

Local Development Plan –

LIVE Park is the name for the next Local Development Plan for the National Park. It focused on how Planning can improve the National Park as a place for **LIVING, INVESTING, VISITING EXPERIENCING**.

After having spoken to communities, landowners, investors and other relevant people, the Forward Planning team published the Main Issues Report, which went out for public consultation from the end of April until early July.

LIVE Park was a chance to really understand the future potential of where you live, work, play and invest. It set out how planning can help improve Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park – from housing to jobs, and everything in between.

You can find more information on our website www.ourLIVEpark.com.

You can follow us at:

www.facebook.com/ourLIVEpark

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Formal feedback was given through our Online Local Development Plan [here](#). The consultation is now closed but plans can still be viewed.

LIVE Park is now consulting on the Additional Sites following the Main Issues Report Consultation until 19 December 2014. You can find out more at www.ourlivepark.com

National Park commended for planning guidance on renewable energy

Stuart Mearns has just been appointed as head of rural development and planning at Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority and was joined by the Park's director of operations, Gordon Watson, and ecologist Gwenda Dick in receiving recognition from the Scottish Government for "ground-breaking" planning guidance in Edinburgh last week. Stuart was appointed to the role of head of rural development and planning after a three-month competitive search. He joined Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority as forward planning manager in 2009 and has played a key role in the development of planning policy that supports the Park's responsibilities for rural development, conservation and visitor experience.

The National Park's Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) for Renewable Energy was commended in the Development Plans category at the Scottish Awards for Quality in Planning, which is one of the Scottish Government's most prestigious events and celebrate achievements in planning, from strategic visions to development on the ground.

Though formally introduced in 2013, the National Park's SPG for Renewable Energy has been in development since 2011 and represents a significant undertaking by Park planners in conjunction with a range of partners, which has resulted in approval of 36 renewable energy schemes by the National Park, 11 of which are now operational.

The guidance supports the National Park's strategy to support small scale renewable energy development; deliver efficiencies in processing applications and demonstrate to communities and landowners what can be achieved.

Stuart said:

"This is fantastic recognition of all the hard work that went into the development of our guidance for Renewable Energy by a number of staff.

"Renewable energy represents a significant opportunity for the Park's rural economy, so we worked with partners to provide comprehensive guidance that would not only allow communities to benefit but also fulfils our responsibilities to protecting the Park's sensitive landscape.

"I am delighted that the judges decided this was done to an exceptionally high standard and would like to thank everyone involved."

Introducing 'Your Park'

'Your Park' is a programme to enhance the camping experience in Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park and to improve our most cherished loch shores. This is a National Park, so it is yours to enjoy and respect regardless of whether you come to our loch shores to camp, to go for a walk, swimming, kayaking or simply to enjoy a picnic. There is a huge variety of activities on offer.

Unfortunately, our most popular and accessible loch shores are suffering from damaging overuse and the irresponsible behaviour of some. This includes irresponsible camping and misuse of laybys including long-term encampments during the summer months. We want to take action in these areas so that we:

- Protect and conserve the area's beauty, habitats and wildlife for future generations
- Ensure a variety of visitors can come and enjoy our loch shores
- Reduce the types of behaviour, damage and pollution that ruins other visitors' and residents' enjoyment
- Deliver a wider range of opportunities to camp across the National Park so visitors are provided with a better camping experience with the right type of facilities
- Provide opportunities for local businesses to flourish
- Ensure that people know how to truly 'wild camp' without leaving a trace of their visit

Through 'Your Park', the National Park aims to provide opportunities for people to camp on our loch shores in well maintained sites, which have the right facilities and where visitor numbers are managed sustainably. We believe that this will allow other visitors to enjoy these popular beauty spots and help protect the environment for future generations to enjoy.

'Your Park' offers the opportunity to have your say. We want to hear your thoughts on our proposals. The consultation is currently open until Monday 12 January 2015.

LLTNPA Community Grants Scheme 2014/15

Grants Monitoring has been taking place over the summer months and good progress is being made with all projects supported in 2013-2014. Feedback continues to support the need for both the capacity building administration grant for community organisations and the 'Soon Seen Successful' project grants. From what communities have been telling us, the administration/development part of the grant as well as the Soon Seen Successful project grants are both still much in demand so we are following similar criteria to the last years programme.

The 2014-2015 Community Grants Scheme was launched in mid October this year with applications to be completed by the end of November. Board members will then evaluate applications and successful communities will be notified by the beginning of 2015.