

Cairngorm Advisory Group

NOTE OF MEETING

14.00 – 16.00

Wednesday 1 December 2021

Microsoft Teams



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Note of virtual meeting

Present

Bill Lobban	Convener, The Highland Council (chair of the meeting)
Alistair Dodds	Chair, Highlands and Islands Enterprise (co-chair)
Uwe Stoneman	Abernethy Forest Estate (RSPB)
Duncan Swarbrick	Aviemore and Glenmore Community Trust
Jason Martin	Cairngorm Business Partnership
Lesley McKenna	Cairngorm Mountain Trust
Susan Smith	Cairngorm Mountain (Scotland) Ltd
Colin Matthew	Cairngorm Mountain (Scotland) Ltd
Grant Moir	Cairngorms National Park Authority
Ruari Watt	Developing Mountain Biking in Scotland – Highland
James Gibbs	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Dave Macleod	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Paul Dzialdowski	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Elaine Hanton	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Douglas Cowan	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Chris Roberts	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
James Palmer	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
David Black	Mountaineering Scotland
Chris Donald	NatureScot
Johnnie Grant	Rothiemurchus Estate
Andrew Saunders	Scottish Ski Club
Euan Baxter	Snowsport Scotland
Shaun Roberts	Sports Scotland (Glenmore Lodge, Scottish Avalanche Information Service)
Chris Taylor	VisitScotland
Peter Long	Aviemore and Vicinity Community Council
Trafford Wilson	Snowsports Scotland

	Item	Action
1	Welcome and introductions	
	Bill Lobban welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked members for their patience with the late change from an in-person to virtual meeting. He explained this was due to the evolving Covid situation and in response to concerns raised by some members. Apologies had been received from Rachel Davies, Karren Derrick, David Frew, Laura McNally and Ruari Watt.	-
2	Approve previous note/actions/matters arising	
	The previous meeting note was approved.	-

	<p>Previous actions:</p> <p>An outstanding action in relation to Highland Council information about the HERO fund was noted. It was agreed that information would be circulated as soon as it was available.</p> <p>It was noted that the output of the lessons learned workshop had been shared and updated in response to additional feedback received.</p> <p>Matters arising:</p> <p>Bill Lobban updated the Group on the appointment of Susan Smith as the permanent CEO of CMSL.</p>	
3	Snowsports Scotland (SSC) - Presentation on Future Strategy	
	<p>Trafford Wilson presented an update on Snowsport Scotland and a look ahead to the forthcoming Scottish Snowsports Strategy 2022-26 which is due to be signed off in February 2022. He noted it had been developed following a sector workshop in Glasgow in October 2021 and will be characterised by an increasing focus on working with partner organisations. SSC are working closely with Scottish Government, particularly in relation to delivery and funding of the 2030 Facilities Strategy, establishment of a marketing fund and research to support the growth and development of snowsports in Scotland. He also noted that SSC is looking to become more actively engaged in supporting disability snowsports. Key outcomes described in the strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Excellent organisation - Great places - Great people - Effective pathways. <p>Efforts over the next 4 years will focus on working with partners, including other organisations and resorts.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Susan Smith and Trafford Wilson agreed to hold a follow-up meeting to discuss opportunities for future joint working between Snowsport Scotland and CMSL. 	
4	Masterplan	

	<p>Dave Macleod gave an overview of progress against each of the strategies contained within the masterplan, with a particular focus on the development of a mountain biking project by CMSL, evolution of the Section 50 agreement and the establishment of a Centre for the Mountain Environment to replace the current Day Lodge. In relation to the latter, members' views were invited on the aspiration for such a facility to be a multi-user centre.</p> <p>Grant Moir provided an update on the active travel project, noting that permission to proceed had been secured on 1 October from Heritage Horizons. The aim is to finalise the project plan in January 2022. A group will be created to develop the Glenmore travel project plan and costs. That first phase will take c.18 months to complete and thereafter there will be a 2 year delivery period. CNPA expects to share further information direct with CAG members in January.</p> <p>Shaun Roberts noted the importance of Cairngorm as a gateway. Dave Macleod confirmed that while the masterplan is for the Estate, the importance of people of all ages/abilities etc being able to access the mountain and beyond is recognised.</p> <p>Uwe Stoneman suggested that RSPB be included amongst stakeholder consultees. Dave noted that initial consultation is with signatories to the Section 50 agreement, and that wider engagement is planned.</p> <p>Johnnie Grant suggested that a high level document be prepared to accompany the masterplan, which places Cairngorm in the wider context and reaches out to a global audience. Dave agreed that HIE and CMSL could look to develop that as part of its promotion of the mountain. Lesley McKenna suggested such a document should also reflect the importance of sporting and outdoor adventure culture, training and people. Susan Smith noted that people and sporting heritage are integral to CMSL's vision and that it would focus on this as part of its PR efforts to coincide with the opening of the funicular. Susan suggested a further offline discussion with Lesley would be helpful.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNPA to share details on Glenmore active travel project early in the new year. • HIE/CMSL to develop promotional material reflecting the importance of people and sporting heritage as well as Cairngorm's place in the wider global context to coincide with the reopening of the funicular. • HIE/CMSL to engage with wider stakeholders in relation to delivery of the masterplan. • Susan Smith and Lesley McKenna to arrange follow-up meeting. 	
5	Funicular Reinstatement Project	
	<p>James Palmer provided an update on the reinstatement project, including works completed to date, challenges affecting the project and works to be completed next year.</p> <p>Dave Macleod described the works undertaken in parallel by SSEN this year to replace part of the ring main and the effort required by CMSL to enable visitors to</p>	

	<p>continue to safely visit and access the Mountain while this considerable amount of construction was underway. He noted the challenges of managing the various interfaces whilst retaining health and safety and environmental protection as top priorities.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The chair invited all members to email Douglas Cowan [douglas.cowan@hient.co.uk] if they had any follow-up questions. 	
6	Operating and Governance Update	
	<p>Elaine Hanton provided a short update on progress following the lessons learned workshop at the previous meeting of the Group. This has included continuing to speak to other public sector bodies about lessons that could be learnt from their experiences. These discussions have underlined the importance of retaining flexibility in the operating model to enable private sector investment, facilitate community engagement and allow the operating company to freely operate on commercial principles. HIE is deliberately proceeding carefully and will continue to engage with the Group as it takes this work forward. In the meantime, CAG members would be welcome to email views directly to Elaine [elaine.hanton@hient.co.uk].</p>	
7	Any other business	
	<p>Grant Moir noted that the CNPA Partnership Plan is out to consultation and that over 700 responses had been received to date. He invited any other comments from members to be submitted to CNPA.</p> <p>No other matters were raised. Bill Lobban thanked everyone for attending, particularly given the late change from an in-person to virtual meeting.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 15.13.</p> <p>Date of next meeting: 10 March at 1400.</p>	