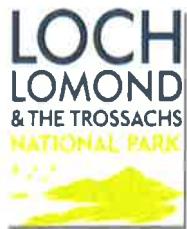


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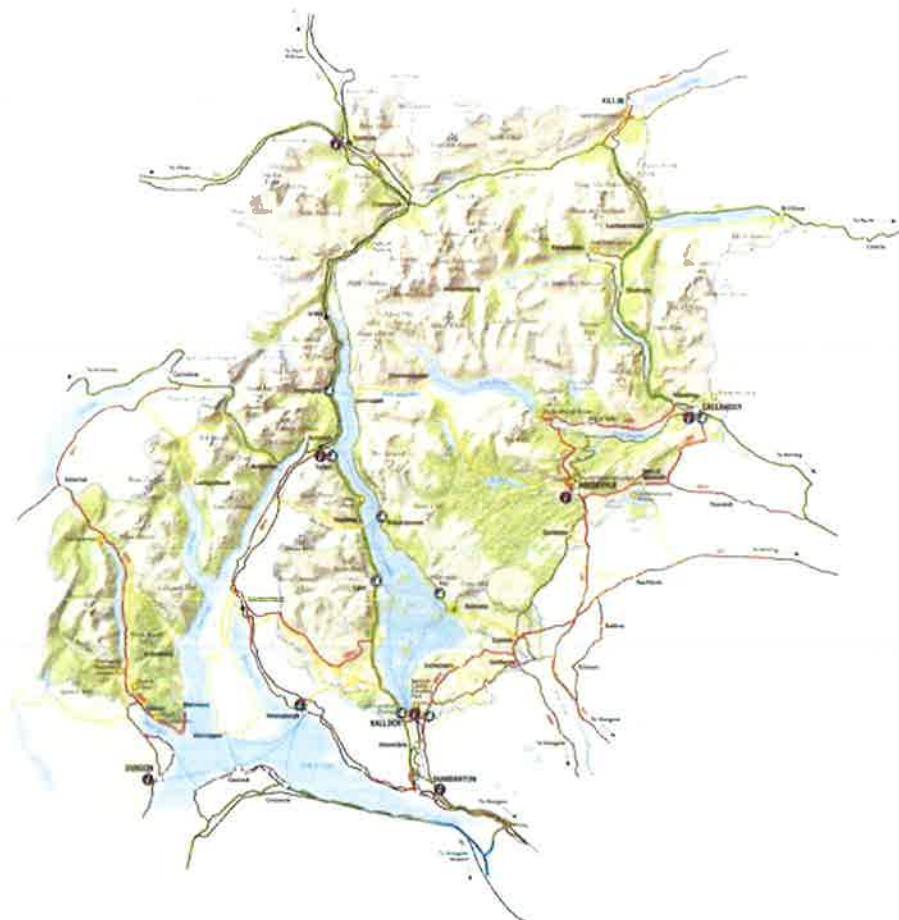
# OPERATION IRONWORKS 2018

ANNUAL REPORT

Police Scotland 02/12/18

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## **Introduction**

Operation Ironworks is a police led inter-agency initiative which has run seasonally since 2007 within Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park. (The National Park)

The Operation provides additional police resources from the three Police Scotland Command areas which cover the National Park and sees officers from Forth Valley, Tayside and Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Divisions all working together with the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority Rangers and the Forestry Commission to tackle and deal with the minority of visitors who are responsible for criminality, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the National Park.

It is an intelligence led initiative which identifies the most problematic areas, peak dates and times of demand informing officers on where and when to carry out mobile, foot and cycle patrols.

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Officers from our specialist departments; Operational Support Division, Road Policing Units and officers on LDA (Local day of Action) deployments are also utilised where appropriate.

This initiative also addresses the priorities and concerns identified within the National Park Policing Plan and the divisions' Local Policing Plans.

**Meeting Our Objectives**

This year's Operation Ironworks continued in its objectives to prevent anti-social behaviour through effective communication and education, also to detect and apprehend, through targeted policing and enforcement, those visitors who failed to comply with the "Respect Your Park" conditions.

In addition to intelligence, weather conditions, planned events & attractions and holiday periods, including public holidays were all used to determine the most appropriate deployment of resources on Operation Ironworks.

Officers working within the boundary of the National Park recognise the aims and objectives of Operation Ironworks as the method for policing the increase number of visitor during the summer season. It also provides the means to effectively record, evaluate and share intelligence, information and best practice from the multi-agency deployments and patrols.

Officers who were engaged on the operation throughout the season have provided feedback which has been collated, analysed and now forms the content of this "End of Operation" report.

Incidents and crimes relative to the operational have also been recorded with some anecdotal information contained within this report.

Data from all three Policing Divisions has been analysed and is contained in Appendices A, B and C of the report.

The Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Camping Management Byelaws 2017 which impose controls on camping in 4 designated Camping Management Zones throughout the park has ran for its second year. Data pertaining to the Byelaws enforcement is also contained within this report.

The officer deployment hours can be found in Appendix D

## **FORTH VALLEY DIVISION**

Forth Valley Division incorporates East Loch Lomond & Trossachs West and Trossachs North & Breadalbane areas of the National Park

These areas, in policing terms, are within, "Kilo Section" which is a sub-section of Stirling Area Command.

Police officers are stationed at Callander and Balfron and consist of both Response and Community policing teams. This policing area mirrors the National Park Authority Rangers patrol areas and stations. It also incorporates Forestry Commissions locations.

All 4 Camping Management Zones (or parts thereof) are within Forth Valley Division.

The A84 and A85 trunk roads pass through the National Park area and are main arterial routes within Scotland's road network.

### Forth Valley Division Incidents of Note:-

A long standing complaint throughout the Operation period was the indiscriminate parking and subsequent traffic congestion this caused at Balmaha and Rowardennan. This saw officers deployed most weekends to assist road users and the local community who were affected by this issue.

A short term solution was achieved by the strategic placement of police "no parking" signage. Work is ongoing with Stirling Council and other key stakeholders to achieve a longer term solution to this issue for the forthcoming year.



Parking Congestion – Balmaha Car Park

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**Operational Activity - March – September 2018 – Forth Valley Division**

**March**

Officers engaged with 29 people.12 vehicles were stopped during the month.

- 4 persons were traced in Callander Meadows and A84 in possession of controlled drugs.

**April**

Officers engaged with 115 people.65 vehicles were stopped during the month.

- Over the month officers traced 7 persons in possession of controlled drugs.
- A male was warned on Loch Earn in relation to Byelaw 8 (a) of the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Camping Management Byelaws 2017.
- 4 males and 3 females were traced at Loch Chon and reported for a contravention of Byelaw 6 (a) of the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Camping Management Byelaws 2017.
- Additionally one of the males from the above incident was reported for Careless Driving after leaving the area and crashing his vehicle.
- On 30<sup>th</sup> April, a male was reported for Careless Driving following a 2 vehicle Road Traffic Collision on the A84 near to Strathyre Cabins. This incident led to the closure of the trunk road for several hours.

**May**

Officers engaged with 183 people.46 vehicles were stopped during the month.

- 2 males found to be camping illegally at the Broch Car Park in Strathyre. Both charged with contraventions of Byelaws 6 (a) & 8 (a) of the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Camping Management Byelaws 2017 and also Section 87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 as they had left a mess behind. Additionally one of the males was reported for attempting to pervert the course of justice after giving false details.
- 2 males traced camping illegally at the 1769 Layby south of Strathyre. Both reported under Byelaw 6 (a).
- 2 males traced at Bracklinn Road, Callander in possession of controlled drugs.
- 1 male traced in possession of controlled drugs in Lochearnhead.

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- 1 male reported for Careless Driving on the A85 at Lochearnhead.

**June**

Officers engaged with 151 people. 21 vehicles were stopped during the month.

- 1 male traced in possession of controlled drugs in camping permit area at Loch Drunkie.
- A male was traced and reported for 2 assaults and a statutory breach of the peace after camping on the south shore of Loch Chon.
- A male was traced after driving away from a camping area at Loch Earn whilst suspected of having consumed alcohol. Male charged with refusing to provide details of who was driving, failing to provide a specimen of breath at the roadside, driving whilst over the legal limit for alcohol and failing to provide personal details to the police.
- 1 male reported for killing 2 European Eels on Loch Voil. The taking or killing of these fish is an offence due to severe population decline. This matter was initially flagged up to the police by National Park Rangers.
- Male traced in possession of controlled drug at Loch Venachar.
- 2 males traced in possession of controlled drugs on A84.
- 3 males traced in possession of a Class A controlled drug at Bracklinn Falls car park, Callander.
- Male arrested at Sallochy Campsite after being asked to leave due to breaching the terms and conditions of the site. He was arrested for behaving in an abusive and threatening manner and for resisting arrest and Police assault.

**July**

Officers engaged with 275 people. 46 vehicles were stopped during the month.

- A male was reported to the Procurator Fiscal for acting in an abusive and threatening manner at Balmaha car park.
- A male was arrested for acting in a threatening and abusive manner whilst camping at Loch Voil. He was also found to be in possession of a Class A controlled drug.

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- 4 persons were reported for contravening Byelaws 6 & 8 of the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Camping Management Byelaws 2017 and S87 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- Male found in possession of controlled drug at A84, Callander.
- Male found in possession of controlled drug at Trossachs Pier.
- 1 female and 2 males found in possession of controlled drugs, A84, Callander.
- 2 males reported for contravening Byelaws 6 & 8 of the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Camping Management Byelaws 2017.

**August**

Officers engaged with 72 people. 34 vehicles were stopped during the month.

- 1 male arrested and reported for Assault to Injury and threatening and abusive behaviour at Loch Voil.
- 2 males traced at Loch Lubnaig and reported for contravening Byelaw 6 of the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Camping Management Byelaws 2017 and consuming alcohol in a public place.
- 4 males reported for contravening Byelaws 6 & 8 of the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Camping Management Byelaws 2017.
- 1 male reported for possession of an air weapon at Loch Voil.
- 1 male found in possession of a controlled drug on A84 at Callander.
- 1 male found in possession of a controlled drug on A84 at Callander

**September**

Officers engaged with 62 people. 17 vehicles were stopped during the month.

- Between 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September the office at Loch Achray Campsite was broken into. Enquiries are ongoing.
- On 15<sup>th</sup> September an angler at Loch Venachar had his fishing rods stolen whilst fishing overnight.

## **Roads Safety**

Roads Policing dedicated patrols on all trunk roads within the park area continued throughout the period of Operation Ironworks.

These patrols were also supported by Police Scotland Road Policing initiative; 'Operation Zenith' which is aimed at awareness raising and influencing motorcyclist behaviour.

This year, thankfully there were no fatal road traffic collisions in Forth Valley Division's area of the National Park.

The total hours of Roads Policing activity is not possible to quantify, but over the season a significant number of people were caught speeding within 30mph limit in Lochearnhead and Strathyre. The highest speed detected by officers was 59mph which demonstrates a minority of drivers are still showing utter disregard for road safety.

## **TAYSIDE DIVISION**

Tayside Division cover a small section of the National Park around Loch Earn. The Trossachs North Camping management Zone lies within this area



Camping Permit Area – Loch Earn

### **Operational Activity April – September 2018 – Tayside Division**

Tayside's area of the National Park has seen a total of 7 crimes recorded over the summer with only two related to violence.

#### **April**

There was 1 call from the National Park in April, in respect of campers who had camped within a camping permit area and had not paid.

#### **May**

The only significant incident was a serious assault that took place on the 29th May at the loch shore near to Ardvolich. This was an isolated incident involving family members and resulted in one arrest.

#### **June**

On Saturday 23rd June officers who were on Ironworks patrols in South Loch Earn received a call to attend a report of a car having left the road on the A85. Upon attendance a male was traced attempting to exit the vehicle. It was clear he was under the influence of alcohol and later found to be twice over the legal limit.

#### **August**

5th August at the Drummond Hotel, St Fillans, a boat attached to the slipway was set on fire and destroyed. It is believed that the perpetrator for this crime was not connected to persons who frequent the National Park.

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26th August a domestic incident took place between two campers at the campsite on South Loch Earn Road. The female victim suffered a minor assault and police officers arrested the male perpetrator. The perpetrator was charged with 3 offences and subsequently received a 3 month prison sentence.

**September**

4th September a theft of a boat took place from the Achray House Hotel, St Fillans. The owner of the boat observed males taking the boat in a white van however no registration plate was obtained.

In addition, there have been 17 calls for Police Scotland during the period under review. That have an "Operation Ironworks" tag on Police Scotland Command and Control system. Out of these incidents there are 12 that relate to camping on the loch. The majority of these calls relate to campers who were unaware they were within an illegal campsite and two calls were in respect of small fires made by these campers.

Despite the weather over the season it was relatively calm on the loch side with a noticeable change in the persons that attend the loch.

## ARGYLL & WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE DIVISION

Argyll and West Dunbartonshire Division covers the areas of Balloch, Cowal, Luss and West Loch Lomond areas within the National Park

The West Loch Lomond Camping Management Zone lies within the area.



Duncan Mills Memorial Slipway – Balloch

### Balloch

Perhaps exacerbated by the good weather this year, youth disorder was particularly problematic over the course of this year's Operation Ironworks in Balloch

Police Scotland carried out joint patrols with officers from British Transport Police (BTP) on a weekly basis.

Several local juveniles were identified as being responsible for committing the vast majority of crimes and subsequently dealt with within the Criminal Justice system.

### **Operational Activity April – September 2018 – Balloch**

In April 2018 Police carried out proactive patrols in relation to the event known as "Muck-Up Day" Historically this had resulted in young people consuming alcohol and committing ASB offences. More importantly these young people become exposed to the many environmental dangers within the areas they frequent. This year work with the local farmer resulted in greater management, a reduction in ASB and harm to the young people.

The following crimes were reported over the course of Operation Ironworks in Balloch area by means of report, Fixed Penalty Notices and Recorded Police Warnings:-

Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 Sec 5(2) – Possession of a controlled drug – 21

Street Drinking – 2

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Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Act 1995 S47 Possess offensive weapon – 3

Civic Government Scotland Act 1982 Sec 57 – Found within curtilage of premises with intention to commit theft - 3

Serious Assault – 2

Assault – 8

Theft of Pedal Cycle – 1

Road Traffic Act 1988 Sec 5, Drink Driving – 3

Civic Government Scotland Act 1982 Sec 50. Drunk and incapable– 1

Housebreaking with intent to commit theft - 1

Cowal

The main areas of concern were the beach at Ardentinny and the campsites and caravan areas around Loch Eck, Lochgoilhead and the Rest and Be Thankful.

Between the 13<sup>th</sup> of July 2018 and the 29<sup>th</sup> of September 2018 officers in the Dunoon stations catchment carried out mobile patrols of relevant locations.

Within this period the following incidents were recorded

- 3 persons were reported for driving carelessly.
- 5 persons reported for speeding.
- 1 person reported for driving without a valid licence.
- 1 person reported for driving without insurance.
- 1 person was reported for a theft.
- 2 persons reported for separate breach of the peace offences.
- 4 persons reported for separate assaults.
- 1 person reported for a vandalism.
- 2 persons issued with anti-social behaviour warnings with regards to use illegitimate use of quad bikes.

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Luss and West Loch Lomond

This area consists of Loch Lomond (West) Luss, Tarbet, Arrochar, Ardlui, Arden and Inverbeg.

Over the period of Operation Ironworks 2018 the following were carried out:-

Police patrols engaged with in excess of 1700 residents and visitors in the area.

31 searches on persons and vehicles were carried out.

15 seizures of alcohol were carried out.

54 cars were subject to police stops.

**Operational Activity April – September 2018**

**April**

Arden - Male arrested and charged for S 2 Road Traffic Act 1988 – Dangerous driving resulting in a collision

Arden – Assault – Male arrested and charged at Duck Bay for 2 assaults and a Breach of the Peace.

Inverbeg – Male arrested and charged with a Breach of the Peace.

Luss – Male arrested and charged with S 3 RTA - careless driving resulting in a collision with another car.

Tarbet – Male charged with S 2 Road Traffic Act 1988 - dangerous driving– driving at 80mph in a 30mph zone.

Arrochar – 2 males arrested and charged with Robbery, Reset and Breach of the Peace.

Arrochar – Male reported for S 2 Road Traffic Act 1988 - dangerous driving after overtaking on a blind bend.

Tarbet - Male arrested and charged with speeding, drink driving and possession of a knife.

Arden – Male reported for speeding at 91mph in a 60mph zone.

**May**

Luss- Male arrested for Breach of the Peace.

Luss – Male arrested for possession of an offensive weapon and an assault, victim struck with a bottle.

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Tarbet – Male charged with offence under Dangerous Dog Act after allowing dog to be out of control and bite another person.

Inverbeg – Female arrested and charged suspect for Drink Driving, failed to provide breath sample at roadside or at the police office.

Luss – Male reported for S 38 Criminal Justice & Licensing. Scotland. Act 2010 – Verbally abusive to the Amenities Warden.

Old Military Rd, Tarbet – Male arrested and charged speeding 53mph in 30mph zone. Drink Driving. No Insurance and cause or permit another to drive without Insurance.

**June**

Inverbeg – Male arrested and charged with Drink Driving.

A82 Near to Carrick – Female arrested and charged suspect Drink Driving refused to provide breath test sample.

**July**

Luss – Male arrested and charged with drink driving.

Luss - Loch Lomond Byelaws 2013 – Reckless or Negligent Navigation Byelaw 3.5(1) – Recklessly navigate 5 Jet Ski's close to swimmers. Enquiry still ongoing to identify persons responsible. Enquiry officer liaising with Park Rangers.

Tarbet – male charged with speeding at 55mph in 30mph zone.

A82 near to Loch Lomond Golf Club access – male arrested and charged with drink driving.

Luss – Male charged with careless driving resulting on a collision.

Arrochar – Male charged with possession of controlled drugs (X2)

Arrochar - Male charged with possession of controlled drugs.

**August**

A82 near to Drovers Inn. Male charged with Dangerous Driving overtaking on blind bend and involved in collision with motor bike resulting in serious injuries to the rider.

Tarbet- Male lost control of his car, collided with roadside wall and car flipped over. Male charged with drink driving offence.

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**September**

Ardlui. Male charged with wasting police time and recklessly leaving car in a dangerous position. Made his way to a hotel and reported his car stolen. Enquiry showed he was the driver involved in a collision with a wall during hour of darkness. Car left on a blind bend, no lights and blocking the carriageway.

Arrochar – Male arrested for assault, attacked another with an iron bar, abusive and threatening behaviour and vandalism to a motor vehicle.

Arrochar – Male arrested for Breach of the peace in a licensed premises and 2 charges of racial abuse.

Tarbet – Male arrested for drink driving offence, driving without insurance and taking and driving away a car without owners consent.

## **LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY**

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park is an internationally recognised visitor destination that showcases the very best of Scotland's environment. Scotland's National Parks share four aims set out by The Scottish Parliament:

- To conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area;
- To promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area
- To promote understanding & enjoy (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area by the public
- To promote sustainable economic & social development of the area's communities

Through its seasonal visitor management program the Park Authority aims to ensure that visitors have the opportunity to enjoy the special qualities of the National Park in a manner that does not cause overuse or damage.

### **Visitor management in 2018**

The Ranger Service focus was on providing a friendly welcome, information and assistance to visitors to the park whilst ensuring that the messages of "Respect The Park" were being promoted.

During the season 1070 land based visitor management patrols were completed throughout the park. These patrols concentrated upon known hotspots and also on permit areas within the 4 Camping Management Zones. Additionally the Ranger Service also staffed Balmaha Visitor Centre and Duncan Mills Memorial Slipway from 1st April to the end of September. The main aims of this activity has been to enhance the experience for visitors to the park and in support of the new camping management byelaws raising awareness, educate and gain compliance from visitors planning to camp.

2018 saw the second season of the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Camping Management Byelaws 2017 and staff sought to build upon the work undertaken in 2017 to raise awareness of the new measures in an effort to achieve compliance. During the season additional signage was installed at key locations throughout the 4 Camping Management Zones in an effort to provide further information in relation to the byelaws in the hope that this would

940 individuals' details were taken by Rangers in relation to alleged contraventions of Camping Management Byelaws. In the main these people were given advice and were afforded the chance to purchase a permit for a permit area or to camp out with the Camping Management Zone. National Park staff submitted 4 standard prosecution reports to the Procurator Fiscal for contraventions of the Loch Lomond &

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The Trossachs National Park Camping Management Byelaws 2017. A further report was submitted in relation to an alleged offence under the Loch Lomond Byelaws 2013 and one report was submitted in relation to an offence under Section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.



Abandoned Campsite at Loch Venachar – April 2018

A Fixed Penalty Notice was also issued to an individual in relation to Section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This was in relation to the abandonment of camping equipment and was subsequently paid.

It was notable through the year that many sites were busy due to extended periods of warm weather. This was felt most critically in Balmaha where the number of visitors arriving by car regularly exceeded available car parking spaces causing issues with gridlocked traffic and public service buses not being able to turn in the car park. Planning is underway between key stakeholders to try and mitigate similar issues in 2019. The number of visitors to Balmaha Visitor Centre also reached record levels with over 118000 people recorded as visiting between April and October.

The campsite at Loch Chon which is managed by the National Park Authority continues to be well used throughout the season. Additionally the camping permit system was also used more than in 2017, with some months seeing double the amount of bookings for the same month in 2017. This could be attributed to people becoming more familiar with the camping management byelaws as well as the good weather.

The Loch Lomond based Ranger Team continued to provide support for users of Loch Lomond from their base at Duncan Mills Memorial Slipway (DMMS). In addition to managing boat launching, registration work and maintaining the hazard buoys on

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the loch, they completed 284 patrols on Loch Lomond. The purpose of these patrols was to keep loch users safe by offering information and assistance and also enforcement of the provisions of the Loch Lomond Byelaws 2013.

The rangers also played a key role in the promotion of water safety and they provided assistance to Police Scotland and the Loch Lomond Rescue Boat on a number of occasions. These included assisting with the extraction of injured walkers on the West Highland Way, rescuing persons who had got into difficulty in kayaks and responding to assistance requests from Police Scotland who were dealing with distressed persons in water.

Mar - Sept 2018	Land Based Patrols	Loch Lomond Water Patrols	Total
Patrol days completed	1070	284	1354

**Please note that details of land based patrols for March were not able to be retrieved due to an I.T. issue.**

**FOREST ENTERPRISE SCOTLAND**

Overall partnership working with Police Scotland, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority and community councils / groups has generally been good. An area for improvement is particularly Council engagement with regard to high pressure car parking and waste management. Argyll Forest Park staff and communities did raise the most issues about limited agency staff resource on patrol at peak times through the 2018 season.

The Fire season (Feb – June 2018) was extended for a month into June, this was particularly serious in woodland and moorland areas. Shared visitor messages about when and where it is irresponsible to light fires could be improved so all agencies reinforce a consistent message. It would be useful to designate a lead organisation for guidance in future extreme fire danger events.

Early season (May bank holiday) issues with enforcement of C6 East Loch Lomond clearway did get to a critical levels, emergency access was seriously impacted, roadside verge damage, limited success in closing the road and preventing visitor car parking and access beyond Balmaha. We received particular complaints from neighbours and partners at Rowardennan.

Police Scotland support at Sallochy campsite has been excellent, we have only called for support when required, and attendance has been within a reasonable timeframe. The officers have understood bylaws and other alcohol control measures and supported the wardens when visitors needed to be removed from site.

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Campervan parking in car parks is continuing to grow, this is currently not supported by our day visitor car parks. Local communities such as Callander, Strathyre & Ardentinny have raised the associated issues of human waste, noise and discharge of chemical toilet waste.

Rural crime issues have seen a cluster of activity in the Aberfoyle area, with theft of machinery and building break-ins. Site fuel and equipment theft has not been a serious issue this year.

Waste management across the National Park continues to suffer from inconsistent behaviour messages from the various agencies. Specific incidents of commercial fly tipping have occurred with an issue of repeated tipping of Asbestos (controlled waste) in the Old Drymen Road area. Agency presence through Ironworks, Your Park and FES site management has improved waste issues and site standards across the national forest estate.

Wildlife team are reporting no recorded incidents or clusters of poaching or deliberate protected species disturbance this season. We have had continued issues with disturbance of Schedule 1 species at critical sensitive times in the Callander area.

Un-authorised vehicle access has also been relatively quiet, we have continued to improve forest security with specific signed in place at site that require 24 hr access. All partners can support this when using the forest road network to ensure unauthorised vehicles are challenged.

### **Media – All Partners**

The communications team at Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority continued to carry out the lead role surrounding press releases and social media posts relating to the operation.

A press release was circulated prior to the start of Operation Ironworks 2018 and this led to articles within the Dumbarton Reporter, Lennox Herald, Helensburgh Advertiser and Stirling Observer.

Throughout the season each local police division used their bespoke social media channels to highlight relevant issues.

The National Park also played a key role in the promotion of water safety messages via social media during the sustained hot weather in June. Sadly, staff also participated in radio and television interviews following two drowning fatalities on Loch Lomond in July.

## **Employer Supported Special Constable – National Park**

One member of staff is an Employer Supported Special Constable. He provided **8** hours of patrol in support of the operation. This reduction was due to a focus on other work tasks.

## **National Park Police Officer**

PC Paul Barr remained in the post of National Park Police Officer during 2018 this being the tenth season of the post.

The role remit continued to be further development of a problem solving partnership with Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority and other key partners to combat rural crime and anti-social behaviour across the National Park. He also provided advice and assistance to all areas of business within the National Park Authority and provided training inputs for National Park and Forestry Commission staff.

PC Barr's shift for the duration of the operation are designed to maximise operational patrolling and provide assistance to colleagues and he contributed a total of **272** hrs of patrol in support of the operation across the park area, all of which were from his core duties. PC Barr provided a valuable conduit between the Police and the National Park during the operation to ensure that issues were dealt with in an efficient manner.

## **Safety In The Park**

The personal safety of visitors and residents in the National Park is a key strand of the operation and all staff engaged in it have a role to play in ensuring this.

The main safety risks relate to water safety, mountain safety and issues around wildfires.

**Water Safety** – The National Park has 22 major lochs, many smaller lochs, large rivers and sea-lochs, including having the largest surface area of inland water in mainland U.K. Loch Lomond has over 5000 motorised craft registered for use in addition to persons using non-powered craft or persons who participate in open water swimming.

The Loch Lomond Rescue Boat, crewed by volunteers provided an invaluable service to users of Loch Lomond. Additionally, National Park Rangers also provided assistance to Police Scotland in relation to broken down vessels or persons in distress.

The National Park Police Officer and colleagues from Forth Valley Division assisted by National Park Authority Rangers, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, Royal Life Saving Society, Stirling Council and Killin Mountain Rescue Team delivered 2 water

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safety awareness days in June and July. The first of these was held in Callander and was a closed event for P6 pupils of the cluster primary schools for McLaren High School as well as S6 pupils from there. The event focused on key water safety and life-saving messages and was well received. The second event was held during the Balquhidder, Lochearnhead and Strathyre Games and this targeted water safety and emergency CPR for adults and young people.



Multi-Agency Water Safety Event – Callander

Sadly however, there were two water fatalities in early July. Both of these related to persons who had gone swimming in Loch Lomond and had subsequently got into difficulties.

**Mountain Safety** – The National Park area is fortunate to be covered by a combination of Police and civilian Mountain Rescue Teams, namely Police Scotland (West Command MRT), Arrochar, Lomond and Killin MRT's.

The area has a number of Munros, (mountains over 3000 feet) as well as a number of smaller but popular hills such as Conic Hill, Ben Ledi and The Cobbler. The West Highland Way also passes through the park and this is walked by thousands of persons each year.

Officers and Rangers assisted with a number of incidents involving lost and injured persons and the assistance of the volunteer rescue teams was greatly appreciated.

**Fire Safety** – Staff from the National Park Authority and Police followed advice from Forestry Commission Scotland in relation to times of elevated fire risk. Due to the good weather, the fire risk season extended into June this year. Key messages were then disseminated to persons out in the park in an effort to reduce the risks of a wildfire outbreak.

## **Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Camping Management Byelaws 2017**

2018 was the second year of operation of the above legislation. These byelaws are seasonal in nature, (1<sup>st</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> September) and place restrictions on how and where persons can camp in 4 designated Camping Management Zones within the National Park. These are;

- West Loch Lomond
- East Loch Lomond
- Trossachs West
- Trossachs North

During the season Police and National Park staff used the provisions of the byelaws on a large number of occasions. Sensible discretion was used as the first means of dealing with issues. This led to persons breaching the byelaws to have the opportunity to either purchase a permit to camp or to camp out with the Management Zone. There were, however a number of occasions where it was not possible to apply discretion and this led to formal action being taken. These instances are listed in the table below.

Month	Locus	Byelaw	No of Accused	Agency
April	3 Loch FD	7, 8(a)	1	NPA
April	Loch Earn	8(a)	1	PS
April	Loch Chon	6(a)	7	PS
May	Broch, Strathyre	6(a), 8(a)	2	PS
May	Loch Lubnaig	6(a)	2	PS
July	Loch Voil	6(a) 8(a)	4	PS
July	Broch, Strathyre	6(a), 8(a)	2	PS
July	3 Loch FD	6(a), 13, 14	1	NPA
July	Balmaha	6(a), 8(a) 9	2	NPA
August	Loch Lubnaig	6(a)	2	PS
August	Loch Voil	6(a), 8(a)	4	PS
Sept	Lochan Maoil-Dhuinne	8(a)	2	NPA

## **Conclusion**

The results that have been achieved in 2018 show that this multi-agency operation continues to produce the desired outcome of keeping people who live within and visit the National Park safe and also in protecting the special qualities of the natural environment. The Police patrols provided assistance to Rangers from the National Park in dealing with larger groups of visitors or those where there may have been concerns for personal safety. This approach will continue in 2019.

The 2018 season saw extended periods of warm, settled weather and this led to an increase in the numbers of visitors to the National Park. This created challenges for

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all agencies in dealing with the demands that were created by the extra numbers of visitors.

The proactive patrols kept incidents of disorder to a low level and provided a level of reassurance to the bulk of visitors who were law abiding.

The 2019 season will see the focus continuing in the following areas:

- Seek traffic management solutions for areas such as Balmaha & Luss.
- Continued patrols of loch shore areas to deter anti-social behaviour and enforce the provisions of camping byelaws.
- Promotion of water safety messages.
- Road safety.

2019 will also see the third year of operation of the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Camping Management Byelaws 2017. The Park Authority has to produce a report for submission to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform. The work that will be undertaken during the operation will be key evidence that will inform this report.

