

## National Access Forum Update – January 2017

### Summary of main topics - National Access Forum meeting 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017

#### ***New Convenor -***

The meeting was the first to be chaired by David Henderson Howat as the new Forum Convenor.

#### ***Enduro cycling –***

A paper from Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Land and Estates set out a number of issues for discussion around the increase in mountain biking, communications about Enduro mountain biking events, construction of structures and trails, and related issues of land management. This topic will be discussed further, with an initial site study visit to be arranged, and at the next Forum meeting to see if a working sub-group might be a useful approach.

#### ***Mapping Core Paths –***

There was an update at the meeting from staff of the Improvement Service on the shared mapping of local government spatial data in the 'Spatial Hub', bringing together and publishing a number of geographic data-sets <http://www.spatialhub.scot> which includes core paths mapping. There has been good progress lately, with only two authority's core paths data still to be loaded. The demonstration showed how the mapping will appear once available, and looked at some technical issues being dealt with.

There was a brief report on the meeting in early December of the Forum's sub-group on core paths and OS mapping, which had looked at developments and actions in this area. The spatial hub mapping when complete could assist with this process, and the working group is to meet again in coming weeks.

#### ***Snowsport Touring Code of Conduct***

Mountaineering Scotland reported that the draft code they have been preparing about snowsports touring activity in and near managed ski areas has now been issued, after discussions and finalisation with the Association of Ski Operators. You can see it at <https://www.mountaineering.scot/assets/contentfiles/pdf/Final-snowsports-touring-access-code-pocket-guide.pdf>

#### ***Update on Your Park camping management in LLTNP -***

The national park provided an update on arrangements for the byelaws which are due to come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> March, with a presentation on the current work including the camping development strategy, provision planning, development of the Loch Chon site, signage, permit and booking systems, awareness programmes, staff recruitment and training, support systems and the monitoring programme. There was good opportunity for discussion, and the Park encouraged direct contacts with their communications team.

#### ***SRDP Improving Public Access grants scheme -***

A brief update on the IPA grants scheme reported that the 2016 application round had seen the approval of some 41 applications from all parts of Scotland, with a value of over £1.8m, and contracts will be issued in the near future for those projects. The next round for IPA applications will be open from 20<sup>th</sup> March to 31<sup>st</sup> May, and details are available at <https://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/agri-environment->

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***Communications: Shared Communication Calendar –***

The group page can be found on <https://khub.net/home> and registration to join in is free if new to it. The calendar can also be used to post forthcoming events, contribute to discussions on the forum, write a blog or upload documents. (If you have any queries please contact [Theresa.Kewell@snh.gov.uk](mailto:Theresa.Kewell@snh.gov.uk) in the first instance).

***National Access Forum Forward Programme 2017-18 -***

The Convenor introduced his paper which aimed take a fresh look and to stimulate discussion about the work and topics which the Forum may address over the next couple of years. In discussion there was broad agreement on the general topics noted, and several others raised, with a broad consensus that this programme should be structured as a positive approach to opportunities, not a list of problems, but rather about collaborative advice and partnership, with the focus on doing more, being more active and promotional, and on the positive results for instance in people's health, and in the social and economic benefits.

***Annual Joint NAF – LAFs meeting -***

Please note that the annual Joint NAF-LAFs meeting will be held on **Friday March 17<sup>th</sup> 2017**, at Battleby, so please note the date in diaries, and further details and booking form will be issued shortly. The programme will include hearing about recent developments in approaches and guidance over enjoying the outdoors with dogs, updates on a range of initiatives around the country, and a participant-generated session, on the topics which delegates request as being of most relevance and interest. We hope that a good proportion of local access forums and access staff can attend, together with national forum members.

***Future NAF meetings –***

The next Forum meeting will take place at Battleby on Wednesday **17<sup>th</sup> May 2017**  
The following Forum meeting will take place at Battleby on Wed **27<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

For more information or comment on any of the above topics, please contact the NAF Secretary - Rob Garner ([robgarner.NAFsec@snh.gov.uk](mailto:robgarner.NAFsec@snh.gov.uk) ; 0131 316 2682). Further information can be found on the National Access Forum pages at <http://www.outdooraccess-scotland.com/access-forum/>.