

Balloch Castle Country Park Regeneration Group
Members Meeting Thursday 9/5/24 - 7pm
Balloch House Hotel

Present: Sally, Audrey, Cat, Matt, Gillian, Karon B, Heather, Angela,
Ross Pollock, LLTNP, Tourism Advisor.

Apologies: Maurice

Previous minutes proposed Cat, seconded Matt.

WDC/BCCPRG Partnership Meeting

Our draft Partnership Agreement is still with WDC's Legal Dept, minor changes to be made to wording, Ian Bain will chase this up.

A joint venture with CHAS was discussed, eg Coffee shop, Art Project.

WDC could access funding to have the North Lodge made wind and watertight if CHAS could access funding for the interior restoration, estimated at £150,000. Possible uses for NL to be explored.

National Lottery Awards for All Scotland - National Lottery Community Fund could cover work with CHAS eg Art project.

BCCPRG are meeting with Ian Bain, WDC Greenspace Manager and Michelle Lynn, WDC Assets Officer on Thursday 23/5/24 in the Park to identify small projects we could be involved in.

Gillian Neil, WDC Biodiversity Officer is organising a Biodiversity Event on 15/6/24 for Community projects in the area.

A Changing Places toilet is to be installed at the Bus Stance toilets.

Matt has started work on a BCCPRG Action Plan which will be discussed further at the next Trustees meeting.

EFTEC/Natural Capital Accounting

Sally provided feedback on a Teams meeting held between BCCPRG, WDC and Duncan Royle from EFTEC (Economics for the Environment). They would place a value on everything in the Park, natural, built and including visits to the Park. It is hoped once a total value is placed on the Park we could use this to attract investors. Duncan is interested in visiting the Park.

Sally raised her desire to see LLTNP Rangers in the Park to discourage anti social behaviour and to have a role in educating visitors about the Park.

Ross will introduce us to the person responsible for developing the Balloch Park App.

Once the Partnership Agreement is signed we could approach the Volunteer Coordinator at LLTNP to discuss a Ranger presence and volunteering opportunities for the Park.

Ross will contact David Adams McGilp, Visit Scotland to discuss Balloch Park. We will forward David's feedback following his visit to the Park last year to Ross. Ross is happy to attend future meetings with us.

Audrey suggested we call a meeting with all our partners to brainstorm business/ income generating opportunities.

LLTNP to open discussion with Education Depts about bringing children to Balloch Park instead of busing them to Balmaha. Balloch Park could be a Centre of Nature Excellence.

Sally will contact Leigh Hamilton @ LLTNP concerning the removal of the final abandoned boat at Monkey Island.

Could carriages of trains travelling to Balloch be enhanced to show off Loch Lomond.

Date of next meeting Thursday 6/6/24 (Trustees)