

## Scottish Outdoor Consortium meeting minutes – 02.06.2020

### Attendees;

Jane Campbell Morrison – Scottish Adventure Activities Forum and Chair of SOC

Ali Dreyer – SAPOE

Alan Rankin – Sail Scotland

Andrew Denton – Outdoor Industry Association UK

Judith McCleary – Scouts Scotland

Judith Young – Scottish Government

Myles Farnbank – SAAF

Neil Wightwick – AHOEC

Nick March – City of Edinburgh Council

Peter Higgins – Edinburgh University

Rebecca Raynes – DofE

Roger Scrutton – Scottish Sports Association Outdoor Pursuits Group

Shaun Roberts – sportscotland

Victoria Brooks – Wild Scotland

### Apologies

Rachel Cowper – Thriving Outdoors

Marc Crothall – Scottish Tourism Alliance

#### 1. Acceptance of the minutes from the last meeting

Agreed that they were acceptable pending the change requested by RS. JCM will change the document and then upload to SOC Basecamp.

#### 2. Organisation updates (COVID-19 progress/ developments)

Andrew D – **OIA UK** – looking to develop a joined up but devolved approach across the UK. Have created a set of guidance for reopening climbing walls and happy to share across home nations. Looking to create an accreditation scheme – COVID safe camping and working with a range of bodies to get this scheme set up. Working with Mike McClure Northern Ireland and Paul Donovan in Wales to share information across borders and avoid duplication of effort. Broad lobbying of DCMS to reduce social distancing guidelines from 2m to 1m. Follow up work underway for individuals and groups with disabilities about COVID and the provision of activity for this part of society.

AD – **SAPOE** - gave an update on a conversation underway with the National Network for Outdoor Learning and their work. There has been a meeting held with Liam Cahill from Scot Gov about the opening of schools and links with outdoor learning. A framework has been shared with that group which has come from the Education Recovery Group, but it seems likely that the whole outdoor sector will be asked to contribute. It is possible that a longer-term outcome may come from this work. JCM asked about the definition of outdoor learning from AD to ensure that the wider outdoor industry is included in the discussions around outdoor learning and its provision across Scotland. MF (**SAAF**) is of the view that outdoor learning takes place across a range of activities, as it is a fundamental part of the outdoor sector. RS gave a bit of history around the question concerning outdoor learning. NW (**AHOEC**) worried that the outdoor learning in the broader aspects may be lost as the framework that has been shared is very focussed on the opening of schools and makes no mention of residential centres or other ways of outdoor provision. Suggested that feedback should be given to Liam Cahill on this topic. JY (**Scottish Gov't**) gave her thoughts on how she intends to bring outdoor learning and adventure tourism together, but there is also a lot of work underway across the Scottish Gov't being produced around COVID and this may result

in some challenges with communication but she is keen to address these gaps and bring together the departments. PH (**Edinburgh University**) gave another perspective on outdoor learning and its history, and suggested that thinking in concentric circles might help – what can be done by teachers in school, what can be done by teachers in the school grounds, what can be done by teachers in local parks, etc etc. He also suggested that COVID has provided a moment that could have a generational impact, which would allow the profile of the outdoors to be raised to a much higher level within education, tourism, health, and the environment.

AR – **Sail Scotland** – indicated that the description of the ‘moment’ was apt and asked about the conversion of the education approach to the delivery of much higher quality sessions for those participating in sessions in the outdoors.

VB – **Wild Scotland** – education in the outdoors is very important and the more young people taking part in the outdoors is not only good for their physical and mental health but also gives them the opportunity to consider the outdoors as a potential career choice. Educational opportunities to show the population of Scotland about conservation and land management must be taken.

JCM asked about sharing the framework document from Liam Cahill, and PH proposed that she should check with Mr Cahill before taking any further steps.

JY – emphasised the need for information and advice to be given to the Scottish Gov’t to ensure that the ‘Coming Back Better’ agenda can be fulfilled. The best information must be shared with the gov’t, and they need to work with others to build capacity and help.

SR – **sportscotland** – gave an update on the work underway with Scottish Governing Bodies of sport in Scotland. Sportscotland have been working hard with SGBs over the last few weeks to help them make sure that their messaging is aligned with the Scottish Gov’t guidance and legislation. A wide range of the outdoor (rural) SGBs along with Scottish Disability Sport meet regularly and work collaboratively to get their communications aligned. The information released from Scottish Gov’t on Phase 1 included reference to sports, and work is now underway to be ready for Phase 2. Some of the SGBs are slightly more fragmented than others, and work is underway to bring all groups in to the dialogue. Information is being shared across Europe and the rest of the work. Work is also underway across related groups, such as Environment, in terms of giving information on the SGB views. It looks likely that a blended learning experience will have to be offered moving forwards within SGBs. Agreed that this is a ‘moment’ and consider that this is an opportunity to look at the future challenges for sport and the outdoors in Scotland. Sportscotland is funded by Scottish Government and the Lottery, and focus has been on supporting jobs in Scotland in sport, with support being given to SGBs in addition to sportscotland. Feels that the national challenge is around outdoor education and how it is perceived in Scottish society. MF (SAAF) asked about the apparent need from Scottish Gov’t to police activity being undertaken, which is a challenge given how many people are not members of the SGB. SR replied that there has been no explicit requirement from the Scottish Gov’t for SGBs to police activities across Scotland. PH supported the comments made by SR and indicated that the sector has such diversity and it would be helpful for the SOC to give a clear message to help the Scottish Gov’t. He also suggested that Scotland was in a better place than many other parts of the world to develop greater access to outdoor learning.

### **3. Moving forwards: frequency of meetings, chair of meetings, minute taking, name of the group**

JCM asked the group to consider several aspects:

- a. the name of the group is a proposed to be Scottish Outdoors Consortium. Agreed that this name was acceptable. SR suggested that the group should retain a dynamic

approach, and a collaborative approach which does not necessarily require minutes or associated administration.

- b. Meeting dates – agreed that next meeting would be 2 weeks' time.
- c. Chair and secretariat – JCM suggested that SAAF retains the secretariat and that should revolve around each organisation. It was agreed that SAAF should continue as both chair and secretariat for the foreseeable future.

#### **4. AOB**

AD raised the Ordnance Survey project that is underway mapping access and activity that people can do in their area. The OIA UK also have access to mailing lists that would allow guidance can be shared from SGBs and rescue organisations should there be any information to be shared.

NM (**City of Edinburgh Council**) raised a point that the residential centres will not be able to survive if more support is not given to them from a range of organisations, but in particular they need to be included in the reopening of schools as part of the framework. AD replied that it had been suggested that the residential aspects of outdoor learning should become part of the Emergency Education Recovery Group to ensure all information was being heard in the same place.

### **Appendix 1 – Zoom Chat from the meeting**

09:04:43 From Alan Rankin : Andrew, can we speak offline regarding 1m work you are doing at UK level?

09:09:31 From Ali Dreyer : excellent info coming out from sca and other outdoor sports

09:09:54 From Jane Campbell Morrison : They have worked v hard!

09:10:52 From Myles Farnbank : SCA have been very active in engaging coach and leadership trainers in developing their guidance.

09:18:02 From Ali Dreyer : great comments Shaun and very true regards outdoor education and engaging with government

09:24:10 From Myles Farnbank : I'm working on a detailed map of the outdoor sector. this has grown arms and legs but I will have a draft ready in the next few days. this will help in understanding the length and breadth of the sector.

09:24:32 From shaun.roberts : at least every 2 weeks

09:26:13 From Ali Dreyer : should that fit into active Scotland site

09:27:04 From shaun.roberts : Andrew - can you share key contact/s on OS project and I can pass on key links to advice

09:27:45 From shaun.roberts : All - meant to say that we have rescue services within the Sportscotland comms network

09:28:32 From shaun.roberts : rescue services...Police Scot, SMR, Coastguard

09:29:15 From Andrew Denton : Very happy to share contact with all and follow up on 1m distance and OS etc...

09:29:27 From Andrew Denton : Andrew.denton@theoia.co.uk

09:30:55 From Neil Wightwick - AHOEC : Need to leave. Thanks Jane

09:31:07 From shaun.roberts : Thanks all