

The Cairngorms National Park Elections (Ward No 2)

Candidate's Statement by Caroline Holroyd

The Cairngorm National Park has always been an important part of my life. Introduced to the magical qualities of the area at the tender age of 3 by my grandparents, my love for it has been lifelong.

In this time of great concern for global environmental issues, I believe that we all have a small part to play in planning and ensuring the future for our locality. I count myself very fortunate to live in this beautiful National Park and I believe that I have the experience, skills qualities and passion that would add great value to the work of the CNPA. Most specifically,

- I appreciate the importance of building and supporting a diverse, local economy where business can flourish yet still conserve and enhance the qualities and ethics of the park.
- I also feel strongly about the opportunities the park itself presents in promoting health and fitness, both physical and mental, to inhabitants as well as visitors.
- I believe that as the largest National Park in the UK, CNPA can lead the way in developing a long term strategy that allows the beauty of the park to continue to be appreciated by all and a place where nature and people can thrive.

Candidate's Statement by Joe Kirby

I care passionately about our area, where we live and what goes on in it.

Over the past 7 years I have been involved in numerous local issues, the temporary loss and reinstatement of Highlife swimming in Aviemore, the change of water supply and I also did a crowdfund for a football facility for the young and old in the area.

I would like to bring a strong local voice to the park board so that our local area and its beauty remains and have a say in what the future holds for it. I will continue to approach the work on the board with passion and dedication and I hope this statement encourages you to vote!

I ask now you have read this please consider voting and returning your ballot with a vote for me please.

Thank you

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Candidate's Statement by Willie McKenna

The work in our national park continues; we must be ready for the challenges of the future: a solution for Cairngorm Mountain; more housing for people who live and work here: a thriving economy. I'm very keen for a positive solution for Cairngorm Mountain and I've always championed proposals for housing to buy and rent.

During my time on the National Park Authority Board I have focussed on ensuring all the statutory aims of the Scottish National Parks are looked at collectively and, through the planning system, quietly have achieved "affordable" rented housing. National park status has put us on a global stage, that has brought economic advantages and opportunities. We need to expand this work for businesses to thrive, by ensuring they can recruit staff through a better allocation of appropriate housing for local people; so delivering "community housing".

I want a National Park that is welcoming to all; those who live here and those who are our guests. People and their needs are equally as important as the environment that we live in. Investment in our future has begun but needs to continue.

Many of you know me, not just as your representative on the National Park Board since inception, but also through my other work in the community. If you would like to know more or tell me about other issues that are of priority to you, please don't hesitate to phone me.

Candidate's Statement by Bobby Mackenzie

My name is Robert Mackenzie. I have lived here all my life and am married with a young family. I love living in the Cairngorms National Park, which I'm passionate about, and would welcome the prospect of helping to both shape and protect the park for the benefit of future generations.

I farm in partnership with my father at Glebe Farm, Boat of Garten. We are a mixed farm which currently and previously has employed several staff.

At 37, I believe I could help the board connect with the younger members of the wider park community, and yet feel mature and responsible enough to help make changes if and when required.

I am a lifelong member of the community and therefore have a strong understanding of local issues. I feel I am in a strong place to give time to this board. I am about to graduate from the Scottish Enterprise Rural Leadership Programme which I believe would stand me in good stead for membership of the board.

Given the opportunity I would work tirelessly to help maintain and improve this special place I am fortunate enough to call home. I am very much of the mindset that this is a National Park for those people who live and work in it.

Thank you very much for your time.

Bobby

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Candidate's Statement by Mick Morris

After 36 years' service I recently retired from the Royal Air Force and joined my wife on the family croft in the Boat of Garten area. This has now given me the opportunity to fully enjoy all that the Cairngorms National Park has to offer.

Throughout my military career I served in engineering and teaching roles and was heavily involved with Mountain Rescue, initially as part-time volunteer and then as a full-time Team Leader. This gave me a wealth of experience in all mountainous areas of the UK as an outdoor enthusiast and in my professional capacity through liaison with the private, public and voluntary sectors. Latterly, I managed all operational aspects for the RAF rescue teams and became involved with numerous local and national governing bodies.

Being a local land owner and having a small business in the area, I feel well placed to understand the requirements of both the local community and the visiting public. As a passionate walker, cyclist and enthusiastic naturalist, I understand the need for a balance between nature, local business and the many outdoor pursuits enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

If elected, I intend to represent the thoughts and wishes of all members of the community within the Cairngorms National Park. This, I believe, is essential to ensure that the area retains the correct balance between accessibility, employment and recreation as well as maintaining the remote wildness that has attracted so many of us to this very special place.

Candidate's Statement by Peter Wright

Peter Wright – making sure the National Park is for you.

The Cairngorms National Park is a fantastic and exceptional place that communities can and should be able to live and thrive within.

I'm standing for election to the Cairngorms National Park Authority Board, to help you and our communities, our businesses and our visitors get the best from the National Park and importantly give our best back.

With my volunteering experience as a Scout Leader for 20 years; member of Boat of Garten Community Council; a Run Director for our local "Parkrun"; Greyhound rescue; position as Volunteer Ranger with the Cairngorms National Park Authority and professionally with nearly 20 years work within environmental protection, I can bring an understanding from a wide range of ages and user groups within the National Park.

I will use my position on the Park Authority Board to ensure the decisions made, and directions taken, are right, not just for now, but for the long-term future of our National Park, be these decisions on housing, business and infrastructure, wildlife and ecology or access, tourism and recreation.

The National Park has opportunities for all, I believe it is the role of the National Park Authority to ensure this unique part of Scotland is available and accessible to those who wish to enjoy the area in a suitable, safe and sustainable manner. Please take time to vote for me in the forthcoming Elections. Please feel free to contact me.
