

## **LLTNPA Access Team Update – for period 01 April 2016 to 04 August 2016**

### **1.0 Upholding Access Rights**

#### **1.1 Section 13 Access Issues**

**Glen Auchreoch** - Following complaints over a locked deer gate and non-compliant signage, the NPA have contacted the landowner with a view to installing a new gate arrangement.

**Beinglas gate** – No further complaints. Gate opened from earlier time of 6am and KA helping Farm improve signage.

**Ballimore** – NPA seeking resolution through planning process at the locality for this long running issue.

**Drumlean** – the Authority is appealing and the date has now been set for August 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **1.2 Section 11 Exemption Orders**

One application received and issued for Balloch Highland Games

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

#### **2.1 Priority projects 2016/17**

##### **Arrochar / Tarbet Community Link**

Work to improve the active travel connectivity between settlements is on-going with the local community, Transport Scotland recently undertook a subsurface assessment of highway / footway drainage issues.

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

A collaboration between Carrick golf club, Inchmurrin owners and the Park Authority has produced new visitor management and cycle path signage for Burnfoot Farm. The next stage of improvements will feature new directional finger posts off the A82.

##### **St Fillans to Lochearnhead**

Works from St Fillans west to Tynreoch have been completed at full cost of £540,000. Funding has been secured this year for the next phase which will link St Fillans eastwards to Glentarken Woods, costing £240k.

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

Renewed Sustrans funding has been secured this year and discussions are ongoing with Stirling Council and landowners. Stirling Council are considering traffic calming measures for Balmaha and Milton of Buchanan.

##### **Balloch to Gartocharn**

Feasibility and Design Report has not been completed and the Community Paths Group have proposed a meeting in August to discuss options moving forward.

##### **Parkmobility Project**

Use of rental scooters in Balloch has increased significantly, with 2 to 3 uses a day through the summer months. Clydeshopmobility also organised a led scoot in Balloch Park on July 31<sup>st</sup> which was successful. Discussions are ongoing as to how scooters can be introduced into The Lodge and other suitable destinations across the Park.

### **3.0 Other access projects**

#### **3.1 NPF3 – Cross Scotland 3 Saints Way**

LLTNPA in continued dialogue with SNH and Sustrans around funding and delivery mechanisms of the overall project. In the short term the Loch Lomond & Trossachs Countryside Trust is working to fund and install the Tyndrum to Dalrigh section.

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

The helicopter lift and preparatory work has been completed on Ben Lomond, and path improvements are well underway. The walkers diversions are proving effective at maintaining access during the path work and TMTP hope to complete this path by mid-August.

Work to improve the upper sections of the main Cobbler path should be completed by mid-August and work is planned to commence on Ben Ledi in September.

The new Ben Aan path is complete and proving very popular, the car park has now been reinstated.

A number of practical opportunities and improvements have been identified for TMTP trainees in the Park. In July, a partnership effort with Luss Estates, TMTP and the Park Authority addressed a longstanding drainage and erosion problem at the main Ben Dubh access point, Luss. The finished results are excellent, and more work is planned on the main path in 2017.

#### **3.3 Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Countryside Trust**

Report to follow

#### **3.4 Balloch Placemaking Project**

Following on from the Balloch Charette a project steering group has now been formed which will oversee further community consultations and the production for outline streetscape designs which would improve Balloch Station and Balloch Main St. £61k worth of Sustrans design team has been secured.

#### **3.5 Callander Placemaking Project**

Similar to Balloch, this year will see a project steering group overseeing Consultants who will be consulting and designing solutions to improve access travel and public realm experiences within the town. Funding has been secured and the tendering process has begun.

#### **3.6 Scottish Government - Improving Public Access fund**

The Park Authority have submitted a funding application for capital improvements to the Rob Roy Way (Menteith Hills) and also supported Lochgoilhead Community Development Trust with an application to establish a new River Goil Community path. Both applications are currently being assessed by SNH.

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

Automatic people counters are operational on the Cobbler, West Highland Way, NCN7 (Aberfoyle), Rob Roy Way (Invertrossachs) and a new counter has now been installed on Ben Lomond in partnership with NTS.

In comparison to 2015, the broad trends this year indicate increased use of the monitored paths - the prolonged spell of good weather in April / May produced a clear positive effect on visitor numbers.

#### **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 progress active travel and public realm projects in Callander and around Drymen.

##### **5.3 West Dunbartonshire**

The NPA are working with WDC on the Balloch Placemaking Project 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 and for Signage around St Fillans.

##### **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

The June event was held in Stirling and focused on "Doing more with less" which covered use of: volunteers; corporate events; community payback etc.

#### **7.0 Specialist advice provision**

##### **7.1 NPA planning function**

Specialist comments provided to 10 planning applications and 2 FDP's.

##### **7.2 Other**

Reports given to SNH in relation to two IPA bids within the Park.

**8.0 NPA plans and strategies development**

Work continues 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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