

29<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Loch Lomond & Trossachs National Park Authority  
National Park Headquarters  
20 Carrochan Road  
Balloch G83 8EG

Dear Sir or Madam

### **Proposed Local Development Plan**

Ramblers Scotland welcomes the opportunity to comment on the proposed Local Development Plan. We have confined our comments to one specific aspect of the plan, that is the Visitor Experience Planning Guidance (VEP) and its policy on campsite development, with reference to the Your Park proposals for a camping development plan to guide the creation of new camping facilities in the park.

We acknowledge that the local development plan process has been ongoing for a period of time, while the camping development plan referred to in the Your Park proposals may be being prepared by another team. However, there appears to be a lack of connection between the VEP and the Your Park proposals, and therefore we are objecting to the proposed local development plan on the following grounds.

The terms used to define the different types of campsites to be considered within the VEP do not appear to be the same as those in the Your Park recommendations. For example, the VEP refers to formal, semi-formal and informal sites, while the Your Park proposals refer to basic informal campsites based on permits, and informal sites such as Salloch which has water, toilets, litter bins and parking facilities. The Salloch-style campsite would not appear to fit with the informal or semi-formal definitions within the VEP given that semi-formal campsites as described do not necessarily have permanent toilet facilities or water. We therefore would like to see the VEP and camping development plan developed in tandem with clear links between the two processes.

In addition, in the VEP, one of the planning conditions states that campsites would only be able to operate between 1 March and 31 October, which we find surprising. If there is demand for camping, we would anticipate that campsite operators may wish to have the option of being open all year round. For example, we note that many campsites in the Lake District, including two of the campsites operated by the National Trust, are open all year.

We would be happy to discuss this matter further at your convenience.

Yours faithfully

Helen Todd  
Campaigns & Policy Manager

Ramblers Scotland is the representative body for walkers in Scotland and recognised by **sportscotland** as a governing body of sport. Our charitable aims are to promote walking, secure and facilitate access to land, and to protect the countryside. We have around 6,500 members in Scotland and 55 local walking groups, all run by volunteers.

**President:** Dr Andrew Murray  
**Convener:** James Lawson  
**Director:** Jess Dolan