

## **Loch of Clunie Preservation Group meeting 5**

31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 in Clunie Hall at 1900 hours

### **Review of this last year from Visitor Management**

Over the winter season Visitor Management will be available. If there are problems you can email or phone the manager. Or the general email and telephone details are:

[VisitorManagementGroup@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:VisitorManagementGroup@pkc.gov.uk) and Telephone 01738 475 000

Clunie was the most problematic and required a presence every weekend with visitor numbers the same as Loch Rannoch which has a much larger area.

### Parking

The Supervisor for all of the parking attendants, has agreed a protocol over winter where there is one ranger and one parking attendant all the time. Next year there will be joint patrols with the rangers. They will have a dedicated service with people trained in the Outdoor Access Code and it is likely to be the same people who can get to know the local community. If someone refuses to move and pays the £30 fine there is nothing they can do though. Visitor management will discuss with colleagues the potential use of lines on the road.

### Rangers assistance from police and fire

This year rangers, who have limited powers, didn't have as much police assistance. When rangers phoned the call centre the telephonist didn't understand the outdoor access code or responsible camping. The Fire service from Blairgowrie joined patrols on a regular basis, especially during dry periods.

### Bin Trial

The trial of no bins on Foss Road (South side of Loch Tummel) involved taking away bins for 3 weeks in the holiday period and then 3 weeks when no holidays. Rangers advised visitors to take litter home and they constantly picked up. Over the 6 weeks 33 bin bags of litter were picked up. In comparison with 6 weeks of having bins back after this they picked up 300 bin bags of litter. This was litter placed next to bins and not what was in the bins. Next year they plan to put a large container bin at the end of the road and people will be asked to put litter in that.

Visitor Management asked if people would like to try no bins at Loch of Clunie? It was asked what litter pickers with rubbish if no bins? Rangers put rubbish they have picked up in the back of a van and then to the dump. It was thought we would want a large container bin similar to Pitlochry. Visitor management would talk to land owners about where to put a large container bin.

### Portaloos

Toilets didn't work well this year as the operator didn't replace them twice a week as agreed. When flushed there would be a back flow as they were full. One was not emptied for 6 weeks. It was agreed that the council management should try and get a better operator for next year and they will

organise contracts. It is likely that next year portaloos will be provided again, depending upon funding.

A longer term solution of composting toilets was discussed. We could partly raise funds and apply to get funding. The council could potentially provide maintenance. It could be located not too far to walk but not unsightly. Forestry Scotland have them at Tentsmuir and they work very well.

### Camping Permits

One person said that Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park have a camping permit system. He asked, why can't we do it? National parks can get this but we can't?



Photograph of Signage taken by Andrew.

The following link as on the sign:

[www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/camping](http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org/camping)

You book and pay online.

Visitor Management said that the national park have more powers of enforcement and they have more staff. Person said that it shouldn't be different powers and funding between a national park and then a non park across the road. We discussed the biodiversity around Loch of Clunie and the damage that is being done by camping. There is a Visitor Operations Manager which covers Byelaw Authorisation [campingbyelaws@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:campingbyelaws@lochlomond-trossachs.org) and so person spoke about communicating with him. Visitor Management also said he will talk to the access rights officer.

The group were aware of the Heart 200 which people didn't know about. As you can view on the following website: <https://heart200.scot/> This may cause similar problems that occurred with the North coast 500 due to increased wild camping in the area?

### Angling Club

Only a few people have joined so far and so more communication about it is required. Signage will help.

## Signage

Person showed the following mockup using photographs found online to give an idea of information and how it could be laid out.



This included pictures of wildlife that are in or around the loch, including bats that the Tayside Bat Group detected. Maps, including a bathymetric map made in 1903. Historical information, such as images of the Pictish Brooches which were found on Castle hill and a local photograph of people who had curled on Loch of Clunie, provided by Isla Dick who grew up in Forneth.

The sign designer, John Falconer of Prime Signs Ltd has provided a quote for 3 aluminium upright sign boards. See attached pdf. They have one side for the graphic panel and the other side for the childrens sign, the Angling Club and other information. The quote included art and design work as the photographs are just for the mockup.

National Museum of Scotland provided a cost for images of the Pictish brooches. Other communications about OS map costs, for example, are ongoing.

Following this the Community Investment Fund (CIF) application has been sent to be assessed. If funding is provided a bank account is required. Person has been assigned as treasurer in order to set up a bank account. This will require a second person.

## Long Term group

It was decided that the Loch of Clunie Steering Group would be a long term community group. We renamed it Loch of Clunie Preservation Group.

Person was made Chair and after the meeting became treasurer for the CIF application. This may mean someone else can be chair? Person is Secretary. We will make a distinction between members and visitors to meetings and confirm who the members are. Communication methods were discussed, such as information in a possible newsletter made by Clunie Hall Association. A Domain name could be set up for an email address and website with basic information to start with. It was agreed the number of members was about right.