



8/3/2003

Our Ref: P/ACC/STRAT

Your Ref:

Date: 28 May 2003

Please ask for: Linda Mathieson
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LP-3 INVERURIE

Anne Baillie
Baillies of Bennachie
Birchbank
Burnhervie
Inverurie
AB51 5JO

Dear Ms Baillie

**ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS STRATEGY AREA
WORKSHOPS 2003**

We would like to invite you to the latest round of Access Workshops. This time focusing on the local authorities role under the new access legislation (Part 1 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act), specifically those duties involving/affecting local communities, i.e.

- Local Access Forums
- Core Path Planning

Local Access Forums were covered in the workshops run in November 2001. Attached is a summary of these workshops.

Since the November 2001 workshops, the Land Reform Bill has been passed by Parliament and given Royal Assent. The Bill will however not come into force until there is an approved version of the Scottish Outdoor Access Code (SOAC). A consultation document on the Code has recently been published by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH). Closing date for comments is 30th June 2003. For copies of this document contact Bridget Dales, Tel: 01738 458565 or e-mail soac-consultation@snh.gov.uk

Once the final draft of the SOAC has been reviewed and approved by Ministers and the Scottish Parliament the access legislation will come into effect. This is expected to be Spring 2004. Prior to this a set of guidance notes for local authorities on their duties and powers relating to the access legislation is to be produced by the Scottish Executive. Meantime Aberdeenshire Council access staff would like to engage with the local community on outline proposals for the establishment of the Local Access Forum(s) and the Core Paths Plan for Aberdeenshire.

This year's workshops will begin with an overview of the access legislation followed by two workshop sessions, the first on Local Access Forums and the second on Core Path Plans.

If you are interested in attending one or more of the Area Workshops, please complete and return the attached attendance slip, so that appropriate seating and catering arrangements can be made for numbers anticipated.

Yours sincerely

Linda Mathieson
Environmental Planner (Strategic)
LM/HAR

PTO for Workshop Timetable and Programme

Encs

OUTLINE PROGRAMME

TIME	ITEM
6.45pm	Tea/Coffee
7.00pm	Introduction
7.05pm	Overview of the access legislation and Scottish Outdoor Access Code
7.30pm	Question time / Discussion Period
8.00pm	Workshop 1 Local Access Forum(s) for Aberdeenshire
8.25pm	Workshop 1 Feedback
8.40pm	Workshop 2 Core Path Plan for Aberdeenshire
9.05pm	Workshop 2 Feedback
9.20pm	Wrap up and close

WORKSHOPS**ALL 6.45PM – 9.30PM**

AREA	DATE	LOCATION
Banff & Buchan (East)	10 th June	Fraserburgh Lighthouse Museum
North Marr	11 th June	Huntly - Gordon Arms
Banff & Buchan (West)	12 th June	Banff Springs Hotel
Buchan	17 th June	Old Deer – Aden Arms
Garioch	18 th June	Inverurie – Kintore Arms
South Marr	19 th June	Aboyne – Boat Inn
Kincardine & Mearns	24 th June	Stonehaven - St Leonards Hotel
Formartine	26 th June	Tarves – Aberdeen Arms

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WORKSHOP 2 – ACCESS FORUMS FOR ABERDEENSHIRE

Number of Forums	Area Responses	Comments
1	1 Group (Marr South)	
2	2 Groups (Kin.& Mearns)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on a Lowland/Upland split
3	4 Groups (1 group each from Marr North and Marr South and 2 groups from Banff & Buchan/Buchan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lowland (2)/upland(1) North/Central/South split
4	1 Group (Garioch)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base on topography – could be difficult to define boundaries. Would be a more manageable number.
5	Was a suggestion from Garioch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Base on 5 key towns however this would not provide balanced representation across Aberdeenshire
6	5 Groups (1 group each from Marr North, Garioch, Kin & Mearns and 2 groups from Marr South)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some groups feel 6 would be too many to manage. Would have clear Forum boundaries. Would be difficult for Agencies to field reps for all the Forums.
7	1 Group (Marr South)	
Other	6 Groups - One Strategic Forum supported by a range of local groups. (1 Banff and Buchan/Buchan, 2 Formartine, 3 Garioch)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two Tier Approach would enable Straeigic Group to be more neutral and deal with broad issues but local groups could feed in specific issues that could not be resolved locally.

8/3/28

Reply Slip – Aberdeenshire Countryside Access Strategy Workshops June 2003

Please list below names of those attending and which workshop they will be attending.

NAMES	WORKSHOPS ATTENDING

OR

I will not be attending any of the Access Workshops.

NAME: _____

Return to: Linda Mathieson
Planning & Environmental Services
Aberdeenshire Council
Gordon House
Blackhall Road
INVERURIE
AB51 3WA

(Legal Post: LP-3 INVERURIE)

Or e-mail: linda.Mathieson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk

If the address or contact name is incorrect on the attached letter or if you wish to be removed from the Aberdeenshire Access contacts list, please let us know.