

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs Local Access Forum



Access Team Update

Upholding Access Rights

1.1 Section 13 Public Access

Three cases have been resolved since the last Forum meeting.

Updates include:

Loch Lomond Golf Course

Following work with club management, access through the course is much improved, and Yew Cottage remains barrier-free. For more information please contact the access team via email accessteam@lochlomond-trossachs.org

Kinlochard

On appeal, the Planning Inspectorate has upheld our enforcement notice to remove the 2 metre high timber garden fence around Eilean Gorm, only erected in late May 2019. We are still trying to find out the ownership of the boundary fence between the community field and the adjacent property so we can install a stile or gate and a simple ditch crossing to facilitate access.

Drumlean

We have had two complaints of a padlocked gate within the Estate and have asked the Estate to re-open this as soon as possible.

2.0 Outdoor Recreation Plan delivery

Dukes Weekender - Aberfoyle

This was held on 7 and 8 September and was a huge success and well received event. Numbers were up on the inaugural 2018 event with approximately 250 cyclists taking part in the Saturday hill climb of Dukes Pass (won by Olympic gold medallist Katie Archibald) and around 400 taking part in the 70km gravel endure ride on Sunday morning. We are working with the organisers, Forest and Land Scotland and Bike Trossachs to develop Aberfoyle as a cycling destination and the Dukes Weekender would be a flagship event as part of this development.

Drymen to Balmaha

The feasibility report for the final linkages into Balmaha, detailed design work for public realm improvements and place-making at Balmaha and preliminary designs for public realm improvements and an active travel hub at Drymen is complete. A planning application for the final section of cycleway into Balmaha as well as the public realm enhancements will be submitted shortly. The cost of these works is £770,000. We submitted a £1.7 million bid to the Low Carbon Travel and Transport Challenge Fund in late October (which also included

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design and installation of an active travel hub and public realm improvements in Drymen) but have since had to withdraw it. We will be exploring other funding opportunities in the coming months.

Other shared-use projects

We have finally received approval from Sustrans to progress the Places for Everyone Fund award for public realm and connectivity enhancements within and around Lochearnhead to improve conditions for cycling and walking. We had to provide further detail and associated costs for the project design, tender and community engagement phases and £23,500 of the £40,000 requested has been released to start the project. A tender brief for prospective consultants will be released before Christmas.

3 Other access projects

Access infrastructure

A number of aging stiles and gates will soon be replaced with modern, self-closing gates on the West Highland Way and other popular paths in the Glen Falloch and Strathfillan areas. If you know of other sites where an upgrade would be welcome, please contact the access team via email at; access@lochlomond-trossachs.org

The Mountains and The People

Work to complete the project by May 2020 continues with path restoration taking place on the Cobbler (lower section) and the final section of Ben Ledi.

Callander Landscape Project

Work has begun on the Callander Crags to Bracklinn Falls car park path. This is designed to provide an off-road and attractive alternative to walking up the road which is narrow and with few passing places. The path will be approximately 700 metres in length, 1.8 metres wide with a crushed stone and whin dust surface. Three burns will be crossed by timber bridges. The path construction phase will be complete before Christmas but the bridges will not be installed until January 2020 because of the longer than anticipated lead in time for the timber beams.

4 Other partnership working

National Park Grant Scheme

We are pleased to report 3 access & recreation projects were grant-aided to develop and deliver exciting developments in the Park. The previously mentioned Dukes Weekender was a great success in September; Strathfillan Community Development Trust Bike secured £10k towards phase 1 design and feasibility work for Strathfillan Bike Park, Dalrigh; Long Loch Jetty Association secured £2k for equipment to support a new challenge event planned for Arrochar in May 2020 – more info here www.lochlongjettyassociation.co.uk

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For more info the NPA grant scheme see www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/park-authority/how-we-can-help/funding-grants/national-park-grant-scheme

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