Present: Stuart Chalmers, Forest Enterprise Scotland

Arthur Donaldson, Loch Lomond Association

Stuart Younie, Mountaineering Scotland

Danny Carden, Ramblers Scotland

Joyce Kelly, Strathard Community Council

Bruce Reekie, Stirling Council

Gwen Raes, Woodland Trust

David Adams McGilp, Visit Scotland

James Fraser, Friends of Loch Lomond & The Trossachs

Lorraine Jones, Sport Scotland

Fergus Duncanson, RYA Scotland

Martin Earl, National Park Board Member, Chair of the Your Park Stakeholder Forum

Simon Jones, Director of Conservation and Visitor Operations, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Matt Buckland, Visitor Operations Manager, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Joanne Ford, Communications Manager, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Alistair MacPherson, Visitor Operations Support Assistant, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

Nik Turner, Litter Prevention Manager, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park

| **Subject** | **Note / Action** |
| --- | --- |
| **Welcome and Introductions** | Martin Earl welcomed everyone and introduced himself as the new Chair of the Forum followed by introductions around the room. |
| **Overview of the 2018 camping season** | Matt gave a brief overview of the 2019 camping season so far with slides providing some key figures on the number of people camping in permit areas for tents and motorhomes, camping at Loch Chon campsite and feedback received from those who responded to camping booking surveys.  Q&A:  David Adams McGilp asked if antisocial behaviour is confied to certain areas.  Matt confirmed that this is the case and this is being mapped and we’re using data to analyse this based on the feedback we receive which categorises the types of antisocial behaviour. Litter and noise are the most common issues.  Stuart Chalmers asked if violence is coming up as an issue.  Matt explained that this isn’t a particular issue we are seeing a lot and that the Police are not noting this as an issue.  James Fraser asked if human waste is an issue.  Matt confirmed that this is an issue we’re experiencing in certain areas and explained that an update on our approach to this would be provided later in the meeting by Nik.  Joyce Kelly asked for clarification on whether Loch Chon campsite is open to day visitors for picnics etc.  Matt confirmed that the campsite is open for everyone to access and day visitors are welcome but that parking is restricted to people booked to camp at the site during peak times.  Stuart Younie asked if there had been any follow up and further data on litter.  Matt explained that staff are doing litter picks and contractors doing deep cleans where needed. Litter levels are monitored in Ranger patrol surveys.  Stuart asked a follow up question on police involvement in litter issues.  Matt confirmed that police are involved where possible particularly on fly tipping issues but this can be very tricky to capture.  Stuart asked for an update on the number of people’s details being taken in relation to contraventions of the byelaws in relation to last year.  Matt confirmed that this is sitting at a similar level to last year and that visitor numbers have been higher so far this year.  Fergus Duncanson commented that there had been criticism of some of the permit areas in year one of the byelaws and asked if much work has been done on the sites since.  Matt confirmed that light touch maintenance such as strimming and litter picking is carried out. Some criticism is still received but this is balanced with the level of provision and explained that this can be subjective depending on different people’s perception of what is acceptable.  Danny Carden asked for an update on the partial opening of Loch Achray campsite.  Matt explained that we had some maintenance work to do on the platform pitches for health and safety reasons and that we are also monitoring use of the site.  Joyce Kelly asked if capacity data for Loch Chon campsite could be shared with the community. Matt agreed.  James Fraser asked if Rangers had gathered any information about campervan effluent being an issue.  Matt explained that this isn’t information that the Rangers have gathered although there is some evidence of this from the Callander community. He acknowledged that more services for waste disposal are needed.  Danny Carden asked what support the National Park Authority gets from the Procurator Fiscal on byelaw contraventions.  Matt explained that we have had positive sessions with both Fiscals and Justices of the Peace to bring them to the National Park and engage with them on the byelaws and that we take any opportunity to do this. He added that the Park Authority takes a lot of time looking at viability when taking cases forward to the Fiscal so that we are confident in the strength of the cases. |
| **Camping Development Framework** | Martin Earl introduced the [Camping Development Framework](https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/park-authority/camping-development-framework/) as a high priority project for the National Park Authority which is reported through the organisation’s Delivery Group.  Matt gave an overview of the Framework including the key differences between this and the previous Camping Development Strategy such as the Framework focusing on the whole National Park rather than Camping Management Zones and that it will focus on research, engagement and partnership working as well as infrastructure. Where the Park Authority will focus on infrastructure it will primarily be on improving existing infrastructure that supports the camping experience and working with others to explore potential for new provision. He shared a draft Esri Storymap which would be used as an engagement tool for businesses and communities with an interest in camping in the National Park. The Forum members were then asked for feedback on the Framework Storymap.  David Adams McGilp asked if the Storymap information could be used to provide an interactive system for visitors to our website.  Simon explained that while availability data for all campsites in the Park is not provided live, the camping section of our website provides details of all campsites and permit areas across the National Park as well as detailed information for people looking to come camping. Matt added that the Storymap and Framework webpages are more aimed at provided information to businesses, communities and partners than for visitors.  Danny Carden said it would be beneficial if the Camping Management Zones could be marked more clearly on the Storymap.  David Adams McGilp said that motorhome visitors provide a business opportunity and that a model of motorhome provision in the National Park that could be followed elsewhere would be helpful.  Joyce Kelly asked if any work is being done to look at appropriate levels of capacity for camping. Matt provided assurance that carrying capacity will be looked at closely and that there are areas where new camping provision will not be appropriate. He agreed that capacity is a significant piece of work and highlighted that the Park Authority has limited the camping numbers in certain areas and that we are closely monitoring the effects of this.  Joyce added that the Kinlochard and Stronachlachur community has carried out their own piece of work to look at capacity in the area and highlighted that communities need to be involved in strategies at the start so they have an influence before planning applications are submitted. This would put them in the position of being more likely to support applications rather than opposing them. Matt agreed that this is key and welcomed the input of the community into the delivery of the Framework.  Matt provided a summary of a specific project within the Framework to look at Motorhome provision in the National Park which is underway with initial work to identify gaps in provision and the experience of motorhome visitors. This includes a motorhome survey which has been carried out in partnership with Motorhome Monthly Magazine.  Martin Earl added that there is some work going on in Callander with the local community which will be important in informing how motorhome provision is developed across the rest of the National Park.  Fergus Duncanson said that as a motorhome user himself, he looks for quieter places but is happy to pay or make a donation for use of services or disposal of waste. He suggested that by creating a small set number of pitches you can keep numbers low.  James Fraser said that some businesses in the National Park offer free overnight parking if customers buy a meal on the premises.  Simon Jones highlighted the need as a National Park Authority to consider how we balance the business opportunities associated with increasing motorhome visitors with encouraging more carbon based vehicles in the National Park.  Nik Turner gave a short presentation to introduce the trial interventions and communications campaign running throughout  July and August to tackle the issue of irresponsible toileting which is another project under the Camping Development  Framework.  Fergus Duncanson asked if the messaging would include toilet paper, wipes and sanitary items. Nik confirmed that the  campaign will encourage people to take bags and bin these items. |
| **Three Year Report** | Matt provided an update on the Three Year Report on the operation of the camping byelaws which will be submitted to the  Scottish Government by March 2020. He explained that a third Annual Update on the 2019 camping byelaw season will also be  submitted in December as it has been in previous years since the byelaws were introduced. The Three Year Report will focus on  Environmental and Socio-economic impacts of the byelaws. Matt also showed an example of the kind of data that will be published alongside the report in 2020 including fixed point photography and a draft data dashboard.  Q&A:  Danny Carden raised that last year’s Annual Update mentioned risk of long term financial sustainability of the byelaws and asked  if this year’s update would include more on that.  Matt explained that we will be looking at that following the Three Year Report and will need to continue to review this on an  ongoing basis.  James Fraser asked if the Park Authority is monitoring any areas outwith the Camping Management Zones. Matt confirmed that  volunteers are doing displacement monitoring surveys outwith these Zones this season and that this data will be fed into the  Three Year Report.  Bruce Reekie asked if the report will include traffic data. Matt explained that this is not specifically being looked at as part of the  Three Year Report but that we will be looking at traffic data in a wider sense given the traffic management issues in certain  areas. Martin Earl added that there is a need to work with local authorities at when roadworks are carried out in certain areas.  Bruce confirmed that Stirling Council are looking at longer term planning of roadworks so would be having more conversations  with the Park Authority in advance.  Fergus Duncanson asked if the Park Authority would consider reducing the Camping Management Zones or releasing some  permit areas or potentially creating water-based camping permit areas that could be used by people in canoes or boats only.  Matt confirmed that these questions could be looked at once we have all the data in the Three Year Report. Matt also explained  that if there is a safety issue for a boat or canoe user who cannot safely make it to a camping permit area then discretion would  be used.  Danny Carden asked if enforcement data would be shown year or year. Matt confirmed that it would be but that live cases won’t  be able to be included.  Danny also asked when the data would be available. Matt explained that all the data would be published once the report has  been submitted to the Scottish Government. |
| **Closing and thank you** | Martin Earl thanked everyone for attending and encouraged everyone to contact Matt in between Forum meetings if they have any questions or topics to discuss. He also invited attendees to feed in suggestions for the agenda of the next meeting in November. |