



STRATHARD COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FINAL

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting 7th August 2025 Kinlochard Village Hall 19.00

Councillors Present: Paul Scrase (PS) (Chair), Nick Lester-Davis (NL) (Vice Chair), Joyce Kelly (JK) (Planning), Natashya Sheppard (NS),

Attendees: Oliver Godby (OG) (councillor elect), Elaine Watterson (Lord Provost of Stirling Council), Sargeant David Dempster (Callander Community Police), Ian Park and Ian Bray (Nature Scot), Katy Anderson (Environmental Forester with FLS), 14 Members of the Public

Apologies: Lynda McColl (LM) (Secretary), Catherine Cairns (CC) (Treasurer), David Fettes (DF) (LLTNPA)

Prior to moving on to official business, PS began by presenting a tribute to Ros Dingwall whose funeral was today. Originally from Glasgow, Ros moved to Aberfoyle many years ago and was the Postmistress in Aberfoyle for 40 years. Ros was an important member of the Community and dedicated over 25 years of service to SCC. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. A minutes silence was held in her memory.

Agenda Item:	Action:
1.Apologies: Noted above	
2.Minutes from 6th June Meeting: Proposed by JK and seconded by NS; no matters arising.	
3.Co-Opting of new Community Councillors: Oliver Godby has kindly stepped forward as a new Community Councillor and has completed all the paperwork which has been checked and approved by Stirling Council. NS Proposed his appointment; seconded by NL. PS announced him as duly elected.	
4.Beaver Translocation Update: KA of FLS has worked closely with The Beaver Trust and other agencies for a number of years monitoring the health and welfare of the Beaver population in the area. She provided some background by mentioning there have been beavers living in the local area for many years and were first spotted in Loch Venacher and Loch Achray about ten years ago. It was assumed they arrived through natural dispersal. Then about three years ago, signs were that they were in the Doune Hill area and in Loch Ard itself, in the 'narrows'. Signs of their existence seemed to pop up more and more frequently.	

At the same time, Scottish Government, were pushing for Agencies to provide translocation sites to help with populations elsewhere that required a more suitable habitat. There was a particular problem in Tayside where some interference with prime agricultural land was occurring. Licences to Kill were being issued to farmers in the area, which was not an ideal situation to have. New sites in areas seeking increased biodiversity and where holding back and slowing down water were a priority, were being sought. Various sites around Aberfoyle and Kinlochard were identified by FLS. Mapping was made of the area and shared with members of the community.

Translocation of some Tayside Beavers started early last year when a family group of three were translocated into the top end of Duchray Water. Then in the Autumn two family groups were introduced to two other sites and then three pairs into small lochans in the forest. All the sites are lochans, which are deemed excellent locations with water 1.5 metres deep and slow flowing. In total, there were 20 beavers released, with the last two being at Lochan Spling in February this year. They have all stayed in their sites and monitoring continues. All appears to be going well for them.

PS asked what the process for monitoring is and what is the plan moving forward? KA responded by saying there will, indeed, be impacts on the environment. Beavers will fell trees and will dam watercourses. FLS don't really call it a 'Management Plan', as such. They do, however, observe their habits and report on any issues that arise. FLS can provide advice on removal of dams etc. should there be any negative impacts on local residents. Mink and Water Vole monitoring is also going on in the area.

IP from Nature Scot also confirmed there will inevitably be an impact. These should be accommodated in the habitat they reside. However, should there be any conflict then Nature Scot should be the first point of contact.

JK asked for a clear point of contact. This was confirmed as beavers@nature.scot. There is also a hotline number (01463) 725364. PS confirmed he would put these details on the SCC website.

PS

A member of the public asks: What to do if you have a problem on land near your own but the neighbour does nothing about it? IP said there is no legal mechanism to enforce landowners to do anything and the only advice he can give is to talk it through with them in an attempt to resolve any issues and Nature Scot will help in any way they can. How about injured beavers? - In the case of an injured animal SSPCA should be the first port of call. Breeding habits? - beavers tend to have one litter per annum of usually two kits. A territory will only support so many individuals and there is a natural migration process which prevents territory saturation.

Another member of the public talked about how he has erected remote cameras at the bottom of his garden to monitor a family of beavers who, this year, had three kits. They have a number of lodges and erected a 2 ft high dam which didn't stop the flow of water but does leave large puddles. A discussion took place as to the pros and cons of installing signage to warn kayakers of their

presence. However, it was thought that, on balance, it was probably not a good idea as it may entice more (not less) paddlers to the area.

IP encouraged anyone who has a siting to report them to Mammals Society <https://mammal.org.uk> as this will assist with the annual survey (of Beavers) that takes place each year.

PS thanked IP, IB and KA for their time and for the useful information after which they left the meeting.

5. Police Report – Agenda item moved up the table so as not to hold Sgt Dempster (DD) back too long. DD has recently moved into his position as Sargeant, started on Monday 4th.

Particular discussion about how dog incidents are handled. Care was made not to mention names or specific incidents but there was a lot of interest by the public of the subject matter. DD stated he is still getting up to speed himself, but is aware of the police having a close working relationship with the local dog warden. Mention was made of a ‘dog control notice’. These state the dog owner must bring the dog under control and may be fined if they fail to do so and/or be banned from owning a dog. In the case of a dangerous dog, it may also be destroyed.

It remains quite difficult for the public to know what the terms of a control notice are, as they are not publicised. Therefore, it is up to the public themselves to report any incidents when they occur. The police and dog warden will deal with incidents in the appropriate way.

Questions from the public – Guidance on good practice as regards anti-social behaviour i.e. noise early in the morning or late at night from dogs? DD believes this is a neighbourhood issue but perhaps the dog warden could help answer this type of question. When does a ‘control order’ become a ‘criminal order’? DD wasn’t sure whether one supersedes the other or whether they can run concurrently. At what point does an issue become public? One member of the public suggested that it must be already public after it was reported in the press. DD agreed.

With many questions still to answer about ‘best practice’, DD suggested the Dog Warden could, perhaps, be a good person to talk to. PS marked an action to invite him/her to a future SCC meeting.

Moving on to the Police Report – See Appendix 1. DD ran through the report compiled by Donald King. Mention was made of a disturbance at a local licenced premises (arrest made), damage to a vehicle and fence (enquiries on-going), RTC in June (drink driving arrest made). DD stressed to be vigilant about door step salesmen and advises against engaging with any cold callers e.g. tarmac and driveway work. He also mentioned there is a known individual operating through an Organised Crime Gang stealing agricultural machinery. The Local Police are targeting him specifically and hopeful of an eventual arrest.

PS thanked DD for his time at which point he left the meeting.

PS

<p>6.Ongoing Business / Enquiries Made – PS confirmed he is still waiting for confirmation of when the new speed sign will be installed near the play park. No date given yet. Speeding issues outside Forest Hills remain a problem and everyone was reminded to ‘Report it’, even if you don’t have the car registration number. Nothing will be done until the Health and Safety (roads) have sufficient data.</p>	
<p>7. Stirling Council update – EW confirmed that not much is happening as the Council is in summer recess at the moment. They return back at the same time as the schools. Work does carry on in the background but other than a recent councillor resignation (Brian Flannagan) resulting in a by election in Oct/Nov, there is nothing much to report.</p> <p>Work carries on collating the Visitor Levy feedback following the recent public consultation. On a personal note, she has been busy attending various Highland Games, the most recent being Bridge of Allan, with another one next week. Always a good day out. She also mentioned the VJ Celebration coming up on 26th August at Stirling Castle with all welcome to attend.</p>	
<p>8. Matters Arising -No matters arising and members of the public left at this point.</p>	
<p>9. Treasurers Report – See Appendix 2 . Available funds as at 7th August amount to £4248 after various administrative expenses, business hub membership and bank charges. £100 is ringfenced for Strathard Framework Minute Secretary payment following contributions from Framework partners. CC mentioned, via email, that she has completed and submitted the admin/minute taker grant applications to Stirling Council for the up-coming year. The bank account is finally switched over to an online accounting version which will make things easier for payments in the future with less need for cheque writing.</p>	
<p>10/11. Nothing to report from the Flooding Team for this month.</p>	
<p>12. Strathard Community Trust update (SCT) – OG has kindly offered to be the link with SCT and will keep SCC up to date with everything going on there. The main thing to report this month is that Kate Bovill is still working her notice period which will expire on Sept 1st. She has kindly agreed to continue providing 1 day/month to help with various admin functions. The Trust is applying for funding in order to recruit a replacement Development Officer but, so far, have been unsuccessful. They have been advised to keep applying (every 3 months) and there is discussion about offering a temporary post to be paid from existing funds in the meantime. Nothing decided yet.</p> <p>There is good dialogue with the manager of the new Cobbs shop who remain supportive for any Community initiatives going forward. Aberfoyle Book Festival is happening 10- 12th October and SCT are looking for extra funding for that. Also looking to fund a Promotional Video. EW advised an approach to Visit Scotland and/or Rural Network Scotland and to call Stirling Council Economic Development Dept. OG noted her advice. SCT AGM is end of September.</p>	

<p>13.FLS – nothing to report / LLTNPA – See Appendix 4. PS has received a report from Gordon Watson which he read out. It was mainly about various visitor pressures that remain challenging in specific areas around The Park e.g. Luss. There has been some aggressive behaviour towards Park Rangers which is totally unacceptable. The National Park Youth Committee have set up an Instagram Channel to engage the younger generation with all the fabulous things LLTNPA has to offer. Mention made of the Trossachs Explorer being back in service and operating from Drymen. The issue of camping permits continues to be dependant on the weather but there were a couple of weeks in July with full bookings. Water Safety events continue. Reference was also made about the recent Scottish Government decision regarding the Lomond Banks Planning application. A very strongly worded letter has been sent to Government outlining the LLTNPA Board's serious concerns about the whole process.</p>	
<p>14. Life Plans – JK reported that a meeting has finally been arranged on 26th August with the three life plan partners i.e. Mark David, Wendy Fawkner and Joyce Kelly. It is important to ensure the Life Plans are working together to ensure they are included in the overall Local Development Plan. JK will report back, as appropriate.</p>	
<p>15. Planning – See Appendix 3. There were 7 new planning applications during the period which are detailed in the report attached. Probably the most significant one relates to 20 affordable housing units in Braeval. The housing is much needed so expect it to have SCC support. However, this is at a very early 'first' stage and it is only after this stage that RSHA will move forward to fundraising for it.</p>	
<p>17. AOCB – NS asked about the Kinlochard Playpark following the recent survey that went out. PS confirmed that no feedback has come back yet but once it does they will press ahead to action any findings.</p>	
<p>18. Close- PS declared the meeting closed and confirmed the next meeting to be on 4th September at Aberfoyle Memorial Hall.</p>	

Appendix 1 – Police Report
Appendix 2- Treasurers Report
Appendix 3 – Planning Report
Appendix 4 – LLTNPA Report

Minute Taker (HS)

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



**Community
Council:**

Trossachs and Teith Ward,
Strathard Community Council
hello@ccstrathard.org

**Reporting
Period:**

03/06/25 to 05/08/25 Compiled by PC Donald King

**Ward Plan
Priorities**

Antisocial Behaviour

You are concerned about antisocial behaviour including drunken behaviour.

On 28/07/25 a disturbance was reported at a local licenced premises. Police attended and one male was arrested and charged with assault and vandalism. He is the subject of a report to the Procurator Fiscal.

Overnight 21/07 – 22/07/25 two vehicles and a fence were vandalised in the Aberfoyle area. Enquiries are on going in relation to this damage.

On the 22/07/25 a report was received from a hotel in the Aberfoyle area of an assault. The person responsible had left prior to Police attendance and enquiries are ongoing.

Road Safety

You are concerned about speeding, dangerous driving and indiscriminate parking.

On 13/06/25 an RTC occurred on the A81 at Braeval. Police attended and found the driver of the vehicle to be under the influence of alcohol. One male was arrested for drink driving and found to be 3 times the legal limit. A report is being submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.

Theft

You are concerned about homes being broken into and travelling criminals.

There have been no thefts reported during this time.

Police Service of Scotland Community Council Report



Community Engagement and Reassurance

It is important to you to have community officers who you know, who are accessible and who address local problems.

If anyone has any policing issues that they wish to discuss, please contact us at Callander Police Office on 101 or email TrossachsTeithCPT@scotland.police.uk

Other Incidents / Activity of note

There have been reports during this time of persons attending addresses with “spare tarmac” offering to carry out work on drives. We have also had reported Frauds in the wider area of persons attending offering to carryout gardening work, taking money and not completing the work.

We would advise against engaging with any cold callers offering to carry out work. We would point people to the Trading Standards Scotland Webpage which has excellent advice in relation to doorstep scammers.

[Doorstep Scammers - Trading Standards Scotland](#)

Issues raised

Community Council Feedback

The Community Officers for your area are: PC Donald King and PC Lorna Deans, based at Callander Police Station.

The Community Sergeant for the area is PS David Dempster, based at Callander Police Station.

They can be contacted via the email address TrossachsTeithCPT@scotland.police.uk or by phoning 101
We regularly publish information on the ‘Forth Valley Police’ Facebook page and tweet using @StirlingPol

Strathard Community Council – Bank account balance for meeting 7th August 2025

	£	£
<u>General Fund opening Bank balance 30th April 2025</u>		<u>4683.42</u>
Monies out		
Microsoft word / Mailchimp		(75.69)
Minute secretary May		(50.00)
Bank account charges May		(6.25)
Minute secretary June (OGM/AGM)		(60.00)
Microsoft . Mailchimp May		(42.44)
Kinlochard village hall 2025/26		(20.00)
Strathard businesshub membership Oct 2024 – Sept 25)		(120.00)
Bank services charges June		(5.25)
Bank services charges June		(5.25)
Monies in		
Strathard Framework minute secretary (LL NPA contribution)	50.00	
<u>General Fund closing Bank balance 30th July 2025</u>		<u>4348.54</u>
Strathard Framework minute secretary (ring fenced)		
(LL NPA contribution 50.00, SCC contribution 50.00)	100.00	
<u>Available Funds</u>		<u>4248.54</u>

Strathard Community Council

Weekly Planning Lists for June and July 2025

Applications:

2025/0192/PPP Erection of 20 no. affordable dwellinghouses and flats (12 no. houses and 8 no. flats), access road and associated infrastructure|Land To West Of Braeval Farm Aberfoyle Stirling FK8 3UY

WK 30

Ref No 2025/0185/NOT Officer Amanda Muller Date Valid 22 July 2025 Telephone 01389 727721
Proposal Works for the restoration of peatland Location Land North Of Ben Lomond West Of Loch Lomond And East Of Loch Chon Beinn Dhubh, Leacainn Bhan And Windy Hill Applicant Mr William Anderson Comer Farm Ltd C/O Managed Estates, The Old Laundry Touch Business Centre Touch Road Stirling FK8 3AQ Agent Guy Cole Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Authority Carrochan Carrochan Road Balloch G83 8EG Application Type Prior Notification Expected Decision Level DEL National Park Ward 2 Breadalbane and The Trossachs Community Council Area Strathard CC National Grid co-ordinates 238788 E 705365 N Advertisement Type

Ref No 2025/0193/NOT Officer Amanda Muller Date Valid 11 July 2025 Telephone 01389 727721
Proposal Construction of forest road and formation of borrow pit Location Ledard Forest NGR - NN 4560 0318 Lochard Road Applicant Mr James Rainey 68 Maghera Street Kilrea BT51 5QL Agent Indre Trunce Scottish Woodlands Ltd Ruthvenfield Road Inveralmond Industrial Estate Perth PH1 3EE Application Type Prior Notification Expected Decision Level DEL National Park Ward 2 Breadalbane and The Trossachs Community Council Area Strathard CC National Grid co-ordinates 245597 E 703121 N Advertisement Type

WK 29

Ref No 2025/0191/HAE Officer Jack Riggs Date Valid 10 July 2025 Telephone 01389 722620
Proposal Replacement of single storey extension Location Avon Dhu Falls Lochard Road Milton Applicant Mr Pat Gilbride Avon Dhu Falls Lochard Road Milton Aberfoyle FK8 3TF Agent Gerald Haggarty 17 Langmuir Avenue Kirkintilloch Glasgow G66 2JQ Application Type Householder Planning Permission Expected Decision Level DEL National Park Ward 2 Breadalbane and The Trossachs Community Council Area Strathard CC National Grid co-ordinates 250213 E 701327 N Advertisement Type

WK23

Ref No 2025/0135/DET Officer Amanda Muller Date Valid 3 June 2025 Telephone 01389727721
Proposal Construction of 5 sections of forestry ATV track Location Land To North Of Achray Forest Aberfoyle Applicant Ms Helena McHugh Forestry and Land Scotland Aberfoyle Office Aberfoyle FK8 3UX Agent Application Type Detailed Planning Permission Expected Decision Level DEL National Park Ward 2 Breadalbane and The Trossachs Community Council Area Strathard CC National Grid co-ordinates 253011 E 703723 N Advertisement Type

Ref No 2025/0155/HAE Officer Amanda Muller Date Valid 22 May 2025 Telephone 01389727721
Proposal Erection of single storey rear extension and dormer window Location 13 Queens
Crescent Aberfoyle Stirling Applicant Mr Mark Johnston 13 Queens Crescent Aberfoyle Stirling
FK8 3UP Agent Lex Wardrop 11 Pine Court Doune Stirling FK16 6JE Application Type
Householder Planning Permission Expected Decision Level DEL National Park Ward 2
Breadalbane and The Trossachs Community Council Area Strathard CC National Grid co-
ordinates 252542 E 700946 N Advertisement Type

Ref No 2025/0143/NOT Officer Amanda Muller Date Valid 6 May 2025 Telephone 01389727721
Proposal Construction of 380 metres of forestry ATV access track Location Land West Of
Southern 4-span Aqueduct Duchray Valley Duchray Road Aberfoyle Applicant Mr Andrew
Malcolm Forestry and Land Scotland Central Region, Aberfoyle Office Aberfoyle Stirling FK8 3UX
Agent Application Type Prior Notification National Park Ward 2 Breadalbane and The Trossachs
Community Council Area Strathard CC National Grid Co-ordinates 246501 E 698670 N Date
Decision Issued 4 June 2025 Decision Prior approval not required

Approvals:

WK 31

Ref No 2024/0239/HAE Officer Amanda Muller Date Valid 26 August 2024 Telephone
01389727721 Proposal Alteration and extension to dwelling Location Blairuskin Beg Aberfoyle
Stirling Applicant Mrs Gillian Foster Blairuskin Beg Kinlochard Aberfoyle Stirlingshire FK8 3TR
Agent Claire Gibbons T Square-Architects Castlevue Steuart Road Bridge Of Allan Stirling FK9
4JX Application Type Householder Planning Permission National Park Ward 2 Breadalbane and
The Trossachs Community Council Area Strathard CC National Grid Co-ordinates 243754 E
702974 N Date Decision Issued 30 July 2025 Decision Approve

WK 27

Ref No 2025/0064/DET Officer Nicola Arnott Date Valid 11 April 2025 Telephone 01389 722661
Proposal Change of use of land to garden ground Location Land West Of Stronachlachar
Cottage Stronachlachar Aberfoyle Applicant Mr Paul Rowland 19 Broad Mead Avenue Great
Denham Bedford MK40 4SA Agent Application Type Detailed Planning Permission National Park
Ward 2 Breadalbane and The Trossachs Community Council Area Strathard CC National Grid
Co-ordinates 240250 E 710262 N Date Decision Issued 4 July 2025 Decision Approve

WK 24

Ref No 2025/0014/DET Officer Nicola Arnott Date Valid 27 February 2025 Telephone 01389
722661 Proposal Change of use from Class 9 (houses) to Class 7 (hotels and hostels) Location
Crannaig House Trossachs Road Aberfoyle Applicant Mr Shaun Barlow Crannaig House
Trossachs Road Aberfoyle FK8 3SR Agent Application Type Detailed Planning Permission
National Park Ward 2 Breadalbane and The Trossachs Community Council Area Strathard CC
National Grid Co-ordinates 252105 E 701109 N Date Decision Issued 11 June 2025 Decision
Approve

Ref No 2025/0118/LBC Date Valid 22 April 2025 Proposal Officer Jack Riggs Telephone 01389
722620 Reinstatement of lime harling to west elevation Location Dun Dubh Lochard Road
Aberfoyle Applicant Mr Philip Lynch Dun Dubh Lochard Road Aberfoyle FK8 3TJ Application Type
National Park Ward Listed Building Consent Agent 2 Breadalbane and The Trossachs

Community Council Area Strathard CC National Grid Co-ordinates 248271 E 701545 N Date
Decision Issued 17 June 2025 Decision Approve

None

Withdrawals:

None

Refusals:

None

Enforcement Matters:

None

Appeals:

None

Overdue Applications

Application Number 2023/0366/75A Development Proposed : Application to discharge a planning obligation related to planning permission ref. no. S/99/00969/DET Location: Gartnerichnich Aberfoyle Stirling FK8 3TP Applicant: Mr James Bradshaw Agent's Name: Michael Hyde Agent's Company Name: Michael Hyde Agent's Address: 63 West Princes Street Helensburgh G84 8BN Date Application Valid: 18 October 2023 Date of expiry of period for representations: n/a

Application Number 2025/0105/HAE Development Proposed : Conversion of garage and cellar; erection of 2 no. dormer extensions with terraces and erection of raised deck Location: Campbells Croft Aberfoyle Stirling FK8 3TL Applicant: Mrs Rebecca Rowthorn Agent's Name: Simon Martin Agent's Company Name: Simon Martin Agent's Address: 15 Candleriggs Glasgow G1 1TQ Date Application Valid: 9 May 2025 Date of expiry of period for representations: 3 June 2025

National park report 7/08/25

recent visitor management pressures

Following an extremely busy weekend due to warm weather conditions, Gordon Watson issued a statement this week thanking the majority of visitors who enjoyed the National Park responsibly and safely.

Despite considerable efforts in place to manage very high visitor numbers, unfortunately our teams encountered challenging conditions, particularly at popular locations including Milarrochy Bay, Luss and Balloch. Our teams, working alongside Police Scotland and Local Authorities dealt with high numbers of irresponsible and illegal parking, littering, water safety incidents, as well as numerous byelaw infractions.

Unfortunately, Gordon did have to address that our National Park Rangers faced completely unacceptable aggressive behaviour from some members of the public while carrying out their duties to protect both people and the environment. And he stated that this behaviour towards our staff and the staff of our partner agencies is entirely unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

[Read Gordon's full statement](#) and our advice to visitors.

National Park Youth Committee

The [Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Youth Committee](#) have taken their next exciting step: **launching their own Instagram channel** – created by them, managed by them, and designed to inspire other young people to care, connect and get involved in celebrating and protecting our National Park.

They have already been sharing a mix of content including insights as to what being a YC member involves, from working on key areas and with our Board and staff members, to how they personally connect with nature, as part of recently launched [Nature Connections campaign](#). Follow their journey on Instagram [@lomondtrossachsyouth](#)

The Trossachs Explorer

The Trossachs Explorer is back on the road and in its first week operating, the service has transported hundreds of passengers to places in the National Park usually only accessible by car.

Running until 5th October, this year's expanded service draws on extensive feedback and evaluation from 2024, when 91% of surveyed passengers said they would use the shuttle bus again. New improvements include an extension to the route, now starting from Drymen, better connections to existing public transport services, new local operator McColls, and more accessible buses.

More information about The Trossachs Explorer, including timetables, prices and route details, is available on [here](#).

And if you use the service, please don't forget to share your feedback [by completing this survey](#) to help us learn what works when it comes to providing more sustainable, accessible transport options in the National Park.

Read the full [blog](#) here to find out more.

Visitor Management update

Digital visitor management work

The Visitor Operations team along with the Ranger Service have been working on a digital project that came from the Explore Outdoors [CivTech 6 challenge](#), which asks - "How do we better plan, manage and respond to the experiences of visitors and communities at visitor hotspots in rural and remote locations?"

In response, a web-based map was developed for the National Park showing real-time data such as footfall, car parks, and weather. This allows us to:

- Anticipate demand and planning for future visitor numbers
- React to sudden increases in visitor numbers
- Reduce irresponsible behaviours
- Monitor trends and the impact of interventions to support investment planning
- Encourage responsible visitor behaviour by educating visitors as to where to park, where to visit, check car park busyness and more
- Assist with digital communications to stakeholders
- Enable organisations to participate in data-driven knowledge sharing across the sector.

The public-facing map went live last summer, providing information for visitors on where, when and how to visit. This draws information from sensors and data sources along with data fed in by National Park Rangers, resulting in a game-changing tool for reviewing activity, understanding visitor patterns, deploying resources and making decisions on managing visitor pressures.

This project is a partnership between the National Park Authority, Interface, Perth and Kinross Council, Stirling Council, The Scottish Government, Censis, Scottish Local Government Digital Office and Whereverly.

This project was nominated and has gone on to be shortlisted for the [Scottish Thistle Award](#) for Innovation.

Camping

As expected, permit and campsite occupancy rates are very much dependant on the weather. The recent improvement in the weather, and schools finishing up for the summer break, has seen a rise in camping numbers, particularly last weekend when we were at capacity across almost all permit areas and campsites.

The group application process has seen the busiest year to date. 34 applications were provided permits and/or pitches to camp throughout June and a further 7 applications into July. These allow DofE, Scouts, schools, and social inclusion groups the opportunity to get out into nature.

Ranger service

We have continued our pop-up water safety events, with our next engagement being the World Drowning Prevention Day at on Friday 25th July at Lomond Shores. These events provide a good opportunity for the National Park Authority to work closely with partners to deliver water safety messaging.

Preparation has begun for the fifth [Go Swim](#) Event taking place on Saturday 30th August. The event will again use The Duncan Memorial Slipway. Go Swim is a fantastic platform for swimmers of all ages and abilities to try or improve their outdoor swimming skills in a safe environment.

So far this season, Rangers have engaged with over 2000 people whilst patrolling, and they continue to promote and encourage responsible behaviour, and offer water and fire safety advice. Unfortunately they have also taken details from 160 people in contravention of the Camping Byelaws and had to remove over 350 bags of litter.

Lomond Banks

The NP received a procedure notice from the Scottish Government Division for Planning and Environmental Appeals. Given this stated procedure is most unusual and does not follow normal practice when Scottish Ministers call in a planning appeal for determination and having consulted with the NP's board convenor and vice convenor, and having taken legal advice from Anderson Strathern – Gordon Watson has written to the Scottish Government Chief Planner to set out, in the strongest terms, our significant concerns regarding the inherent unfairness on how the latest process has been set out.

Gordon has received an acknowledgement from the Chief Planner and will continue to keep Board Members informed of further developments.