



John Urquhart  
Vice Chair  
Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs  
Carrochan  
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G83 8EG

February 22nd 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning Application Ref 2020/0260/DET Trossachs Pier: Formation of new footpath and installation of two lookout structures**

On behalf of the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs I am writing to confirm our strong support for this application which involves reinstating and upgrading an historic path and constructing scenic lookouts to enable visitors to once again enjoy extensive views of Loch Katrine and sites so vividly described and popularised by the writings of Sir Walter Scott in his Lady of the Lake poem in 1810. The former path and scenic lookout were enjoyed by many generations of visitors for over 150 years until they fell into disrepair and became overgrown in the 1980s.

It is important to note this project involves the reinstatement of a long established footpath and therefore is not a new footpath as suggested in the application heading on the planning portal. There is an important distinction and hopefully this will be taken fully into account in the planning appraisal. We note this site is part of an SSSI but given the existence of a more extensive path network in this area for a long time and the contained nature of the short stretch of path (188m) being reinstated and the scenic lookouts constructed on 'light touch' steel frames, we believe the environmental impact will be low and this is confirmed in the vegetation, habitat, bat, tree and topography and visual impact surveys and reports commissioned by the applicant from environmental and natural heritage specialists.

We support this application as the proposals:

- accord with the 4 aims of the National Park and, in particular, the aim to promote and encourage the enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public;
- help to realise the visitor experience strand of the vision for the National Park which is detailed in various Park policy documents as being to ensure the Park delivers '*a high quality, authentic experience for visitors, with many opportunities to appreciate and enjoy the natural and cultural heritage.*'
- are in line with many of the policies in the Partnership Plan, Local Development Plan and the draft Outdoor Recreation Plan;
- have been carefully designed and will be constructed in sensitive ways (for example, the use of a helicopter to transport materials /hand building of path) to minimise and contain the environmental and visual impacts-importantly no trees require to be felled either;
- provide an easily accessible and safe alternative to the steep and higher Ben A'an to enable visitors to enjoy stunning views of Loch Katrine and the Trossachs
- contribute positively to wider Trossachs visitor management efforts;
- the proposals have strong community support;
- the path and scenic lookouts will be well managed and supervised by the Steamship Trust who we understand will have staff undertaking regular daily patrols including litter clearance and positive interaction with visitors to help them appreciate the special qualities of the area. This will be supported by well designed site interpretation and responsible visitor messaging.



We commend this sensitively designed proposal which will result in a historic path being reinstated in a confined area along with the creation of scenic lookouts which are in line with the National Scenic Routes initiative promoted by the National Park for a number of years. This scheme will also help safeguard over 40 jobs at the Steamship Company which is one of the largest employers in the Trossachs.

Yours sincerely,

John Urquhart  
Vice Chair  
Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs