



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

February 22nd 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Planning Application Ref 2020/0250/DET The Pier Tearoom, Stronachlachar: Extension to existing car park

On behalf of the Friends of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs, the independent conservation and heritage charity covering the National Park, I am writing to confirm our support for this application which involves extending the capacity of the car park at this busy visitor hub in a sensitive way and improving visitor facilities for visitors coming to Loch Katrine for boat trips, cycling and walking.

We support this application for the following reasons:

- this is an important visitor hub in the heart of the National Park servicing the needs of a wide range of visitors who want to enjoy the special qualities scenic and outdoor recreation qualities of Loch Katrine and it is essential good quality visitor facilities are available here ;
- we welcome the provision of secure bike parking, a litter recycling point, limited overnight parking and hook ups for campervans and additional car parking as they will make an important contribution to improving visitor management at this remote location;
- the proposals are in line with many of the policies aspirations set out in the Park Partnership Plan, the Local Development Plan and the draft Outdoor Recreation Plan;
- the proposals have strong community support including the support of the Strathard Community Council and a number of other community groups, residents and businesses;
- the environmental impact of the car park extensions will be minimal as they are relatively small scale and include informal parking in a woodland area where no trees are being removed and special care is being taken with the construction method to protect tree roots and drainage;
- additional parking provision will reduce verge parking and improve the flow of traffic on narrow roads at Stronachlachar which has become a problem in recent years with growth in recreational visitors.

We commend the proposals and trust they will be approved by the end of March so that they can benefit from the Trossachs Visitor Management Project funding secured from VisitScotland. Along with the proposals at Trossachs Pier, Ben A'an and the refresh of the Trossachs Trail, this scheme will make a valuable contribution to enhancing the visitor experience and 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

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