

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

Reference Number:	HWLDP-MIR-81
Organisation/Individual:	Mrs Janetta Christie

Action:

Immediate Response Required	
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	
NPF2 for Scotland	
Vision for the Highlands	
Inverness and A96	
The A96 Corridor	
Phasing of Development	
Developer Contributions	
East Inverness	
Nairn	
Tornagrain	
Smaller Settlements in A96	
Caithness and North Sutherland	x
Easter Ross and Nigg	
Development of Local Centres	
Wider Countryside and Fragile Areas	
Population and Housing	
Housing in the Countryside	
Affordable Housing	
Planning for an Ageing Population	
Gypsies/Travellers	
Retailing	
Developer Contributions	
Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage	

Previously used Land	
Wild Land	
Water Environment	
Renewable Energy	
Flooding	
Waste Management	
Air Quality	
Sustainable Design	
Business and Industrial Land	
Accessibility and Transport	x
Agricultural Land	
Subdivision of Existing Crofts	
Allocation of Inbye Land	
New Crofting Township	
Small Scale New Crofts	
Coastal Development	
Forestry and Woodland	
Minerals	
Open Space and Physical Activity	
Access to the Outdoors	
Comments on Consultation Process (+ve)	
Comments on Consultation Process (-ve)	

Key:

Background	Spatial Strategy	Policy Options	Consultation
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Notes:

Emphasises need to involve young people in the plan. Highlights Caithness issues
 Supports the MIR for recognising the issues facing Caithness
 More transport links with the South are required and more promotion for Caithness as a tourist destination

Action Sheet Completed by:	GW
Date:	8/12/09

95 Pennyland Dr.,
Thurso,
Caithness,
KW14 7PN
05.11.09

Director of Planning
& Development,
The Highland Council,
Inverness,
IV3 5BR

Dear Sir,

Please find enclosed my response
to the "Highland Wide Local Development
plan."

yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

(Mrs.)

Highland Wide Local Development Plan Main Issues Report Nov.'09Response from Janetta Christie, 95 Pennyland Dr., Thurso KW14 7PN

Firstly, may I start by saying that the people of Caithness have recently had the pleasure of a visit from Bill Hewitt, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. He seemed impressed with what he heard and saw as regards work and businesses in this area and sees a "Bright future ahead". However, having just said that, he went on to visit Thurso High School and when he asked the pupils what the Future held for them, their reply was "NOTHING". How sad is that? Something must be done to reverse this pessimistic attitude in young folk. Our youngsters must be encouraged to become positive about themselves and their future. They hear and read of so many work-places closing down and now even their entertainment and social activities declining (e.g. the closing- down of the picture-house and bowling alley,etc.) These young people are the ones who must be remembered, first and foremost, when plans are being made for the future of this area. They must be kept informed of what is being done for everyone, especially them, in this area. We need to provide for them here in order to keep up, as well as increase, the population in this area. There does appear to be available a variety of courses and training-programmes not only for those about to leave school but also for those who are unemployed....many long-term....but it is necessary to have somewhere for them to put those newly gained skills to use! Therefore, places of work are necessary.

Hence, my response refers to the needs of the very far north, especially in answer to 1) Question 8 and 2) Question 28B.

- 1) YES....I agree. I am pleased the new Draft Plan does recognize the important issues facing the far north at this time. It is good to hear of a Partnership approach to addressing the key regeneration issues as those in the various groups living in the area concerned will know what the essential needs and priorities are. I feel, however, Time is of the Essence. Months and months always seem to go by and final decisions are taking a long time in coming. This could lead to other areas gaining and benefiting while we are left behind....thus, missing outas so often happens in some cases. (Eg. New businesses must be encouraged and given help to re-locate to the northern areas.) Also, better marketing of Tourism is required for this area.(Compare the excellent promotion done by Orkney and the Shetland Islands compared with the poor marketing of the Mainland!) Many hotels, guest-houses, restaurants,etc need to be upgraded and regularly inspected to ensure high standards are kept.
- 2)
YES....I agree. However, not enough emphasis is put on our Transport links with the South. If people and businesses are to be encouraged to come North , then it is vital that we have good roads (which are in a disgraceful state at the moment) and a railway fit for this century. As far as the latter is concerned, , it must be remembered that the Far North Line is part of the National Rail Network and deserves major up-grading. In addition to new lines, chords , upgraded engines, carriages, etc. consideration must be given to a future railway- crossing of the Dornoch Firth. This is

essential if we want to not only cut journey time but encourage more people to leave their cars behind and use public transport....thus , helping to reduce pollution into the environment. Freight and business transport could also be taken by rail ...thus,again , helping to reduce pollution and taking pressure off the A9 road. With the upgrading of Scrabster Harbour , perhaps more use could be made of transport by boat ...not only for freight but also for passengers perhaps wanting to travel to Aberdeen and Leith.

As is said in your Report , ‘ By 2030, the Highlands will be one of Europe’s leading regions’. Let’s hope this vision becomes reality.

Best Wishes,

 (Mrs.)

05.11.09