Present: Stuart Chalmers, Forestry and Land Scotland

Arthur Donaldson, Loch Lomond Association

Bruce Reekie, Stirling Council

Charlie Croft, Stirling Council

Gwen Raes, Woodland Trust

Lorraine Jones, Sport Scotland

Jonny Moran, Transport Scotland

Chris Corden, Callander Community Council

Crispin Hoult, Trossachs Community Trust

Davie Black, Mountaineering Scotland

Don Milton, Local Access Forum

Michael McGuiness, West Dunbartonshire Council

David Pretswell, Luss and Arden Community Council

James Fraser, Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs

Tim Tindle, Trossachs Community Council

Penny Tindle, Trossachs Community Council

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

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

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

Graeme Archibald, Visitor Management Adviser, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority

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

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

| **Subject** | **Note / Action** |
| --- | --- |
| **Welcome and Introductions** | Simon Jones welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave apologies from Martin Earl, who unfortunately was unable to Chair today’s meeting. |
| **Overview of the 2018 camping season** | Matt Buckland gave an overview of the 2019 camping season 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. Please see slides online [here](https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/park-authority/park-stakeholder-forum/)  Q&A:  David P asked for the number of permit spaces available on West Loch Lomond and expressed concern over people arriving from Europe unaware of the camping byelaws.  Matt said that there are around 20 permit spaces but would confirm later acknowledged that there are limited camping opportunities on West Loch Lomond in general: (Post script: confirmed numbers are 37 tent spaces and 7 motorhome spaces). There is limited space to create more permit areas and more formal campsite provision might be needed.  James F added that the loss of formal camping pitches on West Loch Lomond was an issue that had been occurring for many years, as private sites moved away from camping.  Davie Black asked if the Park Authority has considered rotating permit areas or providing facilties to tackle the issues of litter and human waste.  Matt confirmed that we will look at rotating permit areas or reducing permit number where necessary at some sites and will be expanding the human waste management trials in 2020.  Tim Tindle asked for clarification around what was meant by the removal of litter ahead of the season.  Matt confirmed that surveys are carried out ahead of 1st March and the litter found is removed.  James F asked if the Three Year Report would include a financial analysis of the byelaws.  Matt confirmed that the report will include financial information including the amount of revenue involved and ranger deployment costs but will not include a full cost/benefit analysis.  Simon Jones added that as this is a visitor management issue a significant amount of resource is to be expected for a few years to see change and that the scheme is not making money.  Stuart Chalmers provided an insight into the cost to FLS of running Sallochy campsite and said that long term sustainability was a concern. |
| **Human waste campaign** | Nik Turner gave a presentation providing an overview of the human waste management trials and communications campaign run July-September 2019 to tackle irresponsible toileting, including the outcome and learnings from these and potential plans for scaling the campaign up for summer 2020. Please see attached slides.  Q&A:  Tim Tindle raised concerns over the sustainability of the two permit areas on Venachar South without toileting facilities and asked if there are plans to roll out the trials there.  Nik explained that some sites will not be appropriate for some of the measures, we are using the evaluation of this year’s trials and places with the most problems to target interventions where they are most needed. She also explained that we are feeding back to Scottish Natural Heritage on the Scottish Outdoor Access Code guidance to bury waste. Simon Jones added that we need to monitor long term what the impact is on the environment and that that would continue.  David suggested up front information on toileting behaviour before people book. Nik confirmed that while some information was provided in advance of booking this year we will look at this again for 2020.  Crispin Hoult asked if the community could be more involved next time in providing feedback/analysis so this is not solely based on ranger information. Nik agreed that community involvement would be very welcome. |
| **Three Year Report** | The group was split into two groups for discussions looking at monitoring data relating to two of the key indicator questions that will be used in pulling together the Three Year Report on the Camping Management Byelaws. Each of the groups got a chance to discuss both questions in two round table discussions. Please see slides online [here](https://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/park-authority/park-stakeholder-forum/) The two topics were:   1. Displacement of camping issues to other areas outwith the management zones   Key points from discussions:  Clarity sought on language to make distinction between wild camping and informal/roadside, car-based camping  - Agreed that displacement on camping itself not necessarily negative but displacement of damage and antisocial behaviour is what should be monitored.  - Question raised on what can be done to encourage responsible fires (Matt confirmed that this would be a National Park Authority focus for summer 2020)  - Jonny Moran offered Transport Scotland support for monitoring camping displacement along trunk roads  - Stuart Chalmers said that FLS are looking at potential solutions to some camping-related issues at Ardentinny   1. Level of compliance/acceptance of the camping byelaws   Key points from discussions:   * members keen to see break down by type of contravention in final report, eg environmental damage vs civil disobedience * Clarification requested on how many cases were taken forward to the Procurator Fiscal specifically for not having a camping permit * Keen to see comparisons with areas/sites where there were issues prior to 2017 |
| **Future of the Forum discussion** | Remaining in the two tables Joanne Ford and Kenny Auld facilitated discussions among the two groups on the future make up, format and arrangements for the Stakeholder Forum.  Feedback noted included:   * Broad range of attendees is good for learning and hearing a wider range of views * Open to widening the scope of the forum to cover a broader Visitor Management remit * Ask for attendees input into what topics the agenda should cover in advance * Clearer ask of what is expected of attendees/who is required * More interative/workshop based rather than presentation to attendees * More specific focus on key areas at each forum meeting * Should be a focus group/sounding board * Consider themes & invitations based on the time of year for theme and participants * More Board representation * Consistent messaging and language/collaboration on communications/messaging * Provide materials in advance for attendees to prepare/cut down on presentations * Rationalise number of meetings taking place between partners where possible |
| **Closing and thank you** | Simon gave a quick summary of key issues raised during the meeting:   * Long term sustainability and management of permit areas * Gaps in camping provision and how to fill these * Data sharing among organisations * Enforcement effectiveness and impact * Broader remit for the Forum agreed and new terms of reference needed to reflect this   Simon also confirmed that the next steps relating to camping would be:   * Submission of the 2019 Annual Update to the Scottish Government in December 2019 * Development of the Three Year Report on the Camping Byelaws for submission to National Park Authority Board and thereafter Scottish Government in March 2020 * Preparation for the start of the 2020 camping season on 1st March   He also thanked everyone for coming and for their contributions to the discussion. |