

# National Park Authority

## Planning & Access Committee Meeting



Final Minutes of Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 14:30hrs  
John Muir Suite, Carrochan, Carrochan Road, Balloch

Present: Petra Biberbach (PB) – Chair  
George Freeman – Depute Chair  
Colin Bayes (CB)  
Billy Ronald (BR)  
Angus Allan (AA)  
Hazel Sorrell (HS)  
David McKenzie (DMcK)  
Willie Nisbet (WN)  
David Warnock (DW)  
David McCowan (DMcC)  
Fergus Wood (FW)

In Attendance: Park Authority Staff  
Bob Cook, Development & Implementation Manager (BC)  
Susan Brooks, Development Planning & Communities Manager (SB)  
Simon Franks, Woodland Adviser (SF)  
Amanda Aikman, Governance & Legal Manager (AAik)  
Sharon McIntyre, Committee Officer (SMcl) – Clerk

Apologies: None

Item	Title / Discussion	Action by
1	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b>  The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting. SMcl confirmed that there were no apologies.	
2	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  No declarations of interest were made.	
3	<b>Draft minute of meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2017</b>  The minute was proposed by GF and seconded by FW.	
4	<b>Matters Arising</b>  The Chair requested an update on the open action which was to notify all Community Councils of the publication of the Action Programme. SB confirmed that this action is now closed.	
5	<b>2016/0005/TPO - Leac na sith, Luss</b>  The Chair invited SF to introduce the report. SF explained through a series of maps and photographs the location of the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) outlined in the report. SF advised that this TPO was recommended to prevent the felling of a group of mature beech trees.	

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	<p>The Chair invited questions/discussion from Members. Members noted that in the report '<i>Fagus sylvatic</i>' should be detailed as '<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>'.</p> <p>Members discussed the use of Leac-Na-Sith and Leal-Na-Sith in the report. SF advised that both names are used as a result of both names appearing on different titles and maps.</p> <p>Following discussion, the Chair advised that the officer recommendation is for members to note the making of the TPO on the 4th November 2016 – issued with approval of the Chair of the Planning &amp; Access Committee at Leac na sith, Luss and confirm the TPO without amendment.</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b> Members agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Note</b> the making of the TPO on the 4th November 2016 – issued with approval of the Chair of the Planning &amp; Access Committee at Leac na sith, Luss (Reference: 2016/0005/TPO)</li> <li>b) <b>Confirm</b> the TPO without amendment.</li> </ul> <p>As a follow on issue, members discussed tree planting requirements within the National Park following the removal of trees. BC advised that this is assessed on a case by case basis. Local Development Plan policies seek to prevent the loss of important individual trees or woodland. When development is accommodated compensatory planting is normally required.</p>	
6	<p><b>Places, People and Planning – Draft consultation response</b></p> <p>The Chair invited SB to introduce the report. SB advised that this report provides an overview of 'Places, people and planning' - the current Scottish Government consultation on the future of the Scottish planning system and provides the recommended response to this from the Park Authority Planning and Access Committee. SB informed members that this consultation opened on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and will run until 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017.</p> <p>SB provided an overview of each of the recommended responses to the twenty proposals outlined in the report. The Chair invited questions/discussion from Members.</p> <p>Members discussed the proposals and recommended responses of the Park Authority. Members advised that they would wish the following points to be considered further in our response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A stronger emphasis on the need for community planning partnerships to operate effectively in order for Proposal 1: Aligning community and spatial planning to work in practice, including the need for a strong link between locality and local development plans.</li> <li>- The requirement for another mechanism to involve the local</li> </ul>	

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	<p>community in planning decisions. At present community council views may not reflect the views of the whole community and can in some instances discourage people from getting involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Working with Local Authorities and their locality plans to link into communities at a grass roots level.</li> <li>- The identification of the Callander Partnership as a successful model for community involvement for a small town, other approaches are needed in villages with smaller populations.</li> <li>- Strengthen the need for the review to give equal consideration to housing delivery in both rural and urban areas of Scotland, specifically the determination of housing needs in rural areas.</li> <li>- Difficulties in public understanding of the planning system, for example when local decisions are then overturned by a Reporter.</li> <li>- Review of the enforcement process to ensure that this operates effectively.</li> </ul> <p>Members welcomed the inclusion of the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Support for the extension of the Local Development Plan period from five years to ten years.</li> <li>- Agreement that as a National Park the Planning Bill should recognise that there may be a need to depart from the national guidance contained in the Scottish Planning Policy to deliver the four aims as set out in the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000.</li> <li>- The suggestion of consideration as part of the reform of the merits of introducing a separate use class for second/holiday homes.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair advised members that she was part of the independent panel appointed by Ministers to review the Scottish planning system. The Chair noted that the report produced by the panel “Empowering Planning to Deliver Great Places” was published on 31st May 2016 and her direct involvement in this process ended at this time. The Chair confirmed that there is no conflict of interest in chairing this agenda item.</p> <p>DMcK proposed that the recommendation be revised. DMcK proposed the amendment that members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approve the recommended response, based on the content in section 4, to the proposals outlined in the consultation on the future of the Scottish planning system, and subject to the consideration of comments made by members</li> </ul> <p>CB seconded this amendment. The Chair invited Members to indicate their support for the amendment. All members were in agreement.</p> <p><b>DECISION:</b> Members agreed to:</p>	

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	<p>a) Approve the recommended response, based on the content in section 4, to the proposals outlined in the consultation on the future of the Scottish planning system, and subject to the consideration of comments made by members</p> <p>b) Delegate authority to the Head of Planning and Rural Development to respond to the more detailed technical questions contained in the consultation, framed within the context of the response recommended in (a) above.</p> <p>Following discussion, members advised that they would wish to see a copy of the final response issued on behalf of the Planning and Access Committee in response to the consultation.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> SB to send a copy of final response to 'Places, people and planning' Scottish Government consultation to Planning &amp; Access Committee members for reference.</p>	SB
7	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p>Members welcomed the addition of new staff to the Planning team at the Park Authority.</p>	
8	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting of the Planning &amp; Access Committee will take place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017.</p>	

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
**Petra Biberbach, Chair**