

CRAGG

CAIRNGORM, ROTHIEMURCHUS AND GLENMORE GROUP

Meeting on Thursday 19th February 2008

6pm at Glenmore Lodge, Glenmore

DRAFT MINUTES

Present

Sally Dowden	Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce
Johnnie Grant	Rothiemurchus Estate
Willie McKenna	Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Association
David Jardine	Forestry Commission Scotland
Mary Ferguson	Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Association
Alison Grant	Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Association
Dave Fallows	Highland Council
Anne Dempster	Rothiemurchus and Glenmore Community Association
Walter Dempster	Local History Group
Murray Ferguson	Cairngorms National Park Authority
Jeremy Roberts	RSPB (Chair)
Paul Corrigan	Cairngorm Mountain
Deborah Tait	Highlands & Islands Enterprise
Allan Bantick	SWT
Tessa Jones	BSCG
Keith Duncan	SNH (+ minutes)

1. Welcome

Apologies

2. Alan Rankin, Tim Walker, Sally Thomas, Sue Palmer, Philippa Grant.

Minutes of meeting on 12th September 2007 and Matters Arising

3. **Minutes:** A few minor changes were suggested and agreed, Sally Dowden to action the amendments

4. Matters Arising

- (4) Local History Group reported that they are taking more time looking for matching funding. David Jardine provided an update about the new access to Beglan township.
- (6n) David Jardine has actioned
- (7) Action for Alan Rankin to be carried forward
- (13) Update provided on small sponsored walk
- (16) Alison Grant to be contacted by Alan Rankin
- (20b) FCS reported that planning permission was now in place for the upgrade of the Glenmore sewage treatment plant and that commissioning work is due in Autumn.
- (27) Action point to be carried forward, that is, for information sharing section of the agenda to be requested by the Chair two weeks ahead of each meeting

Rothiemurchus Glenmore off road Route

5. Murray Fergusson reported that this partnership project is now underway. The work started 10 days ago and is due to be completed in May. MF suggested that CRAGG consider options for launching the opening of the route i.e. to ask a Minister. Members were asked for any suggestions to open the route.

It was reported that a complaint regarding construction work has been made by BSCG. The nature of the complaint was summarised, including issues in relation to juniper, wood ants, soil and tree pruning. It was reported that there had been a helpful exchange about these topics leading to change in technique.

BSCG noted that the route runs through such a special place and that they expect best of standards to be employed. A response suggested that it was unfair to judge the route while work was still at an early stage but that constructive criticism was welcome. Two letters had been sent by BSCG to the CNPA planning department about the work and a response was due soon.

Rothiemurchus Estate are pleased that the work has started & with their route maintenance agreement.

CRAGG Sub Group meeting feedback

6.(a) CRAGG sub group met at Glenmore lodge on 16 January. Three proposed events organisers briefed the group. After organisers left group members held an internal discussion.

AP – Landowners, to propose submitting details of event types/locations that require their permission under SOAC and that lie within designated sites. This could help reduce annual permissions/Liaison with SNH through issuing an ongoing consent that is not time limited. SNH suggested that HIE do same.

Events Calendar

6.(b) CCC has implemented an action point from a sub group meeting to upload an events calendar on to the CRAGG website. The site is password protected. The calendar summarises the FCS events schedule – others asked to add to this in order to build up a complete picture of events in CRAGG area.

A question was asked about whether CRAGG members should have read only access or to be able to download on to their own computers in order to amend the file. Additionally, how does CRAGG want administration of site to be carried out. It was suggested that access rights to amend the file should only be with land owners and, that this will encourage applicants to go to landowners in the first instance. Some members suggested that it would be helpful even to see the draft list of event, possible benefit to community. A concern was raised that events were being squeezed in to a six week period and that there was a need to be transparent about this and the reason if any event has been refused.

It was pointed out that the DMO are preparing a confirmed events calendar. Some suggested that events organisers could use the CRAGG list as a working tool, but that there would need to be one public calendar through the DMO & or CNPA. It was also suggested that there was value of having an events list including potential events and any that may not go ahead. This was suggested as being useful for members to brief applicants about why any events did not proceed and to help understand the reasons. For example, to know if an event did not take place because something did not happen.

AP - - CCC to provide Landowners with read and write access to calendar on CRAGG website

AP - CCC to provide four worksheets on spreadsheet, one for each landowner

AP - - CCC to provide CRAGG members with read only access to calendar on CRAGG website

AP - DMO to provide public calendar of Fixed events

AP - DMO now running what's on, Alan to clarify whether only those listed are by people who want events publicised.

Towards a CRAGG events steering group & CNPA outdoor events steering group

6(c & d) Jeremy Roberts presented a paper for discussion.

A point was raised in relation to event displacement and it was suggested that CRAGG needs to decide what this area is about in order to try & ensure events fit in. There is a need for environmental, social & economic assessments. This should include displacement of users to impacts to accommodation providers.

It was suggested that work may come out of CPNA outdoor access strategy group to manage events at a park wide scale

- guidelines for event managers & land managers.
- Workshop event held & a steering group preparing guidance currently in draft.

The timescale for the CNPA site include discussion with the Local Access Forum in May and to consult those who attended workshop. Early summer is a possible time-scale.

AP- Jeremy to get volunteers to action elements of events management framework.

Update on An Camas Mor

8. Feedback was provided to the community in September.

Interpretive Strategies in CRAGG area

9. There are five strategies in preparation related to the CRAGG area. James Carter is working to CNPA developing guidance at a Park wide scale. Guidance is due at the end of this financial year. The following are also preparing strategies for FCS Glenmore Forest, Rothiemurchus Estate, RSPB Abernethy Estate and Cairngorm Mountain Ltd.

Scottish Rural Development Programme, Update

10. SNH provided an update of the schedule for launching the programme and took an action point to forward additional information after the meeting. It was also pointed out that communities are eligible for entering the SRDP.

CRAGG Management Strategy

7. A question was asked if the CRAGG management strategy could be used as supporting information for SRDP applications. The suggestion was supported by members.

Members agreed that the CRAGG strategy was still a live document and, that a process of reviewing actions could be carried out by e-mail.

12. Information Sharing.

Badaguish

Complete. Next years work. Badaguish – disabled cycle track .

FCS

Forest Holidays preparing planning application for campsite including Lodges and cabins

Sally Dowden

Pine marten hide at Rothiemurchus is on BBC 1 next Monday on the One show.

RGCA

Road end at Glenmore lodge parking.

Alan Bantick

BBC Spring Watch will be in Badenoch & Strathspey in May/June.

CNPA

Core path plan – draft approved and submitted to government. Then final draft for consultation in April. 885km in Park, 65 in Rothiemurchus and Glenmore area.

SNH

Grey Squirrel reported near Coylumbridge, request made for and sightings.

John Grant

Thanked FCS for the between two worlds project.

14. DONM (and Chair) Monday 12 May at 6pm at Glenmore Lodge, chair is Jeremy Roberts.