

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK



Mr David Henderson Howat
Convenor
National Access Forum Scotland
c/o Scottish Natural Heritage
231 Corstorphine Road
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13th October 2017

Dear David

Thank you for your letter dated 3rd October regarding the National Access Forum meeting and please accept our apologies once again that we were unable to attend on this particular occasion.

We look forward to the next meeting on 7th February and will happily discuss further details at that time.

In relation to the questions from the Forum outlined in your letter, I have outlined our responses below:

1. Has LLTNPA carried out any work to identify potential displacement effects, with camping pressures shifting to other areas? Forum members thought that you could investigate this by contacting access officers in neighbouring local authority areas?
 - To date we have no clear evidence of displacement caused by the new camping byelaws. This is an area we will continue to monitor, and we welcome the suggestion of working with local access officers in areas close to the Camping Management Zone boundaries as part of our reflection on how this first season has gone and to plan for next season.
 - We have already undertaken visits to potential displacement areas and have been gathering and responding to community feedback.
 - We are also working closely with colleagues in Police Scotland to assess whether the byelaws are leading to any clearly associated displacement of wild camping within and around the Park.
2. What progress has made on installing improved facilities for collection and removal of litter and human waste from camping areas? Forum members also reported increased littering on farmland and suggested working with landowners to provide additional facilities in hot spot areas.

LOCH LOMOND & THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

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- As has been the case in previous years, litter and human waste remains a challenge in very popular, accessible wild camping areas. Sadly, this is a long-standing issue, and not one that is exclusive to the National Park. This is not something that can be eliminated overnight. A significant, long term behaviour change is required.
 - We are already dedicating resources to try and tackle these widespread problems – both in terms of prevention and in dealing with them if and when they occur.
 - This season, we have allocated more of our Rangers' time towards the removal of litter from permit areas. We have brought in specialist contractors to deal with key sites where human waste has been left.
 - In terms of prevention, with the support of Zero Waste Scotland, we will work with a range of stakeholders who have the opportunity to help prevent litter occurring in the first place and we will ensure our Local Access Forum members have the opportunity to contribute.
 - In conjunction with SNH (given their responsibility for ensuring the Scottish Outdoor Access Code is clearly understood) we want to build on existing communications on how visitors can adhere to the Scottish Outdoor Access Code, particularly in relation to 'how to go' in the outdoors.
 - We continue to be in discussions with the landowner at South Loch Earn regarding investing in new, seasonal toilet facilities, and the new campsite by Loch Achray will provide additional toilet facilities on the Three Lochs Forest Drive.
 - We were interested to hear that your members have reported an increase on littering on farmland. This is not information that we have received, but welcome the opportunity to find out where this is happening and if we can help land managers to address this.
3. The update paper you kindly supplied to the Forum indicated that that two byelaw cases have been reported to the Procurator Fiscal by LLTNPA staff and five by Police Scotland. Would it be possible to specify the nature of the alleged offences?
- Six of the cases involved a contravention of Byelaw 6 - related to unauthorised camping.
 - Two of the cases involved a contravention of Byelaw 8(b) - related to fire lighting
 - One of the cases involved a contravention of Byelaw 8 (a) - related to collection of firewood.
 - One of the cases involved a contravention of Byelaw 9 - related to provision of personal details.
 - One of the cases involved a contravention of Byelaw 13 - related to removal from a Management Zone.

4. For many years, camping in the Loch Lomond and Trossachs area has been recognised as bringing particular benefits to people living in Glasgow and other parts of urban central Scotland who might otherwise find it difficult to afford the costs of enjoying outdoor access. In view of this, it would be helpful to know whether the bye-laws are having a discriminatory impact. Forum members considered that one way in which you could monitor this is by recording post-code areas of those booking camping permits, and relating this to indices of multiple deprivation.
- We have no evidence that introducing a nominal charge for camping permits (£3 per tent) has prevented anyone from being able to camp in the National Park. If National Access Forum members have examples where this has been the case then we would certainly like to be made aware of them.
 - As part of our look back over the first season we will ensure that we consider this point.
5. Finally, the Forum noted that the bye-laws are a temporary measure, introduced for a three-year period and asked what criteria the LLTNPA has established to determine whether or not their introduction can be judged a success. Also, what conditions will need to be met for the bylaws to be revoked in due course?
- The Camping Management Byelaws as approved by Scottish Ministers are not 'temporary', but as part of their approval we have been asked to provide Scottish Government with a formal report no later than 3 years after implementation.
 - In preparing for that report, we are monitoring a range of factors including:
 - camping use and numbers,
 - ground and vegetation conditions within the Camping Management Zones,
 - the prevalence of litter, fire and tree damage, human waste,
 - feedback from a range of stakeholders including local communities, visitors, landowners, and those represented through our Stakeholder Forum.

These byelaws and the associated camping provision alongside ongoing education initiatives are intended to encourage positive behaviour change that will improve the experience of visiting, living and working in these busy areas of the National Park. This will take time, and significant collective effort, and we welcome the support of the National Access Forum in our helping us with that.

Yours sincerely



Gordon Watson
Chief Executive

