**Camping Byelaws update**

As we are approaching the end of the first season of the new camping byelaws (30th September), we wanted to take the opportunity to provide a short update on how the season has gone so far.

Since the byelaws were introduced on 1st March, the Park Authority has been gathering feedback through online surveys sent to everyone who books a permit and through on the ground engagement with visitors, communities and partner organisations.

Camping permit surveys have received a strong response rate, and show that 86% of respondents would recommend staying in one of the new permit areas and 93% found it easy to buy a permit.

The Park Authority’s Rangers are on the whole experiencing a positive response from visitors to the Camping Management Zones with the vast majority adhering to the new byelaws, with fewer abandoned campsites and irresponsible fire-lighting.

Community feedback is also invaluable and we are pleased to hear from some communities noting changing attitudes and increases in day visitors.

As with any new system there have been snagging issues and some negative feedback which we continue to work hard to address and use to inform improvements both this season and as we plan for 2018. This has included improving signage and information on our website and online booking system to make things clearer for visitors, as well as improvements on the ground at some permit areas and some pitches at our new campsite at Loch Chon.

As part of our commitment to providing more options for camping in the National Park we are currently progressing plans for a proposed new campsite on the Three Lochs Forest Drive near Loch Achray.

The campsite will be a small, informal site, with a total of 17 camping pitches, two of which will be fully accessible pitches. The site will complement the existing informal campsite options at Loch Lubnaig and Loch Chon and the Forestry Commission Scotland campsite at Sallochy on East Loch Lomond. We have provided the relevant local communities and businesses with details about our proposals.

We thank you for your support this year and welcome your feedback as we work towards next season.

If you would like more information or have any questions please contact yourpark@lochlomond-trossachs.org