



Scottish Natural Heritage Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba

All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad

Mrs L McKay
Convenor
Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park
Carrochan road
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24 April 2015

Dear Linda,

Thank you for coming to our Clydebank office to meet last week, I found the discussion on the detail of the Your Park proposals very helpful. It was also useful to hear some of the key messages coming out of your discussions with key stakeholder groups, such as the Ramblers.

A couple of key SNH staff members have been unavailable so it is only in the last two days I have been able to discuss the proposals with them. I am therefore responding slightly later than I had originally intended.

I can fully appreciate the unique nature and scale of the challenge you are facing, both in terms of visitor and user pressure and the incidence of anti-social behaviour. There is an understandable desire by the Park Authority to take steps to protect and enhance the wider visitor and resident experience and very importantly make a significant contribution to the conservation of the Loch shore areas. The critical consideration in the original SNH consultation response, where we gave an "in principle support", was to emphasise the need to take a parallel approach to the implementation of focused byelaws and the provision and introduction of appropriate camping and other facilities on the same timeline.

We realise that you are working to tight timescales and we do very much appreciate the effort made by the Park Authority to engage with us as your proposals have been developing. There has been a great deal of very effective and productive collaboration by the Park Authority with SNH and other partners and this is well reflected in the final proposals, particularly in terms of:

- The proposed byelaws are now much more tightly focussed, proportionate and deliverable and avoid duplication with other existing legislation.
- The reduced zoned area with a clear and simpler focus on Loch shores.
- A commitment to the parallel timing and delivery of both the byelaws and the camping and wider associated provision.



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- Work is progressing on the preparation of a Camping Development Plan with a commitment to deliver a range of camping provision.

A few points you may wish to take into consideration as you finalise your proposals and as reflected in our recent conversation:

- The emphasis in the proposals, and associated communications, that there is a commitment to the parallel timing and delivery for both the byelaws and the camping and wider associated provision, with the non-enactment of byelaws in areas where adequate camping and associated provision has not as yet been delivered or is not sustained.
- Continue to work with us on the detail of the Camping Development Plan in terms of the level, range and timing of provision, together with plans for monitoring use, the effectiveness of the approach and possible displacement.
- Byelaws and camping provision are only part of the solution, and the role of other visitor management measures needs to be fully built in to and explained within the forward plans.

From our own meetings with the recreation bodies, we believe that many of their concerns can be overcome by further explanation of the proposals. Continued engagement across the sector will help build further support that could potentially assist the promotion and implementation of the byelaws.

I hope these comments are helpful. We understand the unique pressures that the Park is encountering and are supportive of the Your Park proposals. We welcome the opportunity for continued dialogue with your staff on the detail of the camping and associated provision.

I am very happy to have further discussions on this and any related points.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. J. R.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ian