

LLTNPA Access Team Update – for period 20 Jan 2016 to 31 March 2016

1.0 Upholding Access Rights

1.1 Section 13 Access Issues

Locked gate - Glen Auchreoch, Crianlarich.

In January, the NPA wrote to the landowner with an informal request to discuss this long-standing situation. To date, the NPA has not received a response and will investigate further via the land agent.

Beinglas gate – positive discussions with Beinglas campsite around earlier opening and improved signage. Additional signage has been put up on site, the gate is open from 6.30am and a signage proposal covering alternative routes has been discussed and is being drafted.

Drumlean – the Authority is appealing the decision.

1.2 Section 11 Exemption Orders

None issued and no applications received.

2.0 Outdoor Recreation Plan delivery

2.1 Priority projects 2015/16

Arrochar / Tarbet Community Link

Work to improve the active travel connectivity between settlements is on-going with the local community, Transport Scotland and BEAR Scotland.

3LW / Tighness path link

Following installation of final upper conduit by NPA Rangers, work on this important link is now complete. The path has bedded-in and is performing well - reports indicate the path is popular with 3LW walkers and also with local residents as part of a circular walk via the Pipe Track and Arrochar woods.

West Loch Lomond Cycle Path

Following a complaint from a member of the public about the lack of promotion and clear signage for the alternative non-roadside section of this route agreements have been reached with Luss Estates, the Carrick golf club and the owners of Inchmurrin to support use of the path from the main A82 access points and through the course area. Improvements include new signage, way marking and the management of public car parking.

Cowal Way

Access infrastructure at a key point in Lochgoilhead has been improved in partnership with FCS - the work will facilitate access to an extensive path / track network for a variety of recreational groups including the less abled bodied and horse riders by installing a new field gate and adjacent self-closing gate.

St Fillans to Lochearnhead

Works are progressing apace and St Fillans west to Tynreoch will be complete by May 2016 at full cost of £540,000. Bid into funders for 2016/17 for St Fillans to Glentarken.

Drymen to Balmaha

Landowner discussions are continuing. Stirling Council are considering traffic calming measures for Balmaha and Milton of Buchanan.

Balloch to Gartocharn

Consultants have met with the Kilmarnock community and expect to have completed a Feasibility and Design Report by May 2016.

2.2 Priority projects 2016/17

Following Board approval of the Park Authority budget and annual operational plan for 2016/17 work is underway assigning budget and lead officers to the ORP priority projects for the coming year. These will include continued support for the Active Travel community led path development projects between Drymen and Croftamie and St Fillan's and Lochearnhead, extension of the Park Mobility Project to an additional location, continued support for the Loch Lomond & Trossachs Countryside Trust Walk in The Park Project.

3.0 Other access projects

3.1 NPF3 – Cross Scotland 3 Saints Way

SNH and Perth & Kinross Countryside Trust (PKCT) are hosting a meeting of partners to discuss how to improve overall coordination of the delivery and future management of the Three Saints Way (Killin to St Andrews) at the end of April. Prior to this the NPA will be meeting with SNH and Sustrans.

3.2 The Mountains and The People

Work has completed on Ben A'an. A helicopter lift of stone onto the Ben Lomond place took place at the end of March and the diversion route for the path during the works has been agreed. Light touch works are underway on The Cobbler return and are due to start on Stob Binnein (if clear of snow) soon – all the necessary permissions from SNH have been received.

Trainee recruitment took place w/b 7th of March and 8 trainees will start this month. The Education & Volunteering project officer has been recruited and joins the team based at the Old Station in Balloch.

3.3 Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust

A new Lomond Co-ordinator has been appointed to the Walk in The Park project, which continues to grow from strength to strength, with both walks and strength and balance sessions taking place and being well attended. The Park Authority will continue to help fund this project in 2016/17.

4.0 National steering groups and forums

4.1 National Walking Strategy

The National Walking Strategy action plan, which is co-ordinated by Paths for All, was launched on 3 March. This 'soft launch' saw the publication of a new infographic on the benefits of walking, a new website <http://www.stepchangescot.scot> a new twitter account @stepchange and a hashtag #stepchangescot. The Park Authority attended the NWS Delivery Forum last month, where the plans implementation and monitoring was discussed, more specific detail on actions for the National Park to follow.

4.2 Green Exercise and Natural Health Service

The Park Authority has been contributing to the development of a national action plan, led by SNH in partnership, focusing on mainstreaming the use of the outdoor environment, such as parks, green spaces and paths, as a means to tackle public health issues. The Park Authority will explore options to progress a pilot project in the National Park, building on the work of the Walk in the Park project and linking directly to government priorities to get Scotland active, walking and healthy both in terms of physical and mental health.

4.3 Central Scotland Mountain Biking cluster

No update at this time.

5.0 Work with local partners

5.1 Argyll & Bute

Nothing to report at this time.

5.2 Stirling

The Rec & Access Team have worked with SC to successfully resurface NCN7 at Croftamie and north of Kilmahog. We have also submitted a joint bid to Sustrans for funding to investigate measures which will improve Callander as a walking and cycling friendly town.

5.3 West Dunbartonshire

The NPA are working with WDC on the Balloch Charrette and have had discussions regarding a contribution to planned improvements to the Haldane link path.

5.4 Perth & Kinross

P&K Countryside Trust is a partner within the 3 Saints Way Project.

5.5 FCS

Quarterly meetings are on-going and NPA sit on the FCS Hill Paths group which has come out of the Mountains & The People Project.

6.0 National Access Forum /SOAN update

SOAN

A well-attended training session focussing on managing conflict around horse riding access took place at Oatridge College recently. Attendees heard presentations and case studies from BHS, Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland and Access Officers.

7.0 Specialist advice provision

7.1 NPA planning function

Specialist comments provided to 4 planning applications and 2 FDP's.

7.2 Other

Balloch Charrette

The team have been involved throughout this project to provide advice on recreation and access proposals and considerations.

8.0 NPA plans and strategies development

Work has started on the production of the next National Park Partnership Plan with the intention to submit to Ministers late summer / early autumn 2017. As with the previous plan there will be a consultation period.

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