



# MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO YOUR NATIONAL PARK MEMBERS ELECTION 2010



Residents of the National Park will elect five members of the National Park Authority Board by postal ballot with the count taking place on 1 July. The returning officer for the election is Bob Jack, Chief Executive of Stirling Council, who will organise the nominations and the election on behalf of the National Park Authority. The covering letter gives more detail on the timetable and how you can make sure you are eligible to vote.

## THE NATIONAL PARK

Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park was set up in July 2002 under the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000. It covers 1,865 square kilometres (720 square miles) of some of the most spectacular scenery in Scotland within easy travelling distance for around 80% of Scotland's population. A favourite place for all kinds of outdoor activity and habitat for an impressive array of plants and animals, some rare or unique, it is also home for more than 15,000 people and a source of livelihood for many others.

Parts of Argyll & Bute, Stirling, West Dunbartonshire and Perth & Kinross Council areas are included within the National Park boundary.

## NATIONAL PARK AIMS

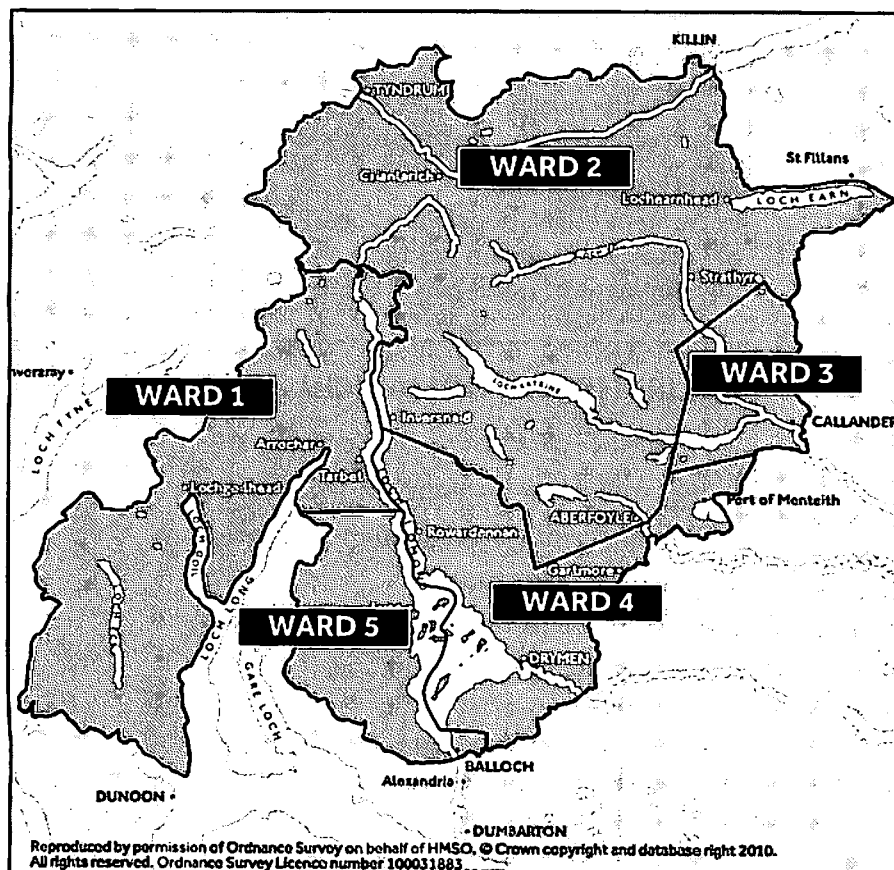
The National Park has four aims:

- To conserve and enhance the natural and cultural heritage of the area.
- To promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area.
- To promote public understanding and enjoyment (including enjoyment in the form of recreation) of the special qualities of the area.
- To promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities.

The Park Authority's purpose is to deliver these aims in a collective and co-ordinated way. When there is a conflict between any of the aims then the first must take precedence.

The Park Authority will achieve these aims through three main areas of work:

- Conservation
- Visitor Experience
- Rural Development



## The National Park Authority

The National Park Authority is a non-departmental public body (NDPB), funded by the Scottish Government. Its Board has 25 members: 10 appointed directly by Scottish Ministers, 10 appointed by Ministers from nominations made by the four local authorities and five elected by the people living in the park. The total number of board members will be reduced in October 2010 but there will still be five locally elected members.

The Park Authority is the access Authority under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. It is also the Planning Authority, responsible for decisions on development management and for preparing a local plan. A finalised draft local plan is under public consultation until 6 April. It is responsible for the Loch Lomond Byelaws that regulate boating activity on Loch Lomond and is consulting on byelaws to restrict informal camping in an area along east Loch Lomond.

In 2007, the Authority published the first Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park Plan, with participation from the local authorities, communities and the many public sector and voluntary partner organisations working in the area. This plan gives strategic direction over a five-year period, set in a longer-term vision for the care of the National Park. It is the main mechanism for co-ordinating the achievement of the four National Park aims with all partner organisations.

The Park Authority has a range of functions and powers to undertake the management of activities in the area. These include the power to:

- Enter into management agreements
- Make byelaws
- Employ rangers
- Provide grants and other assistance.

Around 130 staff are employed by the Authority. Most are housed in a new award-winning building in Balloch that has the largest green timber frame in the UK. Others, including the largest Ranger Service in Scotland, are based in local offices in Callander, Lochearnhead, Balmaha, Luss and Sandbank.

## Role of National Park Board Members

The Board meets regularly to make strategic decisions about how the Authority fulfils its role in delivering the four National Park aims. Individual members will also get involved in other activities, such as:

- Achieving the Park Authority's objectives of conservation, visitor experience and rural development
- Taking decisions on planning and development management and access
- Financial monitoring
- Representing the National Park Authority externally
- Acting as champions for the Park and the Authority
- Overseeing the development, approval and monitoring of the Corporate and Business Plans
- Contributing to the leadership of the National Park

## Strategic Priorities

Following consultation with Partners, the following strategic priorities have been identified for the Park over the next 2-3 years.

### Conservation

Pilot an alternative model of service for delivering land management support within the National Park as a test bed for Scotland

Ensure the A82 upgrade meets the highest environmental standards and provides a high quality visitor experience.

### Visitor Experience

Improve the quality of the public realm in the National Park to encourage private investment and improve the visitor experience.

Improve the quality and consistency of signage in the National Park to improve the visitor's experience of the National Park.

### Rural Development

Implement the National Park Local Plan to improve the range of sustainable tourism products and promote the development of water based transport and tourism.

## FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on the National Park Authority:



**web: [www.lochlomond-trossachs.org](http://www.lochlomond-trossachs.org)**



**email: [info@lochlomond-trossachs.org](mailto:info@lochlomond-trossachs.org)**



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For further information on the election:



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