

National Park Authority Board Meeting

Agenda Item 6

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Camping Management Byelaws 2017 - Three Year Report to Scottish Ministers



Paper for decision

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This paper accompanies the draft formal report to Scottish Ministers that reviews the operation of the Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Camping Management Byelaws 2017 and associated camping management measures, following three years of implementation.

2. Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to:

- i. **Note** the contents of the draft report in appendix 1, notably the Executive Summary, Findings and Recommendations;
- ii. **Approve** the draft report for submission to Ministers;
- iii. **Agree** to delegate approval of final design and minor editorial adjustments to officers prior to submission to Ministers

3. Contribution to National Park Partnership Plan and Our 5-year Plan

- 3.1 As part of the wider Your Park programme, the Camping Management Byelaws contribute to the following strategic outcomes and priorities:

National Park Partnership Plan -
Outcome 1: Natural Capital
Outcome 2: Landscape Qualities
Outcome 7: Visitor Economy
Outcome 8: Visitor Management
Outcome 9: Health & Learning

Our 5 Year Plan –
Priority 2: Visitor Infrastructure
Priority 4: Attractive, Accessible and
Healthy Destinations
Priority 5: Placemaking and
Sustainable Communities
Priority 6: Policy-making

4. Background

- 4.1 Following a period of ministerial consideration the proposed Camping Management Byelaws were approved by Scottish Ministers on 26th January 2016. Formal modifications requested of the National Park Authority were that:

‘The proposed period of operation of the byelaws would be reduced by one month; running from 1st March to 30th September rather than to the end of October as

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previously envisaged. This included the area where the East Loch Lomond Byelaws had operated for eight months of the year.

The implementation of the byelaws was moved to 1st March 2017'

- 4.2 Two administrative conditions were also applied:

'Ministers should be provided with a formal report of a review of the operation of the byelaws no later than 3 years after implementation. The report should consider how effective the new camping management measures have been in reducing the instances of environmental damage and irresponsible behaviour as a direct result of implementation.'

'The National Park will provide Scottish Ministers with an annual update on the implementation of the byelaws.'

- 4.3 **The draft report in appendix 1 aims to fulfil the first administrative condition, by looking at the implementation of the Byelaws and wider camping management measures in the National Park.**

- 4.4 In order to answer the Minister's questions, officers have with Board endorsement, taken a pragmatic, multi-dimensional approach using a broad range of quantitative and qualitative data to build a picture of how camping and the perceptions of camping are changing in the National Park. This looks not only at the emerging results of Byelaw implementation but also at the other camping management measures used, including targeted engagement, education and information, a new seasonal camping permit scheme and the development of new, low cost campsites within the Camping Management Zones.

- 4.5 Following discussions with our Scottish Government Sponsor Team, we have received authorisation to submit the final report to Ministers following the March Board meeting, which is slightly after three years of implementation, as referred to in the first administrative condition.

- 4.6 Members should note the Camping Management Byelaws Annual Update reports that came to the Board at the [December 2017](#), [December 2018](#) and [December 2019](#) meetings. These fulfilled the second administrative condition applied by Ministers.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The Byelaws are one element of the wider Your Park programme, which also includes the actions within the [Camping Development Framework 2019](#). Fundamentally Your Park aims to protect and enhance some of the National Park's

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most beautiful, but sensitive landscapes for future generations, while at the same time allowing current generations to enjoy and learn about this very special place in a more sustainable manner.

- 5.2 The development and delivery of Your Park has been a large-scale and challenging undertaking for the National Park Authority, and with help from key partners, the programme has required significant resource, innovation and ongoing commitment from all staff teams along with many Board members and volunteers in the organisation. On behalf of the Executive Team we would like to express our gratitude to everyone who has worked to successfully deliver the programme to date.
- 5.3 The 2020 season is now underway and officers will continue to deliver the Byelaws and associated wider programme across the National Park, building on the encouraging findings from the three year review to date, but working to tackle the remaining associated challenges. Members should note that this programme is still a work in progress.
- 5.4 Members are asked to approve the draft report ahead of final submission to Scottish Ministers.

Appendix 1 – Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park
Camping Management Byelaws 2017 -
Three Year Report to Scottish Ministers

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