

# CRAGG

## CAIRNGORM, ROTHIEMURCHUS AND GLENMORE GROUP

Meeting on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> Mach 2009, 6pm at Glenmore Lodge

### DRAFT MINUTES

#### PRESENT:

<u>David Jardine</u>	FCS Acting Chair
Jack Mackay	FCS Minute Secretary
Paul Corrigan	CairnGorm Mountain
Bob Kinnaird	Glenmore Lodge
Philippa Grant	Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce
Willie McKenna	RGCA
Sally Dowden	Cairngorms Chamber of Commerce
Murray Ferguson	CNPA
John Grant	Rothiemurchus Estate
Jeremy Roberts	RSPB
Walter Dempster	B&S Local History Group
Bob Grant	CNPA
John Rosenfield	RGCA
Bill Wilson	RGCA

#### 1. Welcome

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 2. Apologies

Sally Thomas	Scottish Government
Keith Duncan	SNH
Alan Rankin	ACDMO
Dave Fallows	Highland Council
Allan Bantick	SWT
Tessa Jones	BSCG

#### 3. Minutes of meeting held 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008

Two amendments were agreed;

Item 4, paragraph 1, 'THC's Fred MacKintosh' (not Rod).

Item 5, Events Calendar paragraph 2 delete ' the DMO one and'.

Otherwise the minutes were agreed as accurate.

#### 4. Matters Arising;

The chair explained the introduction of sequential action points which would carry on from meeting to meeting to aid future tracking of these.

Progress on the action points from the previous minutes was as follows:

API Landowners to submit proposals for ongoing consent for certain recreation events – ongoing –

**Carry forward** (FCS to provide an example, along with SNH)

AP2 – Actioned by D Fallows **Discharged**

AP3 – Actioned by D Jardine. A copy is to be provided to B Grant, CNPA. **Discharged**

AP4 – Actioned by D Fallows; difficult to streamline, but noted. **Discharged**

AP5 – CNPA had produced a diary of events in the planning stage. The CCC expressed some concerns that this was to be made available publicly as they felt that it would eventually lead to difficulties.

**Discharged**

AP6 – The CCC calendar has been discontinued. **Discharged**

AP7 – CNPA have deferred the inaugural event organisers liaison meeting as per the OOA, until October 2009. An agenda item carried forward to that meeting will be discussion on extending the 'shoulder months' within which the majority of events in the CRAGG area take place. **Deferred.**

## **5. Provision of overspill camping facilities during peak weekends – scoping discussion**

This item has been included in light of planning consent having been approved for the installation of holiday cabins within the Glenmore campsite, by Forest Holidays. Views were invited from members present as to how to manage probable overspill of camping due to the loss of pitches.

It was reported that the chair of CNPA Planning Committee had asked colleagues to consider what might be an appropriate mix of accommodation provision in the area, and that they would facilitate such work.

After some discussion members asked that the scope of the study included; wild camping, camper vans, overspill of caravans from caravan sites and backpackers. In addition the request was made for the study to be widened to include washing and toilet issues (*au naturale* and chemical). A specific request was made of CNPA as access authority for their definition of 'wild camping', and another to consider displacement issues. The discussion also highlighted the need to consider trends and capacity as part of delivery in the medium term to ensure that camping and caravanning (ie lower cost accommodation) were adequately covered in the planning provision for the area.

Members suggested the following be included in discussions with regard to short term solutions; CNPA, Rothiemurchus Estate, FCS, CairnGorm Mountain Ltd, Badaguish OC, Glenmore Lodge, Glenmore Shop, SNH and Forest Holidays. Possible sites which were mentioned in discussion on short term solutions were the Ciste car park, Glenmore Lodge, Badaguish, FCS and sites in the ownership of other land-owners. For medium term solutions the CCC would also wish to be involved.

CNPA will facilitate the process to determine short-term solutions with partners (AP8 – MF)

CNPA will facilitate medium term capacity evaluation and displacement trends within and without the CRAGG area (AP9 – MF)

## **6. Responsible promotion of recreation opportunities**

CNPA have received some complaints regarding uncontrolled promotion of the area without recourse to land managers' etc, and with potential impacts on environmental issues.

It was reported that SNH have no immediate plans to review the SOAC any time soon.

The LOAF has discussed the issue also and they have recorded an action point to try to better define 'responsible' in this respect. They have also asked CNPA to deliver a framework for guidance. The LOAF have also recognised that the messages being given out may not be consistent and the CNPA have been asked for their views on this as well. The LOAF will also be liaising with the Police and updating them on SOAC issues since land managers have less legal power than prior to 2003.

During discussion it was suggested that part of the problem might be that event organisers were not being made aware of environmental considerations when permission is being granted. It was further suggested that interpretation (with a standard suite being produced by a public body) indicating what is 'responsible access' in a particular location might be a method of improving behaviour.

Members agreed that the SNH SOAC website was weak in respect of advice that was relevant locally and it was further agreed that via local SNH staff CRAGG would ask for the website to be updated. (AP10 – DJ)

CNPA asked all members to bring examples of irresponsibility with regard to SOAC to their attention, as they are willing to take this up with those involved, although it was noted that often this is as a result of ignorance rather than malevolence. The LOAF can also escalate issues to the NAF (as can individual members of the LOAF via their own organisations).

The incidence of night time mountain biking was seen as a growing concern where it impacted on nocturnal species or leks.

Following last years Capercaillie Conference a summary paper on disturbance was produced. This will be circulated to members. (AP11 – JR)

## **7. Information Sharing**

### Rothiemurchus Estate

- The Outsider Festival is on, last weekend of June. (Note that the B970 in front of Inverdrue House is proposed to be closed for the weekend)
- An Camas Mòr Outline Planning application should be submitted in April.
- Improvements are being considered at the Caravan and Camping Park
- The estate has the contract for clearing litter from the Old Logging Way

### Forestry Commission Scotland

- Glenmore WWTP is ongoing
- Forest Holidays cabins have full Planning Consent
- Dealing with snow snapped trees
- Oral History Project is being written up
- Edition 2 of 'The Glenmore Times' will be circulated electronically to members (AP12 – JM)

### RGCA

- Received complaint regarding litter on national forest estate. Has been cleared by FCS
- Ex MacRae & Dick garage (Aviemore) is an eyesore and the RGCA will be writing a letter of complaint to HC

### RSPB

- Dealing with snow snap having received MSP letter
- Blown mature pine tree across the Dell road is creating interesting discussion regarding its future

### CCC

- Member businesses are discussing proposals for greater collaboration and the possibilities of amalgamating representative organisations (CCC, DMO's, Cairngorm Hostels, Creative Cairngorms etc)
- CCC will write to HC regarding detritus and dereliction in the area (AP13 – SD)

### CNPA

- Core Paths plan consultation is complete and the Plan has been submitted to Ministers. A local inquiry will be held.
- Speyside Way extension proposal remains with the Minister.
- A local inquiry will also be held in Aviemore regarding the Local Plan with 170+ complaints having been made.
- A contract is about to be let (via Heather Trench) for a CNP wide visitor survey taking place from May. A request was made to ensure that surveyors upheld the values of the Park and were smart in appearance. A request was also made to circulate the 2004 visitor survey to members (which would be used as the baseline) (AP14 – MF). It was agreed that the Chair would approach SNH regarding a desire amongst members for the 1998 Visitor Survey to be repeated (AP15 – DJ).

### B&SLHG

- AGM on 24<sup>th</sup> March
- 14<sup>th</sup> April Alastair McCook talk on Old Nethy
- 12<sup>th</sup> May Carving Class in Rothiemurchus

All the above will be held in the clubhouse at the Rothiemurchus tennis court

### **8. AOB**

CRAGG members agreed to consider developing a proposal for a 2010 visitor usage survey (including a financial package) which should appear as an item on a future CRAGG Agenda.

**Date of next meeting and Chair:** Sally Dowden will chair the next two meetings, the first of which will be held in Glenmore Lodge on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2009 at 6pm.