From: Nick Kempe [mailto:nickkempe1@gmail.com]
Sent: 06 June 2019 10:34
To: James Stuart <James.Stuart@lochlomond-trossachs.org>
Cc: Ellen Morton (Ellen.Morton@argyll-bute.gov.uk) <Ellen.Morton@argyll-bute.gov.uk>; Roseanna Cunningham <cabsececclf@gov.scot>
Subject: Re: Keltie Water hydro scheme detritus

Dear James,

My apologies for the belated reply, my thanks for your response and I was very pleased to receive a letter from the enforcement officer who is now allocated to the Keltie Burn case informing me about her role and what she intends to do.   I welcome your intervention as Board Convener in making this happen.   I  hope that the question of how it has come about that a Hydro Development that was submitted for a Scottish Quality Awardis now subject to enforcement action will now be discussed not just by staff but by the Board.

I acknowledge that all Public Authorities are facing serious resource issues and that this is impacting on the quality of work that can be done.  However, in the case of developments like hydro schemes, my understanding was that All schemes are visited before final completion (and indeed at the Keltie Burn I know from an FOI request that your Director of Planning had visited).   It should not, one would have thought, be difficult for staff on such monitoring visits to compile a list of issues which need to be addressed and inform the Developer of this.  If such letters were added to the Planning Application, on the Planning Portal, as I have previously suggested, interested members of the public could help report unresolved issues to the National Park. Instead, however, everything that happens to Planning Applications post decision has been  kept secret and the only way to find out what has been happening is through FOI requests.  Up till now, that is, and your welcome intervention.

As another illustration of this, the Allt Fionn hydro scheme in Glen Falloch was actually awarded a Planning Quality Award - in 2015 if my memory is right.   While the best executed of all the Falloch hydro schemes - the Planning Consent was granted by the Scottish Government with the Natioal Park responsible for enforcement - the surplus pipes (the photo was taken in 2017) were still in the l unrestored laydown area when I passed by last week.   That's five years later.  This is a prime area for new native woodland, as you can see from the fine oak trees adjacent to the site, which would contribute to the Park's climate change prevention and nature conservation objectives.  Instead, the Planning System in the National Park has allowed it to turn into a derelict site.  I raised a number of serious  issues about lack of finishing with the Glen Falloch hydro schemes in 2016 (e.g

<http://parkswatchscotland.co.uk/2016/09/03/glen-falloch-hydro-schemes-5-end-product-good-enough-national-park/>)

when Linda McKay was convener, and as well as blogging, corresponded with the LLTNPA about this.  I was given no concrete information but provided with assurances that the Allt Fionn scheme, among others, was still being monitored (I can provide the correspondence if that would

help) and would be fully restored. While some work was done - in particular the bright blue penstock at the Allt Fionn used for all the Falloch Schemes was painted as per the Park's best practice guidance - other basic issues have still not been addressed.  I would hope you would agree that the abandoned pipes are unacceptable and that this is another issue needs to be addressed?

Its because of that that I have, as you know, been calling for the Board to commission an audit of all hydro schemes to identify what remedial work is still required.   I believe that would be far more preferable to me submitting endless complaints about individual hydro schemes.

I'd be very happy to attend a Board meeting - say the September Strategy session - to present slides of hydro schemes from across the National Park to make the case for this.  I appreciate some senior staff might find this difficult but I believe the best way forward is dialogue.  I still regret that your Director of Planning has now, despite being asked three times to visit schemes to discuss concerns, declined to do so.

Regards,

Nick