

Mountain Bothies Association Response to Consultation on proposed CMNPs.

We have only commented on areas that we feel are pertinent to our remit as bothy maintainers

Chapter 3. Relationship with Town and Country planning.

The area of planning control is that which we are most concerned, as the rebuilding and renovating of bothies may require planning consent from the NPA if they were within the CMNP boundary.

Although we try to rebuild/renovate in the tradition of the original building, in some cases we may need to alter the building in the interests of safety.

The Cairngorm NPA has generally been positive and supportive of the renovation of Corroul bothy in the Lairig Ghru, but there have had some difficulties with both Loch Lomond NPA and the Snowdonia NPA in relation to bothy renovation.

If the first proposed CMNP was to be Argyll Coast and Islands, and Ardnamurchan, Small isles and South Skye Coast, then three or possibly four bothies may come within the park boundary.

On balance, we would prefer planning consent to remain with the Local Planning Authority, with the CMNPAs being the statutory consultees. The first option with the Park Authority as planner and enabler only would be the MBA's preference.

Conservation and recreation management:

There is a potential conflict between conservation and encouraging recreation. More visitors means more infrastructure, including housing, marinas and roads.

Protection of the coastal and marine environment should take precedence over recreational development. Encouraging more people to these wild places may damage the very environment that people have come to see. New developments should be centred around existing settlements and not encroach upon unspoiled wild land.

Only low visual impact development of existing buildings should be permitted.

Stop powers:

The CMNPA should have a last resort "stop" power to prevent potentially damaging developments(as in the Nature Conservation(Scotland) Act 2004.)

Liz Bibby, MBA Trustee 10 January 2007
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