

Cairngorms Capercaillie Project

Carrbridge Capercaillie Community Working Group | Meeting notes

Date & time: Wed 24 July, 6.30pm – 8pm

Venue: Cairn Hotel

Attendees: Carrbridge Capercaillie Community Working Group; Alice Buttress, Anna Ronayne, Becky Badger, Ewan Archer, Fiona Angela, Issie Inglis. Cairngorms Capercaillie Project staff; Carolyn Robertson, Ellie Ames, Emma Rawling.

Apologies: Carrbridge Capercaillie Community Working Group; Charlie Miller, Frank Law, Justin Prigmore, Martyn O'Reilly. Cairngorms Capercaillie Project staff; Molly Doubleday.

- The group discussed the interviews which took place on 17 July to recruit an external facilitator to enable Carrbridge residents to create their own community-led action plan to help capercaillie around the village. The tender was advertised on the Public Contracts Scotland website. All submissions were shortlisted by the group who also formed the majority of the interview panel alongside Carolyn, the Project Manager and Debbie Greene (SNH), a member of the Project Board. The group were unanimous in their decision to offer the contract to Dr Alistair Bath and Monica Engel (Bath & Associates). The National Lottery Heritage Fund granted permission to appoint. Alistair and Monica have accepted the offer and will begin working with residents week beginning 5 August. The group agreed to update residents immediately and initially via a news post on the project website (cairngormscapercaillie.scot) and in the coming weeks via the August edition of Carrbridge Capercaillie News.
- The group discussed the Carrbridge Community Ranger role between the two phases of the project (Development & Delivery Phase). The group agreed that the role was important and if the community decided that Carrbridge should have a Ranger as part of the community's action plan to help capercaillie, then a Ranger should always be in post. The group noted that having a Ranger in post during the lekking season next spring was of particular importance to help protect the local capercaillie from disturbance during this critical time of year.
- The group discussed their contribution to the project as volunteers. As a project funder, LEADER are keen to acknowledge this contribution. To date volunteers, including all members of the Community Working Group, have contributed over 800 hours of their time to the project.
- Two new Project Scotland volunteer placements are now available for 16-30 year olds. Starting in August the placements offer young people the chance to learn a wide range of skills looking after their local wildlife and engaging people with the nature on their doorstep. The 13 week placements involve working each Friday from 10am to 4pm with the Carrbridge Community Ranger, Emma. For more information please contact Emma on 07773 475559 or emmarawling@cairngorms.co.uk
- Ewan updated the group on the achievements of 25 Scouts who've recently been camped at Sluggan. Working with Ewan the group helped to mark a number of local fences to help avoid capercaillie colliding with them.
- The next working group meeting is Thursday 8 August, 6.30pm - 8pm. Please contact any member of the working group if you'd like to join the meeting or contact Carolyn on 07967 762015 or carolynrobertson@cairngorms.co.uk