

NAIRN TCAP

Workshop process and outputs

On 30 April and 1 May 2014, a charrette was held to develop an action plan for Nairn town centre. The charrette was a stakeholder engagement workshop that promoted a collaborative approach to considering the issues facing Nairn town centre. It focused on delivery and implementation.

The charrette for Nairn town centre ran at the Court House in Nairn on 30 April and 1 May 2014. It provided a process to build shared outcomes for regenerating the town centre. The approach promoted meaningful collaboration. By working together stakeholders developed solutions jointly and found common ground that allowed pragmatic and deliverable proposals to be developed.

The charrette provided a framework for developing a culture of collaboration, with stakeholders acting jointly to find solutions for the issues facing the Nairn town centre.

The charrette worked over two sessions where parallel events were held for stakeholders from:

- The Highland Council (THC).
- Local residents.
- Local groups.
- Elected members of THC.

Session 1 - Option Development – held on 30 April introduced and established the background to the charrette. Constraints and opportunities were examined. Stakeholders registered their expectations and requirements. The Town Centre Brief was briefly reviewed. Ideas and proposals were generated by the stakeholders. Principles and vision were developed. In developing proposals, stakeholders suggested that The Highland Council could lead on publishing information about what businesses and property owners can do for themselves, including potential sources of funding.



Stakeholder Ideas and Proposals: Residents



Vision: 'Shaped by the community: Valued by all'

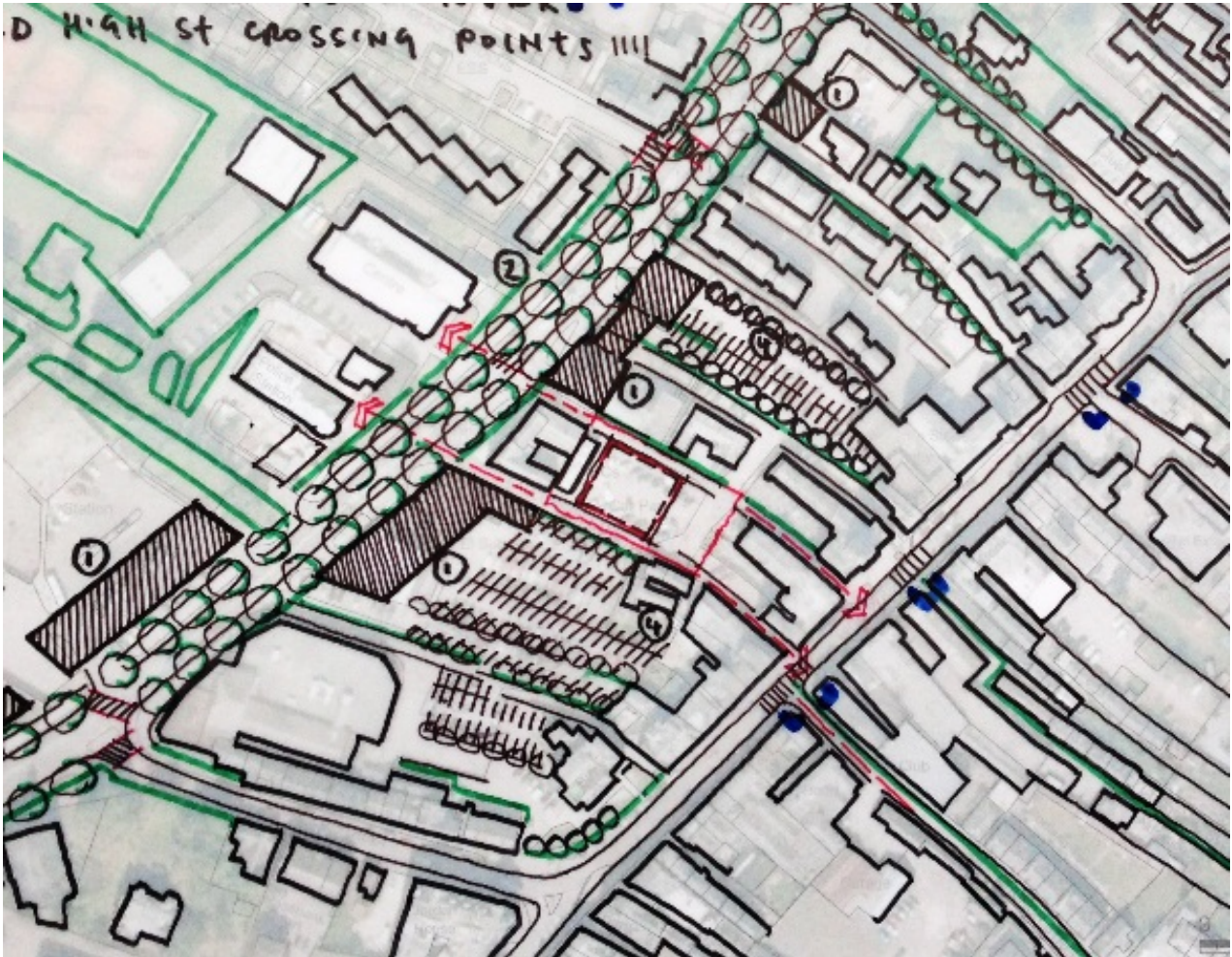
Proposals

Focused around the Court House promoting a cultural hub. More efficient parking and using tree planting to promote better linkages to, from and in the town centre.

Suggestions:

- Use the Court House as Tourist Coordination Centre/ Cultural Centre.
- Tidy up High Street
- Upgrade footpath network
- Attract big sporting events
- Need family focused evening economy
- Reconfigure car parking areas.
- Make King Street pedestrian friendly.
- Create tree lined links between King Street and High Street
- Facilitate linkages from town centre to wider attractions.

Stakeholder Ideas and Proposals: Local Interest Groups



Vision: 'Activity: Culture: Heritage'

Proposals

Focused on re-establishing King Street as an important town centre street (with new buildings fronting). Ensure good linkages and crossings. Rationalise car parking as a result.

Suggestions:

- Improve connectivity to the park, river, through vennels, and at crossings (including *greening feus*).
- Rationalise parking.
- Create a new civic town square.
- Create new buildings fronting on to King Street.
- Green King Street.
- Improve crossings on King Street

Stakeholder Ideas and Proposals: Elected Members



Vision: 'Nairn town centre first'

Proposals

Focused around the Court House promoting a central community hub. More efficient parking and better use of space for different uses. Making sure linkages are attractive.

Suggestions:

- Create a central 'hub' of activity, located in the Court House including the library, Citizens' Advice Bureau, museum.
- A contemporary extension at back of Court House facing towards King Street.
- Create a multipurpose covered space for events such as markets (could accommodate parking when not being used).
- Configure car, bus and bike parking more efficiently.
- Strong, attractive links around town centre including trees and lighting.
- Public art at Castle Square.
- A *green* High Street and King Street.

Stakeholder Ideas and Proposals: Council Officials



Vision: 'Shaped by the community: Valued by all'

Proposals

**Ambitious proposals focused around new buildings or conversion with good linkages to river.
Integrated car parking**

Suggestions:

- Create a public plaza.
- Strong pedestrian linkage to High Street, River and Museum.
- Shared surface space on King Street and the High Street to improve linkage.
- Explore possibilities of a multi-storey parking building.
- New mixed use buildings fronting on to King Street.
- Restore semi-derelict church.

Stakeholder Ideas and Proposals: Millbank Primary School pupils

Although unable to attend the workshop, 22 pupils from Millbank Primary's P4/5 class expressed the following views about the Nairn Town Centre:

Things I like:

- Layout of pavements and paths
- Lots of places to eat
- The town clock chiming
- The grassy area beside the bank
- The flowers
- The architecture
- The library
- Tall buildings
- Big windows so you can see inside shops
- The church.

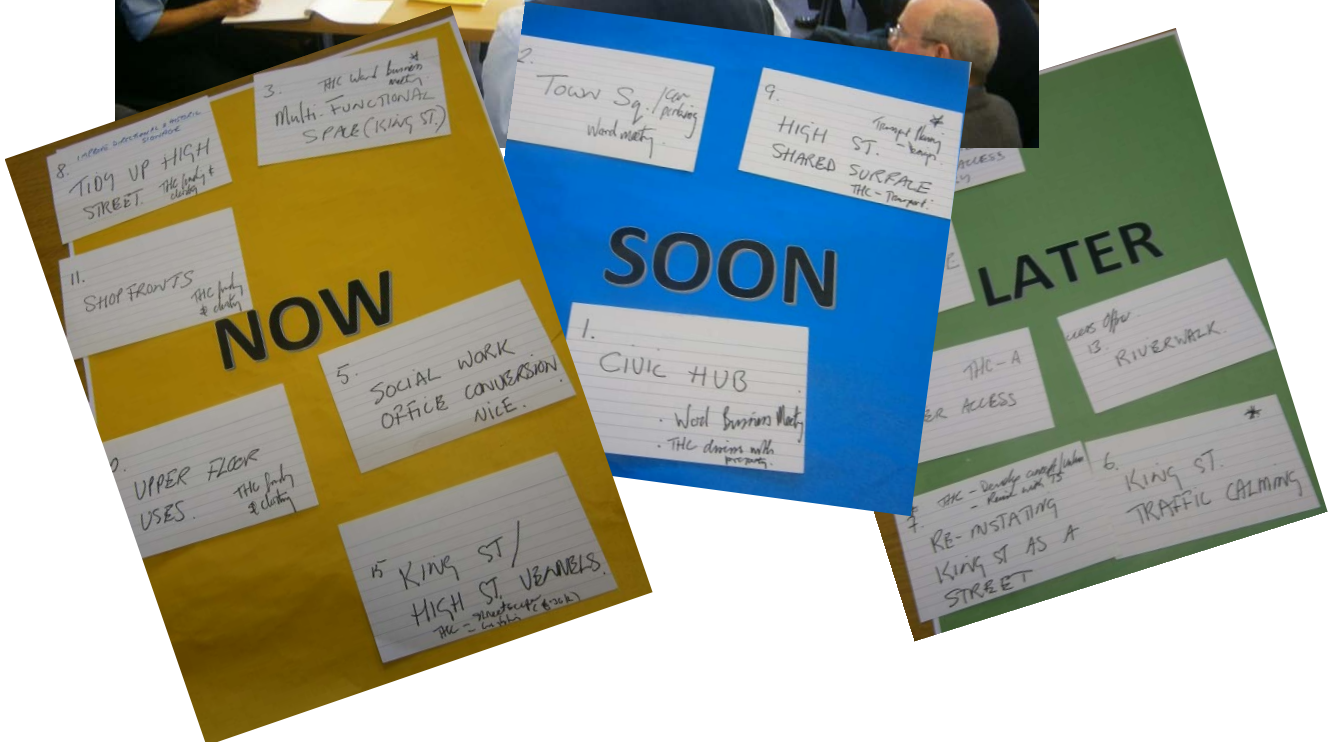
Things I don't like:

- The one way system
- Closed shops
- Chipped paint on the walls
- Litter
- Dog mess on the pavements
- Bird mess on the pavements
- Abandoned buildings
- Lack of colour
- Dirty benches
- Cars parked badly
- Lorries unloading and blocking the street
- Graffiti

Informing the Action Plan

A **second session** held on 1 May assessed the ideas and proposals conceived in Session 1. This applied an appraisal to consider issues relating to accessibility, economy, community and environment – a sustainability appraisal.

Working in new groups the stakeholders considered the suggestions made for improving the town centre. The ideas were discussed. The resulted in the most attractive ideas being brought forward. These schemes and proposals formed the basis for Nairn town centre’s action plan.



Priorities recorded at the workshop

