days while the area was under an amber weather alert in mid-September.    A handy overview of the figures on camping for the last month of the camping byelaws season is available in [this pdf](https://gallery.mailchimp.com/9f91c25a9c7c4b6d95062a20e/files/abd3b3b2-263e-4782-b2e5-22e395c90ab5/Copy_of_Copy_of_Camping_update_March_2018.pdf). | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Headlines from the end of the season** It has been a particularly busy season with visitor numbers much higher than last year. Headline statistics are available in the graphic below.  https://gallery.mailchimp.com/9f91c25a9c7c4b6d95062a20e/images/6aec1132-5653-4d4b-832b-caed604a26b8.png | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **What happens now?** The Camping Management Byelaws are now not in operation until 1st March 2019 and our campsites at Loch Chon and Inchcailloch have also closed for this year.   Now that the camping season has drawn to a close, the team here are busy reviewing how this season has gone, ready to report this to National Park Board members and subject to Board approval, to Scottish Ministers in the second annual update in December. A more extensive update including local information on camping in your area and a comparison with the first camping byelaws season will be made available to our stakeholders then.  We intend to hold the next Stakeholder Forum meeting early next year in order to feedback further on this and to offer an opportunity for our stakeholders to feed in to plans to continue refining our experience both for visitors (including those who come to camp) and for local communities and businesses, ready for the opening of the next season.  As you may recall from a previous update, in the interim we will be holding a workshop with our stakeholders to help inform the development of our Camping Management Strategy which will also be presented to our Board in December.   Thank you to those partners who have already filled in our poll to let us know their interest and availability for attending this workshop. We can now confirm that this will be taking place at National Park Authority Headquarters in Balloch at **2pm on Thursday 8th November**. A more formal invite to the meeting will be issued shortly. Please let us know if you are able to attend this meeting by emailing [yourpark@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:yourpark@lochlomond-trossachs.org) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Let us know your comments** Feedback from our stakeholders is always valuable and we would encourage you to share your reflections on how this season’s camping experience has been.  If you have any further questions or would like to provide feedback, please email [yourpark@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:yourpark@lochlomond-trossachs.org) | | |