

# Loch Lomond & The Trossachs

## Local Access Forum

Agenda Item 6

### Access Team Update

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#### Upholding Access Rights

##### 1.1 Section 13 Public Access

###### **Ardlui / Garristuck**

Non-compliant signage has reappeared at the Ben Vorlich / Garristuck access point. The landowner has been contacted and the NPA is awaiting a response.

###### **Drumlean**

The Team has met with the Estate's representatives on a number of occasions since the Court of Session's decision in March 2018. The Altskeith and Kennels gates have been unlocked since early July. Following site visits on 23 and 26 July we have developed a series of recommendations on how to improve access through the Estate while at the same time trying to balance the security and privacy requirements of the farmhouse and adjacent farm buildings. This was sent to the Estate on 20 August and we are awaiting a response.

Proceedings to recover our costs following the court case are continuing.

###### **Other access issues**

Since the last meeting on 19 June a further 6 access issues have been raised and are under investigation. Successfully resolved cases include:

- Derrydarroch Hydro Scheme

The NPA continues to monitor visitor pressure at the newly established access point.

- Luss Faerie Trail

Following complaints relating to non-compliant signage on a core path, the NPA worked with the landowner on revised signage. Since installation no further complaints have been received.

- Luss Beach

The NPA recently received a complaint about a fence and locked gate on the N end of Luss beach. The NPA will contact the landowner to discuss the situation.

- Lochgoilhead

A popular riverside core path has been closed by the landowner due to tree safety concerns – the NPA is working with the landowner to reopen the route for the public.

- Auchendennan House

A complaint has been registered with the NPA over non-compliant signage and fencing blocking an informal walk near Duck Bay. A meeting is being convened with the landowner to discuss the issues.

- Ben More

As previously reported locked deer gates on an approach route for Ben More were problematic for recreational visitors. FCS has now installed self-closing access gates.

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- Kinlochard

There are a number of access issues in and around the village of Kinlochard, mainly locked gates and non-compliant signs. One gate, leading from the road to a wooden bridge over the Water of Chon has been unlocked and the padlock removed. A long standing locked gate by Bridge of Chon House should be unlocked by the time of this meeting.

#### **2.0 Outdoor Recreation Plan delivery**

##### **2.1 Priority projects updates**

###### **West Loch Lomond Cycle Path**

The NPA has recently received a number of complaints about deteriorating surface conditions on the popular cyclepath. The NPA are working with local partners to determine maintenance boundaries and a funding bid for capital improvements.

###### **Succoth active travel project**

The IPA grant application, site visit and assessment has now taken place. If the funding application is successful, we anticipate completing the work in summer 2019.

###### **Dukes Weekender**

Feedback from the cycle event held over the 8/9<sup>th</sup> September indicates the event was a great success, with the Saturday night closed-road hill climb on the Dukes Pass being a popular highlight.

###### **Drymen to Balmaha**

The priority continues to be the completion of safe “tie-ins” within Milton of Buchanan and signage of the within carriageway cycle lanes. Designs for these signs have been developed and we are seeking approval of these from Stirling Council highways team. Planning permission for footway widening and surfacing from Shalloch to just before Balmaha is still underway with tree and bat surveys being a major piece of work. Completion of the project to create a safe end-to-end link is a priority for 18/19 and we have just secured £35,000 from the Sustrans Community Links Fund to develop the final linkages into Balmaha and also to audit the whole route and identify any areas of improvement before completion and opening.

###### **Other cycleway projects**

We are re-engaging with the Croftamie Community Trust on the Croftamie to Drymen cycleway as they made it clear in their Core Paths Plan response that this link was still a priority to them.

The RSPB has approached Sustrans for feasibility funding for a link from the Loch Lomond reserve to Gartocharn. Sustrans has responded by suggesting that wider links to Balloch and potentially Drymen be investigated at the same time and we will work with all partners to support and help develop this bid.

###### **SNH Improving Public Access funding (IPA)**

The Lochgoilhead Community Path Group is making excellent progress on their community-led initiative to establish a new path alongside the River Goil. The tender process has been completed and we anticipate the contractor will start on the construction phase in c.3-4 weeks.

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The construction phase of the Rob Roy Way restoration project has commenced, with the contractor making good progress in the recent spell of dry weather.

#### **3.0 Other access projects**

##### **A82**

NPA discussions with Transport Scotland relating to the section between Tarbet and Inverarnan continue with a collective ambition to deliver a number of exiting access and recreation improvements for the area including new car parking, repurposed areas of old highway (e.g. similar to Firkin Point), improved access points, visitor opportunities at Tarbet Isle, Inveruglas and Ardlui and a segregated walking / cyclepath.

##### **The Mountains and The People**

Preparations continue on the final suite of capital path work for Ben Vane, Ben Vorlich and Ben Lui Ben More / Stob Binnian and Stank Glen (Ben Ledi). Path material collection and heli-lifts have taken place on Ben Narnain, but the path work has been hampered by recent weather conditions.

##### **Balloch Placemaking project**

Following the consultation event on 20 March a design for the Village Square has been submitted which WDC hope to deliver early 2019. The adjacent West Riverside development has been lodged.

##### **Callander Streetscapes project.**

Sustrans funding has been secured for a traffic and people movement study along the Callander Main Street. This is to help ascertain the reasons for traffic queues at various points along the main street and will inform any design or highway improvements to improve pedestrian and cyclist permeability throughout the area. Stirling Council has procured consultants and is leading on this study with our and other partners support.

##### **Callander Landscape Project**

The "Explore" Project list for stage two of the Heritage Lottery Funded programme focuses on path development around Callander Crags, Little Leny Meadows, Coilhallan Woods and the Falls of Leny. We are currently providing support for all elements of the Falls of Leny project, including the road crossing and associated paths within Leny Woods.

##### **Park Authority people counter network**

Through The Mountains and The People project, new counters have been installed on Conic Hill and Ben Ledi, and the NPA has recently installed a new counter on Inchcailloch.

#### **3.0 Other partnership working**

##### **Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) VIEW project**

This is a multi-million pound project to mitigate the continuing landscape impact of the electricity power lines through the National Park, following the decision not to underground the lines. The bulk of the money, if the bid to OFGEM is successful, is for tree planting and deer fencing in an attempt to block the views of the pylons. There is some funding available for access improvements but we are of the view that more funding could and should be allocated to provide a more tangible

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and more immediate public benefit. The area in question is from Glen Gyle, past Loch Katrine, through Strathard and Loch Ard Forest and over towards Drymen. We have suggested, and continue to push for, improvements to be made to the aqueduct path from Loch Katrine through Strathard and for this to be considered as a longer distance trail following the pipeline to Glasgow.

#### Events

It's not just the politicians that are in conference season. We are too and team members will be attending and helping to organise the following:

- British Horse Society conference 31 October. This will be hosted by the NPA at Carrochan.
- Europarc Conference, Cairngorms National Park 18 – 21 September
- National Park Access Officers Meeting, Pembrokeshire 3 – 5 October
- Cycling Scotland annual conference, Dundee 5 – 6 November (attendance TBC)

#### The Cowal Way

Following a consultation process with local partners and businesses, the Colintrave and Glendaruel Development Trust (CGDT) has decided to rename this long distance route the 'Loch Lomond & Cowal Way'. The CDT believes the rebranding will 'raise awareness of the Cowal, amongst our key target groups'.

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