

Highland wide Local Development Plan - Main Issues Report Consultation Summary and Actions Sheet

Reference Number:	HWLDP-MIR-331
Organisation/Individual:	Allotments for Inverness (Comann na Lios') (Andrew Dorin)

Action:

Immediate Response Required	x
Meeting required with Respondent	
Issue for Area Local Development Plan	
Further Information Required	
Other (Please Specify)	

If no box ticked - issues raised will be dealt with in preparation of the Proposed Plan.

Issues Raised in Response:

Purpose of Main Issues Report		Previously used Land	
NPF2 for Scotland		Wild Land	
Vision for the Highlands		Water Environment	
Inverness and A96		Renewable Energy	
The A96 Corridor		Flooding	
Phasing of Development		Waste Management	
Developer Contributions		Air Quality	
East Inverness		Sustainable Design	
Nairn		Business and Industrial Land	
Tornagrain		Accessibility and Transport	
Smaller Settlements in A96		Agricultural Land	
Caithness and North Sutherland		Subdivision of Existing Crofts	
Easter Ross and Nigg		Allocation of Inbye Land	
Development of Local Centres		New Crofting Township	
Wider Countryside and Fragile Areas		Small Scale New Crofts	
Population and Housing		Coastal Development	
Housing in the Countryside		Forestry and Woodland	
Affordable Housing		Minerals	
Planning for an Ageing Population		Open Space and Physical Activity	x
Gypsies/Travellers		Access to the Outdoors	
Retailing		Comments on Consultation Process (+ve)	
Developer Contributions		Comments on Consultation Process (-ve)	x
Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage			

Key:

Background	Spatial Strategy	Policy Options	Consultation
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Notes:

Priority for housing should be balanced with a broader approach
 Allotment provision should be considered in the context of better public and natural space
 Meeting to discuss implementation / monitoring of open space guidance
 Comment with regard to publishing of the MIR online
 Response sent 7/01/10

Action Sheet Completed by:	SH
Date:	07/01/10

Kirsty McCreath

From: Simon Hindson on behalf of devplans
Sent: 07 January 2010 09:17
To: Kirsty McCreath
Subject: FW: Highland-wide Development Plan

Kirsty,

Can you log the below e-mail as a response to the Highland wide Plan and also add the following details to the consultation database.

Organisation - Comann nan Lios
Name - Andy Dorin
Title - Secretary
e-mail -

Thanks

Simon Hindson
Graduate Planner

Planning and Development Services
The Highland Council
Glenurquhart Road
Inverness
IV3 5NX

Telephone 01463 702261

Keep up to date with the progress on the Highland wide Local Development Plan - <http://hwldp.blogspot.com>

-----Original Message-----

From: Andy Dorin [mailto:andy.dorin@comannanlios.org.uk]
Sent: 07 January 2010 08:36
To: devplans
Cc: William Ross - Member; ; 'Cath More'; 'david brown'; Eilidh Macleod; George MacWilliam
Subject: Highland-wide Development Plan

Dear Sir or
Madam

I am writing on behalf of Allotments for Inverness- Comann nan Lios. At our AGM on the 25th November I was asked to write to you to express the Society's concern at the aspects of the Highland-wide plan. The concern that the meeting expressed was that future development did seem to adequately the need for a broader approach to development than simply providing housing, however much this was a priority. Focusing on the development of the A96 corridor, members at the AGM expressed their concerns at the loss of the green wedge which was a feature of earlier development plans. It would be helpful to hear how much you felt the current policies have compromised the green wedge policy -if at all.

To paraphrase one speaker from the floor, Comann nan Lios' primary concern is allotment provision but this has to be in the context of better public and natural space and in encouraging more sustainable development. The economic pressures for development of Inverness mean that there is a very real risk that the one off opportunity of building a sustainable future for Highland is not grasped.

Some years ago the then Council talked of Inverness being the new " Seattle". I am not sure such comparisons are really that meaningful, but the vision was intended to imply not only a city expanding based on sustainable industries but also one that was creating "world-class" development with the retention of a high proportion of greenspace as part of this. The question is whether Inverness is really reflecting this vision.

07/01/2010

Our members' views, which I have tried to capture here, appeared unanimous in the meeting of around 20 people, representing about half our membership, which is a broad cross section of the Inverness community, in terms of education, profession, age, gender and physical ability.

Your consultation also asked about whether an ad hoc approach should be adopted to associated infrastructure, or whether there should be a policy led approach. Our committee has in the past discussed the importance of good planning policy in terms of open and greenspace. It is difficult to see the merits of an *ad hoc* approach if one is taking a longer term view. In addition, it leaves the Council exposed to questions of openness and accusations of corruption which are avoided by a clear framework.

I also wrote to the Director of Planning, Stuart Black, sometime ago asking how the Council was planning to monitor and enforce its openspace guidance with respect to allotments. I think Mr Black's letter said that one of his staff would be coming back to us on this. This was sometime ago and we have not been contacted. Could we perhaps ask you to re-open this matter, which becomes more pressing with these and future development plans? Can we meet to discuss this?

I gather that you are keen to receive comments on this consultation. I recognise the very considerable efforts that the Council has made to involve communities. However, we have been in correspondence with the Council recently both with chief executive and your own department. We would have welcomed an invitation directly to comment, rather than finding out about the plan. An email approach would have been no cost to the Council. We, and other voluntary organisations in Highland, collectively have a wide membership and offer a good if imperfect way of capturing views across Highland. It strikes me that were the Highland Council to produce an informative electronic newsletter on a monthly basis to which one could subscribe, this would complement the Council's web site and allow individuals and organisations to be more aware of services, events, developments and consultations.

Finally, the document itself, while printed as a PDF on the web site was not of a sufficient quality to make the diagrams readable. This renders electronic publishing rather useless in a planning document. There are technical solutions to this, and I urge you to consider addressing these. Relying on people being able to visit Council offices during the day is unrealistic in this day and age.

I know that Highland prides itself as a member-led authority and so I am taking this opportunity to copy this to Ian Ross as chairman of planning and Jimmy Gray as chair of the local planning application committee. I am sure most members of Comann nan Lios understand these issues are difficult for officers and elected members alike. There will always be strong views held across the spectrum. Hopefully it is helpful for them to hear ours. The economic fortunes of the area cannot be ignored, but they are dependent long-term on good planning. The economic crisis of the last two years surely illustrates the folly of following "turning a buck at any cost", and the arguments that our membership expressed, were that although strong, the economic drivers for development, should not mean we ignore other development needs.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Andrew Dorin
Secretary

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