

Notes and Actions

Proposals for an East Loch Lomond Traffic Management Plan – Finding a Solution Together

14:00 – 16:00 Hrs 28th August 2018



Present:

- Graham Lambie, Stirling Council / Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority
- Graeme McCaffery, Stirling Council
- Keith Davidson, Stirling Council
- Robert Davies, Stirling Council
- Robert Russell, Police Scotland
- Alasdair Eckersall, National Trust
- Sue Morris, Forestry Commission Scotland
- Audrey Peebles, local resident
- Gilbert Bannerman, local resident & farmer
- Sandy Fraser, local resident & business owner
- Joe Twaddle, local resident
- Simon Jones, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, Director of Conservation & Visitor Operations - Chair
- Matt Buckland, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, Visitor Operations Manager
- Graeme Archibald, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, Visitor Operations Adviser
- Alistair MacPherson, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, Construction Projects Officer
- Emma Hislop, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, Communications Adviser
- Jim Downie, Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, Ranger Team Leader
- Paul Barr, Police Scotland / Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority, National Park Police Officer

Subject	Note / Action
Welcome and Introductions	Simon Jones (Chair) opened the meeting and welcomed those present. Simon outlined and expanded on the proposed agenda for the meeting. He explained the reasons behind the meeting and set the scene for the discussions by outlining the partnership working over the last few years to help promote East Loch Lomond as a visitor destination in its own right. He also highlighted the rise in visitor numbers, as demonstrated in the rise of visitors to Balmaha Visitor Centre (48,000 visits to Balmaha Visitor Centre in 2011; 115,000 visits in 2017), and noted that this should be taken in the context of increased visitor numbers across Scotland (which were up by 17% during last year). While this has been a great success, there is now a marked increase in the number of cars on the roads which has resulted in congested roads at peak times and weekends and incidents of dangerous parking which have caused safety risks, a draw on Police Scotland resources if they have had to close the road and also a

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	<p>diminished visitor experience and resident experience. At this point Simon open the meeting to attendees to introduced themselves in turn and explain who they are, the perspective they bring to the meeting and what they hoped to get out of it.</p> <p>Simon then handed the meeting over to Matt Buckland for a short briefing on short term solutions to address this issue.</p>
Short term planning	<p>Matt Buckland explained that the National Park Authority, Police Scotland and Stirling Council had met in June to agree short term measures for this season, including investigating enforcement measures, improvements to infrastructure and also more aligned communications by all partners.</p> <p>Since then, a series of options have been worked up for short, medium and long term solutions. Matt, Graeme McCaffery (Stirling Council) and Robert Russell (Police Scotland) outlined the challenges that have been faced this season and some of the short term solutions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Targeted social media – coordinated communications with the potential to reach a large number of people both in real time and in advance to help with journey planning. This is already in place but could be expanded along with other aligned communications. • Investigating installation of real-time vehicle counters – if placed between Drymen and Balmaha these could assist with monitoring to understand vehicle distribution to provide capacity information and could be linked to advance warning systems. • Using existing enforcement powers more effectively – since the decriminalisation of parking enforcement in 2016, this responsibility has passed to Stirling Council. Council Enforcement Officers have attended but unfortunately attendance has been sporadic and not at optimal times of the day. • Establishing management group – a smaller working group to take forward these proposals, hopefully made up of some of the attendees at the meeting.
Q&A on short term planning	<p>There followed a short Q&A session, with questions and discussions about ownership of the Balmaha car park, the timescale of this process and visitor number projections.</p>
Long term planning	<p>After a short comfort break, the meeting resumed with a short presentation from Matt Buckland. Matt explained that the group would be split into two groups to workshop some of the medium and longer term ideas but when doing so it is important to bear</p>

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	<p>other visitor management pressures in mind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety of those who visit, work and live within the area; • Damage to the natural environment; • Degradation of built facilities such as paths; • Reduced quality of visitor experience; • Litter management; • The need additional infrastructure provision such as toilets or landscape hardening; • Recreational and business opportunities; • Displacement. <p>Matt then talked attendees through a series of medium and longer term options to address the problem (outlined in Appendix 2: Initial options to aid discussion and progress finding sustainable solutions) before moving into the workshop sessions to explore each solution, the pros and cons, who would need to be involved to make them a reality and any other comments or feedback.</p> <p>Appendix 1: Notes from group discussions</p>
<p>Next steps</p>	<p>Note takers from each table fed back to the group the main points discussed as a part of the workshops.</p> <p>There was further discussion about other suggestions to explore for next season. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Additional signage (or at least temporary signage for next season) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Partners needed to make that happen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Park Authority ▪ Stirling Council ▪ Transport Scotland - A visitor survey to find out more about visitor experience: what are people currently using the car park for? Would they be happy to pay to park? How much would they pay?

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A resident survey to find out more about experience on the ground and any other suggested solutions to explore - Investigation of economic value/cost of the solutions discussed - Introduction of traffic counting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Partners needed to make that happen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stirling Council - Live web cam or Transport Scotland video camera in Balmaha car park giving drivers real time views of parking capacity in order to make decisions about where to go <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Partners needed to make that happen: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Park Authority ▪ Transport Scotland <p>A suggestion was also raised to Stirling Council regarding speed limits and signage coming into the Balmaha.</p> <p>Simon Jones then moved the discussion on to the next steps needed to develop these solutions further and drive them forward, emphasising that no one party can be responsible for this alone as delivering these solutions will need partnership working. A core group should be set up, for now comprising Stirling Council, Police Scotland and the National Park Authority, to develop these options further while also drawing on landowner, business owner and community input.</p>
Close	<p>Simon Jones then brought the meeting to a close, confirming that note from the meeting would be circulated to attendees within the next few weeks. Attendees not included in the core working group will be kept informed on the development of these solutions but may not receive a constant feed of information on this.</p>